

McNAMARA GETS A LIFT FOR VIET WAR SERVICES ?

WASHINGTON: An avowedly blood-thirsty man is being tipped as the new US Secretary of State. The present incumbent is being appointed as a roving ambassador to sell the US line and his place will be filled up by Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defence.

McNamara has lately been playing an increasingly prominent role in Washington's policy decisions, and political commentators point out that the entire US policy in Vietnam will now depend on the recommendations that McNamara would make after his current visit to South Vietnam.

Regarding McNamara's Saigon visit, President Johnson said a few days ago that upon his return, the US government would take "a new serious decision" in respect of South Vietnam.

In 1964 alone "McNamara's war" in South Vietnam took 239 American lives while 1,511 Americans were wounded. The current toll is far bigger.

McNamara came to the Pentagon not by chance; he was associated with the Ford Motors since after the war and became its president in 1960. He owns 24,505 shares and is a millionaire. On Ford's recommendations the late President Kennedy appointed him as Secretary of Defence in 1961.

In the first year of his secretaryship, McNamara increased the US defence budget by 6,000 million dollars and by now it has been increased by 35,000 million dollars.

McNamara's brainchild—Controlled Retribution—is very much favoured in Pentagon. It suggests that if a war breaks out, a strategy of the so-called "limited damage" is to be applied, a kind of nuclear-sports contest.

The Cuban fiasco, the Congo affair, the escalation of Vietnam war all owe roots to McNamara. No wonder, for Johnson today he is the ideal choice to push through the maniacal policies of war and devastation.

SHADY DEAL IN TELCO SHARES

Nizam Adviser Goes To Jail

From MOHIT SEN

HYDERABAD: C. B. Taraporewala, Financial Adviser to the Nizam, has been convicted on charges of criminal breach of trust by the City Magistrate. He was also found guilty of using documents forged by himself.

ANOTHER accused, Damodar Reddy, former Finance Secretary to the Andhra government, was however found not guilty and acquitted.

The case arose out of the sale of Telco shares by the Andhra government to the Nizam at a price considerably lower than those prevailing in the market.

NEW AGE had exposed this shady share deal which brought a personal profit of several lakhs of rupees to the Nizam.

The deal was brought off by Taraporewala forging a letter from a Bombay broker, altering the value of the Telco shares and sending a copy of it to the state government.

Damodar Reddy, then Finance Secretary to the Andhra government, okayed the sale

of the Telco shares which the government was holding to the Nizam at the lowered prices.

Taraporewala also did a bit of cheating by using funds of the Nizams' Charitable Trust to buy the shares but crediting the profits therefrom to the personal account of the Nizam and not to the trust.

The matter was raised in Parliament in March 1963 by Communist leader Bhupesh Gupta. He charged the government with attempts to hush up the whole affair. No case had been started though the government knew about the shady deal as back as 1960, he said.

Bhupesh Gupta said: "I will deal with the case of the sale of 10,680 shares of the Telco by the then Hyderabad government to the Economic Adviser of the Nizam of Hyderabad, Mr. C. B. Taraporewala. The sale took place when the states had not been reorganised.

"Very few people knew what happened at that time, but suddenly the Supreme Court of India by an order dated December 21, 1959 directed the appointment of an auditor to audit the accounts of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Charitable Trust.

"In pursuance of the orders of the Supreme Court, Messrs A. F. Ferguson and Co., Chartered Accountants, Bombay and New Delhi, audited the accounts and their audit report dated October 22, 1960 was received by Mr. Rai Trimbaklal, Director of Endowment and Joint Secretary, Board of Revenue, Andhra Pradesh, in his capacity as Director of Endowments.

"What did that audit report say? It said:

"It appears that at about this time Khan Bahadur Taraporewala acting for H.E.H. the Nizam was offered by the Government of Hyderabad some 10680 rights at a price of Rs. 10 per share which was substantially lower than the prevailing market value of the rights."

Bhupesh Gupta then traced the various stages through which the case proceeded and how the government sought to delay or hush up the case at every possible opportunity.

NEW AGE EXPOSURE VINDICATED

He quoted from a letter sent by Trimbaklal to the CID Superintendent in Hyderabad in which the Director of Endowments complained that though he was assured at the time he filed the complaint that the maximum time that would be taken to file the case in court would be one month, nothing has been done so far.

Bhupesh quoted from the letter as Trimbaklal saying: "Inaction in this case has created a very awkward and painful situation personally to me of which you are fully aware."

Finally, a case against Taraporewala and Damodar Reddy was filed and the trial began in September 1963.

In his judgment the City Magistrate has observed that it had been proved that Taraporewala had forged the letter received by him from the Bombay broker by rounding off the figure, 36, the then value of the Telco share, and putting 16 instead in his own hand.

He had also sent the forged letter to the government knowing it to be forged.

The magistrate also held Taraporewala guilty of criminal breach of trust in that he had credited the profit of the shares to the Nizam's personal account while they had been purchased with the capital of the Nizam's Charitable Trust.

The effect of this jugglery was that the Nizam made Rs. 1.5 lakhs without investing a single paise.

The evidence given by V. P. Menon and S. A. Lal that everything was done with their knowledge was found by the magistrate to be "not reliable", since it was not borne out by documents on record.

Thus has ended a sensational case of embezzling the public money. Only the recipient of the money has been brought to book, those of his friends in the government who facilitated it are yet to be caught.

Taraporewala of course has gone on appeal and he has been let out on bail.

Tendolkar Case Is Withdrawn

S.K. Patil's Hand Behind Mysore Government's Decision

From G. S. SATYANARAYANA

BANGALORE: Union Railway Minister S. K. Patil's intervention is reported to be behind the decision of the Mysore government to withdraw the case of misappropriation filed against A. G. Tendolkar, an industrialist of Maharashtra and Managing Agent for Bagalkot Cement Co. Ltd., Bagalkot. The incident has caused widespread resentment in the state.

IT is reported that during his recent visit to Bangalore, S. K. Patil brought pressure upon the state government to withdraw the case against Tendolkar, one of his staunch supporters.

In the cabinet itself opposition to withdrawing the case was voiced, but apparently it was too difficult for them to resist pressure from such high quarters.

The case against Tendolkar for alleged misappropriation of Rs. 10 lakhs from the Bagalkot Cement Co. had attracted much public attention in the state.

Bagalkot Cement Co. Ltd. is

one of the major cement companies in the state in private sector.

It was discovered in 1962 that the Managing Agent of the company had misused the stores of the company worth Rs. 2.5 lakhs for his own industries in Maharashtra and for his personal gains.

This came to light when the accounts of the company for that year were audited and balance sheet prepared.

But the matter was settled between A. G. Tendolkar and other directors of the company, the former paying Rs. 2.5 lakhs to the company for the stores misused.

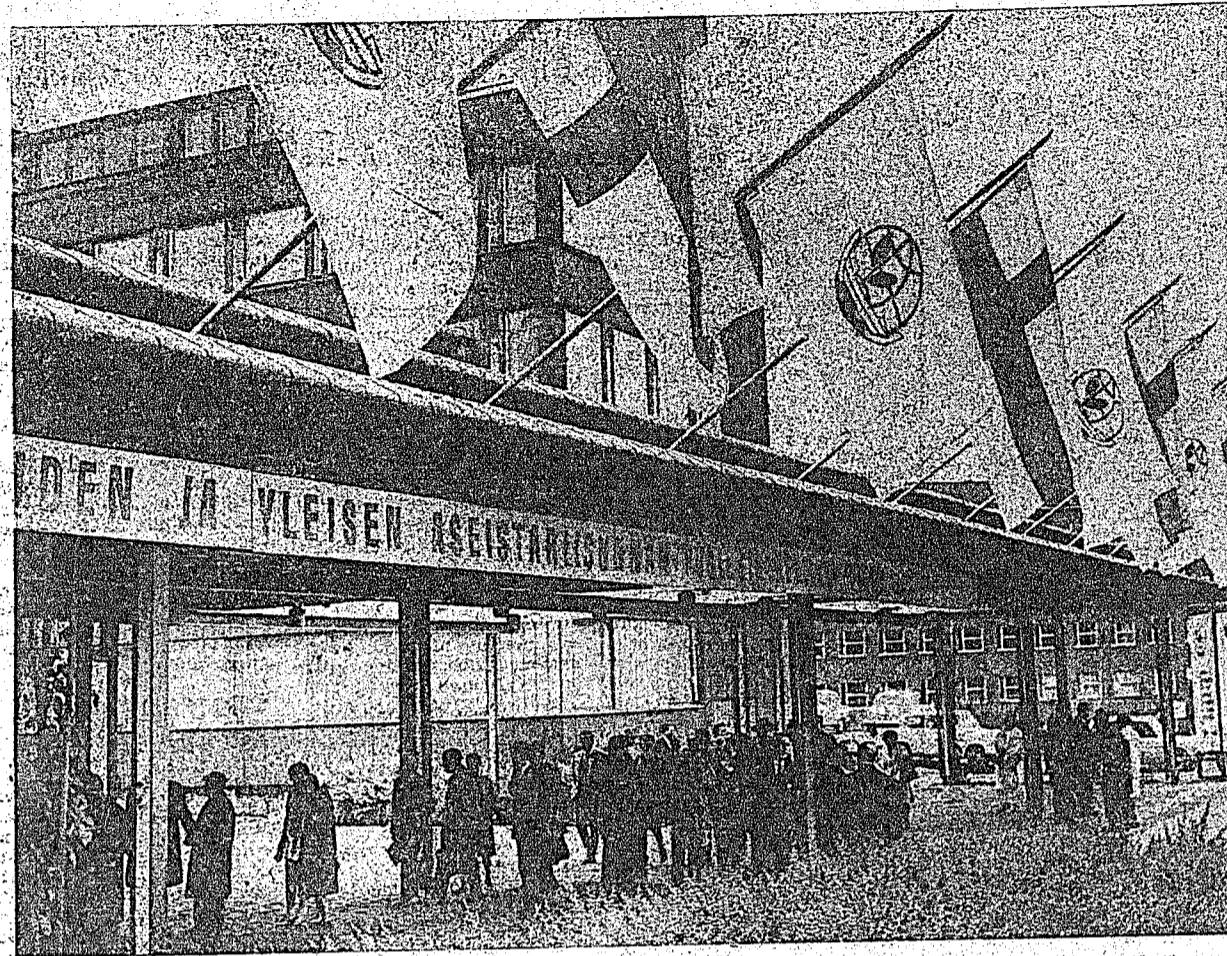
The shareholders and the public were not however satisfied and they demanded a thorough investigation into the whole affairs of the Bagalkot Cement Co. Ltd.

The issue figured in the Assembly also and public pressure was brought to bear upon the state government to appoint an enquiry commission.

It was this enquiry commission that brought to light that A. G. Tendolkar had misused company stores worth Rs. 10 lakhs during 1952-62 for his industries in Maharashtra and for his personal gains.

A case of misappropriation was accordingly filed against Tendolkar at the end of 1963 and it was pending before the Sessions Judge, Bijapur till its withdrawal.

The withdrawal of the case now has caused a political stink and much anger among the public.



Hall of Culture in Helsinki where the World Peace Congress was held

PEACE CONGRESS CONCLUDES

AMERICAN AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM MAIN THEME OF DISCUSSIONS AT HELSINKI MEET

From OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HELSINKI: The World Congress for Peace, National Independence and General Disarmament has come to a close. The hundreds of delegates who came to the picturesque capital of Finland to participate in this biggest ever and broadest ever peace meet would be taking back with them inspiring memories of the days of the Peace Congress and what it stood for.

THE main theme of discussion, whether in the plenary sessions or in the commission meetings at this Peace Congress was the destiny of peace which has been put in jeopardy by the American aggression in Vietnam.

Stirring was the expression of solidarity which came for the heroic fight which the Vietnamese people have been waging against the Yankee imperialists; forthrightly the denunciation and condemnation of the atrocities of the warmongers.

The whole world heard the ringing call from the Finnish capital:

American imperialists, get out of Vietnam!

Stop aggression threatening world war!

Disarmament and Peace on earth!

The resolution adopted by the Congress said:

The World Congress for Peace, National Independence and General Disarmament demands immediate discontinuation of the United States

aggression in South Vietnam, immediate withdrawal of American forces and the forces of their satellites from South Vietnam, liquidation of American military bases in South Vietnam, immediate cessation of bombings and other aggressive actions against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Expressing the feelings of millions of people of the world, the resolution said: the Congress expresses its deep concern about the war provoked by the policy of armed aggression of American imperialists in violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

The United States Government can in no way justify

peace thus strengthened through the world.

These demands were again the theme of the meeting held in Helsinki's House of Culture on July 13 where Finnish peace partisans came for a meeting with the Peace Congress delegates, notably prominent writers and scientists.

The fifteen hundred delegates and the residents of Helsinki who filled the hall, warmly received the speeches of prominent writers and scientists Pablo Neruda of Chile, Ilya Ehrenburg of Soviet Union, Arthur Lundquist of Sweden, Mulk Raj Anand of India, Herbert Aptheker of the United States and Albert Norden of the GDR. E. Von Bunsdorf, prominent Finnish public leader,

the sufferings of another war which may develop from American aggression in Vietnam.

A threat of thermonuclear war overhangs mankind and it must be removed, said Swedish writer Arthur Lundquist.

We have gathered here to call for peace, for freedom, said Pablo Neruda. Denouncing the American aggression in Vietnam and Latin American countries, the Chilean poet declared:

"The blood of Vietnam is our blood, the blood of the Dominican Republic is also our blood. World will not tolerate an American empire. The time of empires is over. Here at the Congress, we want to establish a road of justice for all mankind."

Our Congress has met in a dangerous summer, a summer of great trials, Ilya Ehrenburg said. But the conscience of all peoples has awakened now. Even in the United States, anger and indignation are growing at the Pentagon's dangerous policy.

Our Congress has brought together people of different philosophical, religious and political convictions, the Soviet writer said.

The hall responded with applause to the message from the well-known British philosopher and peace fighter Bertrand Russell who wrathfully denounced the United States aggression in Vietnam.

After the meeting, popular American singer Dean Reed sang songs of American peace champions, American Negroes and Latin American peoples.

In the afternoon of July 14 the participants in the World Peace Congress gathered in the House of Culture to discuss organisational questions of the peace movement and elect the new World Peace Council.

The general delegate session was opened by one of the initiators of the world peace movement, Isabelle Blume (Belgium).

The floor was then granted to a member of the presidium of the World Peace Council, Romesh Chandra of India, who, on the instructions of the commission which dealt with this matter, made a report on the structure and composition of the Council.

Romesh Chandra pointed out that there has been an appreciable growth of peace movement in recent years both quantitatively and politically.

In the course of these years, he said, the role of the World Peace Council as an international organ increased and a number of new states appeared in the world, which fact must find reflection in the composition of the World Peace Council.

On behalf of the presidium, secretary of the World Peace Council, Yoey Choller of France, read out the list of candidates to the council. The delegates approved with hearty applause and approved the proposed composition of the council—nearly 500 representatives from 104 countries. They include leading scientists, writers, public figures and religious leaders.

The plenary session on July 15 morning heard the reports of the commissions which summed up the views of the delegates on the problems under discussion.

The commission reports voiced passionate calls for united actions of peace supporters throughout the world. At the same time the reports of a number of commissions noted the dissenting opinion

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M. Palanivelu and V. Galba



M. Palanivelu and V. Galba

these criminal actions against a people who seek nothing but peace. The sole cause of the present situation, the resolution stresses, is the policy of the United States which seeks to perpetuate the division of Vietnam and to transform South Vietnam into an American colony and military base.

The Congress declares that the only sound basis for a correct solution of the Vietnam question is to adopt a policy of respect for the fundamental and sacred rights of the Vietnamese people to independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The Congress makes an urgent appeal to the forces of peace and democratic organisations of the whole world to launch a broad, powerful and growing movement embracing all sections of society, to support, in all possible ways and from every point of view, the people of Vietnam in their just struggle against the aggressive war of the United States, for national independence, unity and peace.

The Congress is firmly convinced that together with the combined strength of progressive humanity, the just struggle of the Vietnamese people will surely be victorious, peace in Vietnam finally restored and

M. Palanivelu and V. Galba

was in the chair. The veterans of world peace movement spoke about the lofty and noble goals of the Helsinki Congress and stressed the necessity of peace champions' actions now in order to save mankind from

The Congress calls on all peoples to demand that their governments take action to isolate American imperialism, and stop its aggression, to support the struggle of the peoples on every continent against colonialism, for genuine independence, freedom, and economic and social development, in opposition to neo-colonialism and exploitation. The Congress calls on all people to take action to stop the arms race and obtain concrete measures of disarmament to demand the dismantling of military bases and the withdrawal of troops stationed on foreign soil, and concrete measures for world security and the peaceful settlement of issues in dispute.

Unity is the people's great strength in their action to save peace. Faced with the people's determination and their common front of struggle, the forces of oppression and war will not prevail.

The Congress, therefore, supports the proposition to call a European security conference on the level of heads of governments.

The elimination of the cold war in Germany, the establishment of normal relations between the two German states at all levels, and the peaceful settlement of the German question, which would also solve the question of

GENERAL STATEMENT

The World Congress for Peace, National Independence and General Disarmament adopted the following statement on the last day of its session on July 15:

THE World Congress for Peace, National Independence and General Disarmament was held in Helsinki from 10 to 15 July, 1965. It brought together 1,470 participants representing popular organisations from 98 countries on all continents and 17 international organisations.

The questions before the Congress were discussed concretely and in detail in seven Commissions: Support for the people of Vietnam in their just struggle for independence, unity and peace; the liberation of peoples under colonial domination and the preservation of national sovereignty; the struggle against apartheid and racism and the violation of human rights; disarmament, elimination of the vestiges of the Second World War and European security; the economic sovereignty of nations; the economic and social consequences of the arms race and the reconversion from war production to peace production; the creation of an atmosphere favourable to peace, cooperation of peace organisations; and problems of the United Nations Organisation.

The work of the Commission was summed up in reports adopted by them and presented to the Congress.

The Congress has met at a time when the world situation is very grave. The political and military leaders of the United States have embarked upon a policy of armed aggression

and military adventures, as the cases of Vietnam, Santo Domingo, and the Congo clearly prove. This armed aggression and military adventures strike a grave blow at the aspirations of the peoples for a detente and peaceful co-existence.

The imperialist attack is mainly spearheaded against South-East Asia where American armed forces have unleashed aggression against the people of South Vietnam.

For some months they have been pursuing a policy of escalation resulting in more and more extensive bombing raids on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The Congress attached special importance to the support that all the peoples of the world should give to the Vietnamese people's just struggle for independence, unity and peace and against American aggression. A special resolution on this subject was adopted.

The Congress examined the situation in Vietnam in a world context. Imperialist aggression which is not limited to South-East Asia, reaches to Laos and Cambodia using the bases set up in Thailand and Japan. American imperialists accelerated by means of their Japanese-South Korean tactic the formation of the North-East Asian military pact which allies the South Korean clique with the resurgence of military forces in Japan. Thus, new

tension has been created in this area.

In Africa, Portuguese fascist colonialists with the aid of NATO are stepping up oppression in Angola, Mozambique, Portuguese Guinea, and the Cape Verde Islands, in the French Somalia and the territories under Spanish dominion. The situation is similar in Rhodesia where they seek to impose a white minority government on African majority, causing a serious threat to peace and international security.

In South Africa, the crimes of racialism and the shameful system of apartheid deny the rights of the African population. In the Congo (Leopoldville) the formal independence won has been practically eliminated and the people's efforts to win freedom are opposed by open armed intervention.

In a number of other African countries genuine independence is threatened by neo-colonialist practices, while in others imperialist plots are organised. Attempts are made to destroy the Organisation of African Unity which represents the great hope of the peoples of Africa for the establishment of real independence and the building of an economy that will benefit the people.

In the Middle East, tension persists as a result of the existence of American and British military bases, the presence of an American fleet equipped with nuclear weapons and the manoeuvres of the imperialists and their supporters against the legiti-

mate rights of the Arab peoples in Palestine, in the Gulf and the Arab Peninsula, as well as those of the Cypriot people.

The American imperialists are striving by every means to maintain their domination over the countries of Latin America, and resorting to military intervention. Violating the principle of non-intervention embodied in the United Nations Charter and even expressly stipulated in Article XV of the Charter of the Organisation of American States, they have intervened directly in the Dominican Republic to crush the will of the people who desire the re-establishment of a constitutional system. The withdrawal of foreign troops must be immediate.

An attempt is being made to organise an inter-American military force to be used like a police force in the service of reaction against sovereign states. Joint military operations under American command threaten the peace and independence of these countries. Foreign military bases are a permanent threat to their security. Cuba is still threatened by American imperialism. The blockade and preparations for aggression continue. The attempted isolation of Cuba undermines the Cuban people's right to self-determination.

Colonial domination remains in Puerto Rico, in the Guianas, in Martinique, Guadalupe, Curacao, the Malvinas Islands, the Bahamas, Belize, etc. In Panama, the military occupation of the Canal Zone is an infringement

of the country's sovereignty, resulting in popular reactions which regularly give rise to tragic incidents.

The Organisation of American States has been transformed into an instrument of imperialist oppression and is rejected by the peoples of the continent.

The application of what is called the Johnson Doctrine undermines the stability of constitutional governments, promotes the establishment of dictatorships, and unleashes repression against patriots, struggling for their people's liberation.

In Europe, the situation is tense as a consequence of rearmament instigated by NATO. The situation is made tenser through plan for MLF whose main task is to satisfy the drive of the West German Government for nuclear arms. This drive for nuclear arms goes hand in hand with territorial demands and claims on the territory of the GDR. The creation of a system of collective security in Europe is therefore necessary, and creation of a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe is most urgent.

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The elimination of the cold war in Germany, the establishment of normal relations between the two German states at all levels, and the peaceful settlement of the German question, which would also solve the question of

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Maximilian Scheer, Aruna Asaf Ali and Albert Norden are seen here holding discussions during an interval between sessions.

SET VENEZUELAN PATRIOTS FREE!

Thousands of patriots are languishing in the jails and concentration camps of Venezuela.

An international conference on granting amnesty to political prisoners and in defence of democratic freedoms in Venezuela was held recently in Rome. Here is a report which describes the conditions in which the political prisoners are kept and emphasises the need of international solidarity and the struggle for their liberation:

Infernal Torture

It was terribly hot, 40 degrees in the shade. Rising from the floor Eloy Torres looked in silence through the narrow window of the prison cell. The view outside was cheerless and monotonous: the same measured steps of the guard and the tinkling of his rifle.

needs about 20 million bolivars. The lion's share of this money was spent on the construction of modern comfortable houses for the officers and guardsmen, as well as for the purchase in Western Germany of special photo-electric systems. Robot sentinels are placed at every 10-15 metres along the barbed wire.

of special commissions from the General Staff of the Venezuelan Armed Forces.

Militant Solidarity

The life of many political prisoners in Venezuela is in danger. Jesus Faria, Secretary-General of the Communist Party, Freddy Munoz, a well-known youth leader and many other patriots are gravely ill.

"Obviously, the torturers do not trust even the policemen and think that instruments are more reliable since they do not give way to agitation. One has only to approach the barbed wire when the siren begins to roar and searchlights are switched on automatically."

The plaque with the inscription "death danger" warns that the barbed wire is electrified. The jail regulations are very strict: it is forbidden to leave the barracks after 6 p.m. Those who disobey may be shot dead any minute.

Cold-Blooded Murder

"This is the sad reality," said Francisco Mieres who attended the Rome conference in an interview with APN. "Many of the best sons of my country have been imprisoned. And they are kept not only on the island of Tacarigua. These prisoners are scattered throughout the country."

"There are many political prisoners in Venezuela. Most of them, however, have not appeared before courts. At best they were condemned to various terms of imprisonment by the officials"

of protest take place all over my country; said Mieres. Workers, peasants and students of Venezuela demand an immediate liberation of political prisoners. 'Freedom to Jesus Faria' this slogan is supported by the whole of progressive mankind.

The international conference on granting amnesty to political prisoners and in defence of democratic freedoms in Venezuela was for us a striking demonstration of militant solidarity of the world public. The conference has strengthened still more our people's resolution to struggle against these cruelties and atrocities.

"At this conference the representatives of many countries of the world demanded freedom for our fighters."

Fight From Prison

Jesus Faria, Secretary-General of the Communist Party, bedridden and gravely ill, overcoming the pain is writing articles and letters responding to the events taking place. Many newspapers of the world published his statement about the bloody

crimes of the US military in the Dominican Republic.

Luis Emiro Arrieta, Antonio Garcia and Hector Rodriguez Bauza, members of the political bureau of the Venezuelan communist Party, declared their desire to give their blood for the wounded Dominican patriots. Other political prisoners of the Modelo jail followed suit.

The press carried recently articles protesting against the US atrocities in Vietnam, the Congo and the Dominican Republic written in the gloomy dungeons by the secretary of the Venezuelan Communist Party Pompeyo Marques and secretly passed on outside.

Cannot Be Subdued!

"Our political prisoners cannot be subdued!" said Mieres. "They are aware of the efforts made in Venezuela and the rest of the world in their defence. They look bravely and courageously into the face of their hangmen because they are sure in the righteousness of their cause and because they know that ever new forces are joining their liberation struggle."

"They are never overcome by the feeling of fear or uncertainty since they have on their side the heartfelt solidarity of the fraternal Soviet people and the peoples of the socialist community and the progressive people throughout the world. Solidarity is a mighty force; it is capable of removing any obstacles and make the enemies of progress and humanism retreat."

VIETNAM: Implement Geneva Agreements



July 20 marks the eleventh anniversary of Geneva Agreements. The political problems in Vietnam which were to have been settled upon the basis of recognition of the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam not only continue to hang fire but have become more intricate and difficult.

THE US forces from the so-called status of 'advisers' to the South Vietnam regime have openly changed into aggressors and occupation forces. The people do not want them and yet they remain there by using force. Ever since the end of last world war, the US administration had been trying desperately to occupy this area and transform it as a base.

Apart from bombing and strafing the North Vietnam territories, the following is the 11-year record of US forces in South Vietnam. They have carried out till last month:

- Over 160,000 raids, big or small, against South Vietnam Liberation Front;
- killed nearly 170,000;
- wounded or disabled by tortures nearly 800,000 others;
- detained over 400,000 people in more than 1,000 jails.

In addition they have sprayed toxic chemicals over vast areas of crop lands; used napalm, phosphorus bombs and poison gas against the population; demolished thousands of pagodas, churches, hospitals, schools etc.; and carried out mass-scale rape, arson and torture.

For quite some time now, North Vietnam is being bombed systematically by US air force causing large numbers of deaths; destruction of property and communications. These actions defy all norms of international law, and are in complete disregard of public opinion.

The mad schemers of Washington are now proposing to bomb Hanoi and to raise the US forces' combat strength to 125,000 by the end of the year. Their present strength is 80,000.

But despite all this, the ground is slipping from under the feet of US warlords in South Vietnam. The strongholds of the US forces are being breached one after the other. Four-fifths of the territory of South Vietnam have already been liberated.

Despite wide scale propaganda by the US administration, the people of America are also gradually coming to realise the futility of the Vietnam adventure and the unjustifiability of the entire course of action.

More and more voices of protest against the US President's policy are being heard in the US Senate. There is growing anxiety and indignation as regards the role of US forces in

tries are already helping North Vietnam with arms; if necessary volunteers would go to North Vietnam to fight the American hordes.

Any further escalation of Vietnam war would inevitably accentuate the danger of another world war which would put the future of entire mankind in jeopardy.

The Geneva Agreements have got to be implemented here and now if the Vietnam imbroglio has to be solved and for that the US forces first of all must get out of that territory and leave the people there to decide their own future.

PAKISTAN: American Blackmail

THE twist of the American thumb-screw in Pakistan has already begun. Pakistan's overtures to China and a show of defiance on its part refusing to toe the US line have annoyed the big boss, President Johnson.

And quick came the rejoinder truly in style of what has now come to be known as the Johnson Doctrine. Johnson has proposed that the meeting of the consortium for rendering aid to Pakistan, to the tune of 500 million dollars, for the realisation of the programme of the first year of the Third Five Year Plan (1965-1970) be postponed. The reason trotted out to justify the postponement is: "preoccupation of the United States Congress".

The US must learn a simple truth: no amount of force can settle the Vietnam problem. If the Americans go on escalating their war in Vietnam, other powers would not sit idle. The socialist coun-

This has naturally evoked sharp reaction in Pakistan. Foreign Minister Bhutto declared that Pakistan will under no conditions give in to the economic and political pressure of any foreign power whatsoever.

President Ayub has instructed his planners to draw up practical schemes to ensure the fulfilment of the country's economic requirements relying chiefly on domestic resources.

Thus Pakistan is now the latest example to prove how the US administration resorts to blackmail the countries receiving US aid to force them accept the US line. If any country shows even the minimum desire to behave like a sovereign country, the thumb-screw operation begins.

Unfortunately, Pakistan has learnt the lesson much too late. And one can only hope that Pakistan would now understand the implication of being dependent on the US in other fields too and try to extricate itself as soon as possible from the Seato-Cento net.

ALGERIA: Without The Masses

MORE than a month has passed since the military junta headed by Boumedienne overthrew Ben Bella and took over power in Algeria. But during this one month, the new rulers have not gained any support from the people. Despite all its loud claims, people do not repose confidence in this regime because the action of the overthrow of the popular government cannot be justified however might the new government try.

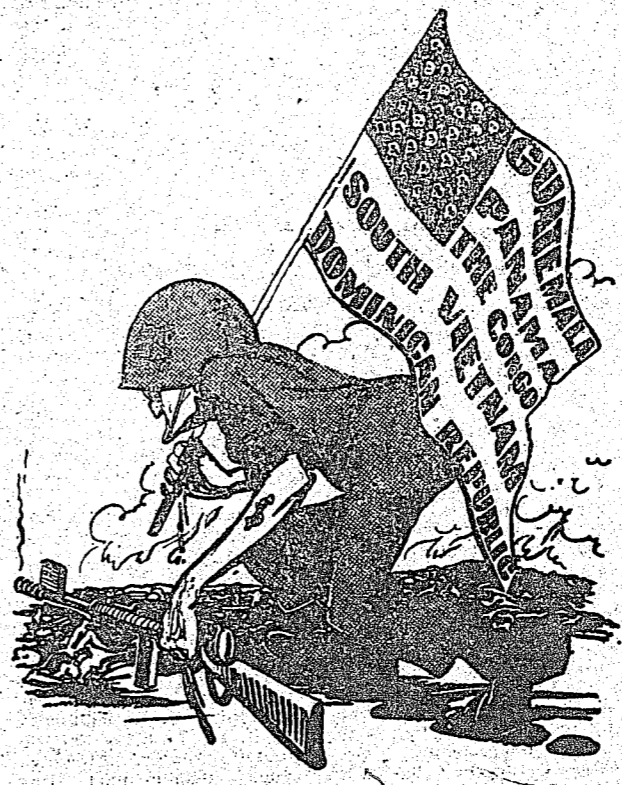
The aim of the West German government is very clear: it wants to put its fingers on the atomic trigger. Schroeder, the Foreign Minister of the FRG a few days ago gave an interview to the DUSSELDORFER NACHRICHTER in which he made this point explicit.

The burden of this interview is that West Germany will have to acquire atomic weapons by hook or crook unless a multi-lateral nuclear force is constituted by the NATO on which West Germany will have effective control.

Both Boumedienne and Bouteflika have written to the heads of several countries including India in this connection. To the Indian government is particular they have sent messages of congratulations extolling India's role at Algiers in connection with the meeting held there to decide whether the Afro-Asian conference would be held as scheduled or postponed.

But the Boumedienne government has not been able to make any headway in convincing the friendly Afro-Asian countries. A majority of the African countries have not yet accorded even recognition to this new regime.

(July 19)
—SADHAN MUKHERJEE



THE AGGRESSORS' BANNER.

PUPPET'S ADMISSION

THE South Vietnamese generals spend most of their time in filling their pockets with money... for the past 20 years not one of them participated in military operations. While rank and file soldiers do not have enough money to feed their families, a majority of political leaders take bribes... corruption is horrible.

dictator of Saigon servilely urged the United States government to follow a "rigid policy" in South Vietnam. The general's interview is full of pessimism, and contains statements that he can rely on no one.

At the same time the premier made a very significant admission: while the "pillars" of his regime are mainly engaged in business, the Vietcong partisans, the general reluctantly recognises, "are fighting for an idea". "The Communists are very strong", he declared.

The Labour government which in this sphere follows in the steps of its predecessors of the Conservative Party was sharply criticised at the annual conference of the National Railwaymen's Union in Southport on July 6.

In their resolution the railwaymen unanimously demanded discontinuation of the closing down of the line and the framing of a truly socialist policy in this sphere and went on record in favour of creating a single coordinated transport system in the country.

THE phrase "Beeching's Axe" (Beeching is the former chairman of the British Railways Board) is already an accepted term in the British economic terminology.

He was the author of the plan for closing down some railway lines in the country in order to turn the railway transport into a "commercial enterprise" which would bring profits. But by no means to railwaymen because thousands of them lost their jobs after this operation.

Same Arguments

The arguments advanced by the minister were a carbon copy of those used by Beeching, namely that some mines were unprofitable. The minister painted a glowing picture of the life of the miners that would be employed by the remaining "profitable" mines. But this optimism was none too well received.

As reported by the DAILY WORKER, the minister's speech aroused considerable anxiety. The delegates saw in it a threat of large-scale pit closures in Scotland, South Wales and other areas. Thou-

Protest Movement

Another big trade union—the Transport and General Workers' Union with a membership of nearly 1,500,000 on July 6 joined the movement of protest against the attack on the rights of broad masses.

But the unpleasant surprises for Secretary of Economy, Brown, (who is regarded as the "god-father" of the wage-freeze policy) did not end there. The delegates to the conference of the National Miners' Union also demanded a considerable wage rise for 250,000 members of this union.

The demands of the Transport and General Workers' and Miners' Unions constitute another telling blow at the present unpopular economic policy of the government—the policy of old mistakes which suffered failure even while the government benches in the House of Commons were still occupied by the Conservatives.

Hoarders' Raj in Bihar

Curbs on Stock Holdings Lifted, No Price Control

Bihar is now under a full-fledged Hoarders' Raj. Since July 9, there is no restriction on the holding of stocks and no control on prices. Restrictions on the movement of foodgrains are but nominal.

HENCE, it is the hoarders who determine the prices and regulate the release of supplies to the market. No wonder that rice is now selling at Rs. 1.25 to Rs. 1.50 per kilo.

Even a correspondent of the Indian Nation, mouthpiece of the Darbhanga Raja, is forced to conclude: "with the continued spiralling of prices of foodgrains in almost all the markets, the dark shadow of famine is hovering over the state". (July 15).

As a matter of fact, the North Eastern zone of the state is already under the grip of famine. Here, the failure of the Jethua crop (mainly maize) forced the people to live on leaves, weeds, wild roots and fruits and finally on maize stalks. Hungry masses of agricultural labourers and poor peasants (share-croppers) began to roam the fields for paltry pickings.

One such crowd consisting of several thousand persons, mainly women and children, was brutally assaulted by a gang of hired lathials led by the local landlord Rafique Alam. One dead body was recovered, hundreds were injured. The SI of police was camping at the house of the landlord at the time of this ghastly attack.

From Purnea and Saharsa have come reports of several starvation deaths. Hungry and emaciated people "living" on a diet of leaves and weeds are falling prey to cholera and other diseases which are breaking out in several parts of the state.

On top of this has come the unprecedented flood in the Adhwara groups of rivers which according to reports has inundated about 4,000 sq. miles of land, destroyed 10,000 houses and damaged crores of rupees worth of property and crops.

Manmade Disasters

Both the flood and the famine in Bihar are largely manmade. The flood has come precisely because of as many as twenty breaches in the embankments built at a cost of crores of rupees for protecting the people from floods. While the central and the state governments are trying to lay the blame on each other, both seem to agree on the central point that this year's floods are largely due to the criminal folly of the administration.

The story of famine is more complicated. Bihar is a deficit state, the normal deficit having been estimated at 3.5 lakh tons by the British government in 1943 and at about 5.5 lakh tons by the Congress government during the plan period.

Bihar's food production is claimed to have gone up from 49.03 lakh tons as the average of the First Five-Year Plan, to 60.78 lakh tons as the average of the Second Five-Year Plan and to 73 lakh tons as the average of the first four years of the Third Five-Year Plan. As against a 22 per cent increase in food production between 1951-61, population has grown by less than 20 per cent. Hence, the food position should be slightly better today as compared to pre-Independence days.

Bihar has been fortunate enough to have a succession of good harvests during the last four years. Bihar had a good harvest and a bumper rice crop last year and an even better harvest and record rice crop this year. Although the rabi crop was bad last year and much more this year, the overall position was slightly better and in no case worse at the beginning of the current year.

Prices Increased

And yet prices spiralled both last year as well as this year—with this difference that the spiral this year is higher by about ten rupees per maund on the average as compared to last year. Why has this happened?

This has happened because of large-scale hoarding and cornering of stocks by the big growers, the big traders and the rice and flour mill owners.

It is well known that about 20 per cent of Bihar's cultivated land is owned by a mere 1.6 per cent of rural households (landlords) owning more than 20 acres each. It is these landlords who control bulk of the marketable surpluses of foodgrains.

For, apart from their own surplus stocks, they acquire through usury and trade a fair portion of the surpluses and sometimes even of the necessary stocks produced by the peasants. These hoarders constitute the backbone of the Congress organization and their representatives occupy key positions in the cabinet and the administration.

In addition to them are the big urban hoarders—the big traders, the rice and flour mill owners who hold the monopoly of whole-sale trade in foodgrains. During the last few years, they have become very much more organized and integrated with the topmost monopolists of food-grain trade operating from outside Bihar. They also wield considerable influence over the Congress government and organization.

The Bihar Government has been notoriously under the influence of these landlord and trader hoarders during the post-Independence period. If anything, this influence has grown during the last few years. That is why the Bihar Government was one of the few state governments that came out in open opposition to state-trading in foodgrains

fixed which, however, was less than 20 per cent of the marketable surplus of rice. The Bihar Paddy and Rice (Price control) Order was promulgated early in 1965.

But the Bihar Government had no intention of implementing even these partial and halting measures. It soon started to sabotage these measures in practice.

The Producer-hoarders had been from the very beginning excluded from the Levy. A fortnight later the traders were also exempted. Ten days later the percentage levy of 50 per cent of production on the rice millowners was substituted by a compounded levy of a fixed quantity to be determined later by the state government.

Procurement Flasco

The result was as expected. Whereas during the first one month of the levy nearly 14,000 tons of rice was procured, during the

Serving the interests of the hoarders and the profiteers, the Bihar Government has not hesitated to itself indulge in profiteering at the cost of the people. When the issue prices of wheat and rice were increased by the central government with effect from January 1, 1965, the Bihar Government levied an additional impost of nearly five rupees per quintal in the name of meeting "administrative expenses".

After widespread denunciation of this profiteering, the state government condescended to reduce this impost by about half. Even then, the prices in the fair-price shops are higher in Bihar than in other states.

The Central Government has made its own contribution to the accentuation of the food crisis in Bihar. It has openly connived at the sabotage of the procurement drive by the state government. Furthermore, it has turned that sabotage into a handy excuse for not supplying adequate quantity of foodgrains to Bihar.

For example, during January to June, 1965, as against the state government's demand for 9.45 lakh tons (7.30 lakh tons of wheat and 2.15 lakh tons of rice) the central allotment has been only 2.34 lakh tons (2.15 lakh tons of wheat and 18,597 tons of rice) or less than 25 per cent. Even if the allotment to the central godowns located in Bihar as well as to the roller flour mills is added it comes to a total of 4.12 lakh tons or less than 50 per cent of the demand. Needless to say that even this allotment has not reached Bihar in full.

Situation Aggravated

This has aggravated the situation in the context of the prolonged draught which damaged the rabi crop to the extent of 3.11 lakh tons and the Jethua (summer paddy and maize) crop to the extent of 5.22 lakh tons. Thus the overall food deficit has increased by about 5 lakh tons this year despite a bumper paddy crop. Moreover, the summer paddy and maize which constitute the staple food of the rural poor during the lean months of July-September, are now half lost. Prospects of the Kharif crop are also not bright due to prolonged draught and widespread floods.

But the Central Food Ministry has refused to take this hard reality into consideration and when faced with a grim situation of starvation and famine over vast areas of Bihar, has calmly "advised" the state government to make a total surrender before the hoarders and withdraw both procurement as well as price control.

by
INDRADEEP SINHA

when the proposal was mooted by the central Food Ministry last year.

And it shamelessly implemented this policy of opposition to state trading by giving a free reign to the hoarders and profiteers to boost prices and starve and loot the people. It did not hesitate to use the DIR and lathis and bullets against the peaceful food satyagrahis, slandering them as "anti-social elements" while giving full protection to the real anti-social elements—the hoarders and the profiteers.

This shameless pro-hoarder policy of the Bihar Government could not but rouse wide and growing opposition from the masses. Spear-headed by the CPI-led satyagraha and the SSP-led "Gherao Dalo" agitation, this movement assumed the forms of demonstrations, Gheraos, bazar hartals, satyagrahas and working class strikes.

Even the traditionally "docile" and "non-political" Non-Gazetted employees, primary and secondary school teachers, doctors, engineers and civil servants were drawn into this broad popular movement.

Frightened by this growing opposition to its policies, the state Chief Minister, K. B. Sahai hastened to announce last year that now there was no alternative to state trading in foodgrains. The Bihar Rice Procurement (Levy) Order was promulgated with effect from December 15, 1964.

A procurement target of three lakh tons of rice was

subsequent six months only 20,000 tons more could be realized from the so-called compounded levy on the rice millowners.

The state governments' procurement drive thus ended in a flasco. The stocks were cornered by the hoarders at prices artificially kept low by the price control order. When the hoarders' procurement drive was complete, both the levy and the price control orders were withdrawn with effect from July 9, 1965.

To cover up this unholy conspiracy of the state government with the hoarders and to explain away the consequent rise in prices, the Chief Minister started the scare that rise in prices was due to largescale smuggling of Bihar rice to China via Nepal. This bubble was very soon pricked by the central government, the newspapers, the political parties (excluding the Jana Sangh and the PSP which went to the extent of planning to send volunteers to picket the Bihar-Nepal border!).

Hence, the Chief Minister called off this diversionary move on June 29 by publicly admitting that the rise in prices was solely due to "the big agriculturists and traders holding back the supplies." And he proceeded to withdraw the levy and price control orders at the instance of these same big agriculturists and traders. Sitting in the Pradesh Congress Executive which recommended this withdrawal, the Chief Minister has thus proved that he is a faithful servant of the hoarders.