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CENTRAL MINISTER'S SON IN LICENCE RACKET

● FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Foreign exchange, it is said, is our biggest problem. But when the very Ministers who talk loudest about this problem are found guilty of frittering away foreign exchange, what is to be done with them? Worse, when they permit foreign exchange to be used up by firms with which their sons or relatives are connected, what will you do to them. And when graft and even forgery are suspected in connection with such a deal, isn't it time for taking some action?

HERE is one such case of grant of licences to a firm with which is associated Sri Morarji Desai's son—a person rather well-known in Bombay for his activities as the Finance Minister's son.

Only a very small part of the story is being narrated here—the rest at its proper time.

Eight licences to the value of Rs. 48 lakhs are said to have been issued to the Bombay firm of Fedco Private Ltd. to import dyes and chemicals—used presumably for bleaching cloth in textile mills—during the licensing period of July-August-September, 1958.

The details of some of these licences to the Fedco are available from the Weekly Bulletins published by the Director of Statistics under the authority of the Chief Controller of Imports and Ex-

ports, New Delhi. The Weekly Bulletin (Volume XIII No. 21, dated August 23, 1958) gives the following information :

- Ad hoc licence No. 2609 to the value of Rs. eight lakhs to Fedco (P) Ltd. Bombay. Item : Vat Dyes.
- Ad hoc licence No. 812610 for Rs. seven lakhs to the same company. Item : Pigment dyestuff.
- Two other licences to the same company for Rs. five

lakhs each for items : Finishing agent and solubilised Vat Dyes.

There is no known provision for the issuing of ad hoc licences of more than Rs. two lakhs. Yet, the licences granted to this firm are for bigger amounts.

Government policy is said to be to grant licences to all firms throughout the country to import these chemicals for the textile industry. Yet thirteen licences have been given

to just one firm depriving many others in the field of this facility.

How come this favoured treatment? My enquiries reveal that the reason can perhaps be found in the fact that Fedco Private Ltd., an Indo-German concern, is reported to have as one of its directors, Finance Minister Morarji Desai's son.

The authority to issue the licences is the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Ex-

ports, Bombay, subject to prior confirmation from New Delhi.

In every case where the amount involved is more than Rs. two lakhs, permission is to be accorded by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi.

The story about the licences to Fedco is that a highly-connected representative of the firm approached the Bombay office with orders said to have been issued from New Delhi for issue of the licences. Interested persons in the Bombay office did everything to give the licences expeditiously—cutting out all the red tape and delay which ordinary mortals have to face.

They went still further to oblige Fedco Private Ltd. A weekly return showing licences for value of Rs. 75,000 and above has to be submitted to New Delhi every week. But the licences to this firm were excluded from this return and were mentioned in an ordinary statement sent separately.

Trouble Begins

Trouble began when the Commerce Ministry officials saw the statement. The Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, New Delhi, was asked for explanation. This officer has, it seems, denied issuing any such orders to grant these licences.

The orders presented to the Bombay office were reported to have contained the signature of Mr. M. L. Gupta, Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports New Delhi. He is also said to have denied sending the letter.

Was the signature then forged? Or is somebody playing a double game? That is a mystery to be unravelled by the Special Police Establishment which is reported to be

new age

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Place all the facts before parliament

OPERATION MIDLINK

Another U. S. Fleet-This Time In Indian Ocean

AT India's doorstep, right in the North Arabian Sea, three U.S. and five British warships are currently carrying on a naval war manoeuvres. Participating in exercises, supposed to be sponsored by the Baghdad Pact, are also nine Pakistani warships and one Turkish. Even the censored and terrorised Pakistani Press refers to some undefined "special significance" attaching to these three-week-long manoeuvres which started on the 2nd.

It was only a month-and-a-half ago that the U.S. Press had featured stories of advanced U.S. plans of establishing a Fifth Fleet in the Indian Ocean. The Chicago SUN-TIMES on September 23 reported that the projected Fleet would be an operational force consisting of one or two aircraft carriers, two cruisers and from six to ten destroyers and would be permanently stationed in the Indian Ocean.

From all reports it became clear even then that

the USA was planning for the Indian Ocean something on the model of its Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea and the Seventh Fleet in the Far East—an on-the-spot battering ram for U.S. aggression and active military intervention on the lines of the landing in the Lebanon and covering the attack on mainland China.

Apart from performing similar functions in the Indian Ocean region, the projected Fifth Fleet would serve as a link between the Sixth and the Seventh Fleets, girdling the whole of Asia.

Significantly, the current naval exercises in the North Arabian Sea are named MIDLINK.

Further light on the role planned for the Fifth Fleet is thrown by a statement made by a high-ranking Iranian official to Commander of the U.S. Sixth Fleet Admiral Brown. "The revolt in Iraq," this official is reported by the SUN-TIMES to have told the Admiral, "might have been cut short

if the United States had been in a position to send Marines ashore from a nearby fleet at the very outset of the hostilities."

Naval exercise MIDLINK is obviously part of these preparations to set up the Fifth Fleet. Immediately before the second coup in Pakistan which raised Ayub Khan to presidentship, the U.S. Defence Secretary Neil McElroy paid a four-day visit to Pakistan. The entire range of Pakistan's role in the implementation of U.S. strategic and military plans in this region was reassessed in the discussions.

New plans which had been under preparations since the Iraqi Revolt were finally approved and the go-ahead signal was given for their being set into motion at an accelerated pace.

An idea of these plans and Pakistan's role in it was given recently in London by one of Pakistan's brasshats, Lt.-Gen. Habibullah Khan, at a meeting of the Pakistan Society held under the presidentship of

Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, who was C-in-C in undivided, pre-independence India and had later taken up residence in Pakistan as a "carpet manufacturer."

The Pakistani General said that while "world Powers" like the U.S. would be concentrating on nuclear deterrents and the like, countries like Pakistan "which have plenty of first-rate man-power", financed by the USA will provide the conventional forces. The cost of training and maintaining one division of U.S. conventional army he said would thus be utilised for training and maintaining ten Pakistani divisions which would be "doing the job equally well."

The Indian Press which, despite full exposure of the plan by the Chinese and Soviet Press, has blacked out the entire story of the preparations for the stationing of the Fifth Fleet in the Indian Ocean and has soft-pedalled the new look in military preparations across the border would better take note now.

* SEE PAGE FOUR.

PUNJAB STRUGGLE AGAINST BETTERMENT LEVY

All through the summer, Punjab has been seeing rallies and demonstrations against the iniquitous levy and assessment of betterment charges amounting to Rs. 83 crores either in lump sum or in 20 six-monthly instalments to recover the capital cost of the Bhakra-Nangal multi-purpose project. The last week of September saw their culmination when huge demonstrations took place all over the State in which at least 50,000 peasants participated.

THE demonstration at Julunder was the grandest mobilisation and the entire city population turned out to witness it. The common comment was that such a demonstration had not been seen in the post-independence period in this city. It reminded the older generation of the mammoth peasant demonstration of 1938, held to demand an irrigation canal on Bist-Doab at a time when the water level had fallen very low and irrigation wells were beginning to dry up.

During the budget session of the Assembly in March, an Anti-Betterment Tax Convention had been held in Chandigarh at the initiative of the Punjab Kisan Sabha. It was attended by all sections of the Opposition, including ex-Ministers Sri Ram Sharma and Jagat Narain, and an Action Committee had been set up. Though Congress leaders and workers kept aloof, ordinary Congress followers in the villages joined the united protest movement of the peasantry. The peasants have united as never before, irrespective of political differences, to demand abrogation of this unbearable burden. Thousands of volunteers have pledged to offer sacrifice in the movement in the district of Julunder alone.

Burdened as the peasantry already is with land revenue, increased local rates, surcharge, abiana and water advantage rate and sundry other taxes, it is determined to resist this additional burden. The organised kisan movement has welcomed the Bhakra-Nangal Project and has been consistently demanding its speedy execution to provide irrigation to the barren tracts and electricity for industrial and agricultural development. And while opposing betterment charges, it has been suggesting alternate methods and sources to meet the capital cost of the project.

How The Levy Is Assessed

The total estimated cost of the Bhakra-Nangal Hydro-Electric Project has been raised from time to time and the latest estimate puts it at Rs. 177 crores. The project will benefit Punjab, Rajasthan and Delhi. The Punjab peasants are being asked to bear the huge burden of Rs. 82 crores to meet a share of the capital cost.

Over and above betterment charges, acreage rates will be assessed for survey, reclamation, construction and maintenance of water sources, culverts and roads. The betterment rate will vary from Rs. 15 to Rs. 216.39 per acre of cultivable commanded area, depending on the nature of land and class

for land which in the case of the Punjab Act has been fixed at three-fourths the market value. Due to this high rate of compensation, tenants have not exercised the legal right to purchase land. The additional burden of betterment tax will therefore serve as a further deterrent, practically barring them from acquiring ownership rights.

Government's Contention

Stating its case in support of this betterment levy, the State Government argues that it is financing the capital cost of the Bhakra-Nangal project through loans from the Central Government which has agreed to advance them on the condition that it resorts to this tax.

It is considered possible to make the project productive by 1969-70 through realisation of betterment charges.

It is further argued by the Government that due to canal irrigation, the value of land will increase and, therefore, it is entitled to realise a portion of this unearned increment in land value to recover the capital cost. In other States, too, it is stated similar betterment charge laws had been passed.

The Punjab kisan rebuts all these arguments of the State Government and suggests positive measures to meet the capital cost of the project.

The capital cost includes Rs. 70 crores due to the electricity part of it. Electricity is to be utilised for development of industry, electrification of urban areas be-

side villages and energising tube-wells for irrigation. The Government is totally unjustified in charging capital cost for electricity to land, especially to land held by the mass of peasants who cannot avail of electricity power for irrigation purposes due to their small holdings and meagre means.

● Increment in the value of land consequent on irrigation does take place no doubt. But peasant owners do not trade in land. The produce of land will increase and the Government will automatically, under existing laws, get increased taxes through abiana, water advantage rates, local rate and surcharge.

● The landlords and capitalist farmers will secure larger surpluses. The Government should, therefore, levy higher rates of agricultural income-tax on the big holders. Crores of rupees can be realised each year when the project is in full operation.

● Comparison with other States is not at all helpful. The Punjab peasants are already burdened with various taxes which fall on their land. These taxes have been increased since Independence. Abiana was increased 50 per cent in 1949. Local rate has been increased up to 50 per cent of the land revenue. Surcharge on land revenue is levied at 25 per cent for those who pay between Rs. ten and Rs. 30 per annum and at 40 per cent above this level.

The irrigation charges are particularly high in this State as compared with other States. The Finance Commission, while reviewing the State

finances in its Report brought out the fact that in 1955-56, after deduction of interest charges, net receipts from irrigation in the Punjab were Rs. 63 lakh and in U.P. Rs. 47 lakhs, while there was deficit in all other States.

Similarly in the case of electricity undertakings in the four-year period ending March 1956, net receipts after deduction of interest and other charges, were Rs. 32,800,000 (inclusive of PEPSU) while other States were deficit.

Accounts of receipts from Bhakra-Nangal irrigation and electricity supply are kept separately. Gross receipts from irrigation in the year 1958-59 will be Rs. 52,387,00 and those from electricity Rs. 18,162,000. This is the income while the project is yet in partial operation.

The argument that cost of construction has risen five to six times does not hold water because taxes on the peasantry have risen to the same extent. Moreover, they are hit by the higher prices of articles they have to purchase.

Unsound Policy

It is a very unsound economic policy, moreover, to try to recover the capital cost of a huge project like Bhakra-Nangal which will benefit the coming generations for centuries from the present generation alone. The cost should be spread over a number of generations through long-term loans and their renewal.

Bhakra-Nangal will indirectly benefit the entire country. It has been estimated that as a result of Bhakra irrigation, 1.13 million tons will be added to India's food production every year. This will suffice to meet 40 per cent of the annual national food deficit. Is it, therefore, too much to expect the Central Government to advance long-term loans to this State at low rates of interest?

The capital cost should be covered through taking income of landlords, capitalist farmers and industrialists, through effecting substantial savings in non-Plan expenditure, and postponement of non-productive schemes. Utmost economies should be effected in expenditure on establishment and construction costs.

The Foodgrains Enquiry Committee in its report after reviewing utilisation of irrigation potential created by river-valley and tube-well projects had come to the conclusion that peasants were not utilising irrigation facilities due to high water-rates. In the interest of increasing food production, it had recommended concessional rates. In totally new areas, it recommended free supply of irrigation water for a number of years. Such a policy will pay adequate dividends in the long run.

The Government of Punjab, far from following this wholesome advice, is burdening the peasants with unconscionable betterment tax burdens in addition to abiana and water advantage at the highest rates in the entire country. Can this serve as incentive to increased agricultural production? The peasants for their part have decided to broaden and intensify their struggle. Action Committees are being formed everywhere.

STEEL CHINA ACHIEVES SPECTACULAR SUCCESSES

STEEL, the key to industry, has also become the key to China's spectacular progress today. The No. 1 task today in China is to produce as much iron and steel as possible to meet the fast increasing need of the country.

Twice this year the country's target for steel output has been changed upward, of course. Last year China produced 5.35 million tons. The plan for this year was 6.2 million. But by May the target was raised to 8.5 million and now it has just been raised again, to 10.7 million; a 100 per cent increase over last year.

With this output China will move ahead of Belgium and Italy and take at least seventh place in world steel production. In 1952, the year just before her First Five-Year Plan, China was only the 18th.

This increase, in geometrical progression, will place China ahead of Britain in steel production very soon. Only last December the Communist Party of China called on China's workers to overtake and surpass Britain in the output of major industrial products in 15 years. It will certainly not take anything like that time judging by the present rate of advance.

High-Speed Development

At the root, this amazing speed stems not only from the high political understanding of the people but also in the policy wisely thought out to suit China's particular conditions.

There were two alternatives and each had its advocates. Some people argued that because of China's backwardness the tempo of Socialist construction should be slow and steady. High speed created "tension," they said.

But others took precisely the reverse view. Just because of her backwardness, China needed a high tempo; in fact to end the real tension. No tension could be greater than that which China endured in the long years before the liberation, when poverty and backwardness prevailed despite the back-breaking efforts of the people.

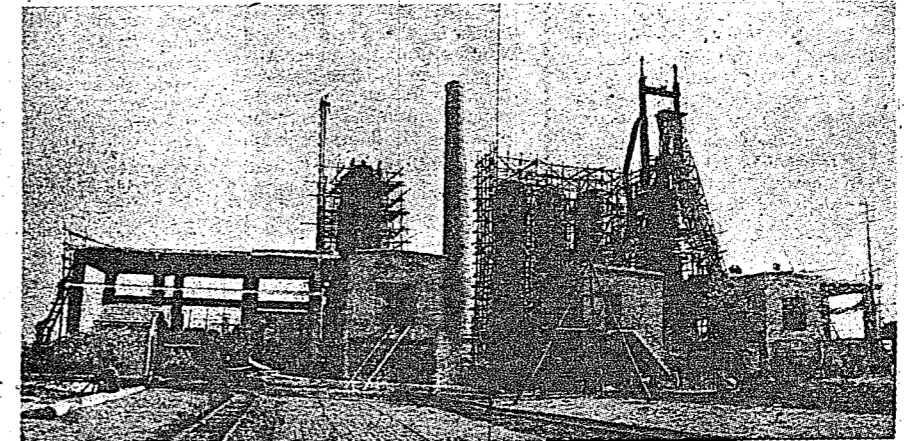
So China has adopted the second alternative and is building her Socialist State at speed. People throughout the country are exerting their utmost efforts, reaching out to the sky and, in so doing, not only are they progressing fast, but are doing the job well and at the least cost.

It is not just a matter of giant industrial projects, though this year alone nearly 1,000 of these are being built—machine works, power plants, oil refineries, coal-mines, chemical fertiliser plants and cement plants, more than the total number erected in the whole



MODERN PLANT

In the Dairen Steel Works



MEDIUM WORKS

Under Construction



VILLAGE INDUSTRY

In Hsiyang, Honan Province

First Five-Year Plan period. Even more significant is the unleashing of initiative and energy which is resulting in a countless number of medium and small projects undertaken by the local authorities. And a huge amount of iron and steel is involved in all this effort.

The world already knows something of the phenomenal rise in China's grain production this year. The total is expected to reach 600-700 billion catties, a 60 to 90 per cent increase over last year. Cotton output will be double last year's. With such harvests, the farmers are able to buy far more tools, transport vehicles

and other means of production than ever before as they are preparing for still richer crops next year, quite apart from consumer goods.

In many localities village industries are springing up to meet the needs, supplementing the efforts of the bigger urban plants. All this again involves large quantities of steel.

Medium And Small Plants

The clue to the rapid growth in the steel industry, too, is the great stress now being laid on erecting medium and

small iron and steel works in Anhwei Province. The first is an old plant that is being expanded. The others are new.

Among the smaller plants are the Ocheng Iron and Steel Plant in Hupeh Province, the Lienyuan Iron and Steel Plant in Hunan Province and the Chekiang Iron and Steel Works in Chekiang Province.

Various types of medium and small blast furnaces and medium and small Bessemer converters are going up. In fact, taking only those already in construction—the figure is 13,000 blast furnaces with a total capacity of over 20 million tons of pig iron, and over 200 medium and small Bessemer converters, ranging from 5 to 12 tons, with a total capacity of ten million tons of steel.

As for the three great, modern integrated iron and steel works—at Anshan, Wuhan and Paotow—these are being expanded or built up. The expansion of the Anshan Iron and Steel Works, China's largest, has already been completed. The first 1,386-cubic-metre blast furnace of the Wuhan Iron and Steel Works went into operation in September of this year. The first 1,513-cubic-metre blast furnace of the Paotow Iron and Steel Works in Inner Mongolia is scheduled to go into operation next year. These are industrial giants that will in turn help to spawn a host of other plants over wide areas in their neighbourhood.

Resources And Funds

There is no end to the natural resources in China needed to extend industry.

● Her iron ore reserves alone are estimated at 100,000 million tons, coal reserves stand at 1.5 million million tons. And iron and coal are available in nearly every province. Manganese, refractory and flux materials are also in rich supply.

● Non-ferrous and rare metals needed for making high-quality alloy steel are also abundant. For instance, China has rich deposits of such important metals as molybdenum and tungsten; in fact, the tungsten deposits are the largest in the world.

● As for water power resources, China ranks among the richest countries in the world. Its estimated potential of 540 million kw is larger than the combined resources of the United States, Britain, France, Japan, Italy and Canada.

The funds needed to finance this great industrial growth come by pruning administrative and other expenses down to the minimum. The agricultural and handicraft cooperatives are also accumulating their own funds.

A great spur to accumu-

* SEE PAGE 10

PUNJAB GETS READY FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

At an emergent meeting on October 22, the Secretariat of the Punjab State Committee of the Communist Party decided to contest the forthcoming elections to the Municipal Committees scheduled for January next.

The district units of the Party are being instructed to set up broad citizens' fronts on a minimum progressive civic programme to contest these elections. An election manifesto is being issued soon.

Among other things which came up for discussion in the Secretariat were the physical assault on Dr. Gopi Chand Bhargava at a public meeting in Rewari and the goonda attack, with the connivance of the police, on a peaceful kisan demonstration in Jandiala Guru in Amritsar (reported in New Age last week).

It is the task of all democratic forces, irrespective of party differences, said the Secretariat, to unite to counter such tendencies in the political life of the State. The Government was asked to take severe action against the sinister forces of evil after thorough judicial investigations.

The Secretariat also passed a resolution criticising the authorities of Hissar for the lathi-charge on a peaceful demonstration of Fatahabad citizens who had gone to present their demands to the Commissioner and the arrest of Ch. Balu Ram, former MLA, and others. The resolution demanded action against the guilty officials and withdrawal of cases against the leaders. The Secretariat considered the relief of Rs. two crores to

the flood-affected people as too inadequate and based on underestimation of the damage and demanded that it should be raised to at least Rs. five crores. Also demanded were the setting up of all-party committees at various levels for correct assessment and equitable distribution of relief and the association at the village level of panchayats and mass organisations of peasants and agricultural workers with this work.

Recurrent floods and consequent havoc, the Committee

thought, had made it most urgent that the Government undertake expeditious measures to complete anti-flood works with the assistance of an all-party advisory committee.

The Secretariat also expressed concern over threats and counterthreats of revival of communal morchas by Akali leader Master Tara Singh and the Hindi Simiti leaders and appealed to these leaders to desist from the suicidal path of communal disruption in this border State.

BROTHER PARTIES

CEYLON: TWO-FRONT STRUGGLE

PETER Keuneman, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Ceylon, has called for immediate re-establishment of unity of the progressive forces of Ceylon "to defeat the Right-wing counter-offensive and see that the advance started in 1956 is carried forward."

He was addressing a mass meeting in Colombo on October 18.

The mass rally, the first of its kind called by the Ceylonese Communist Party since the promulgation of the state of emergency last May, was attended by several thousand people and was addressed by five members of the Party's Central Political Bureau. Comrade Keuneman warned

that while the Ceylonese Right-wing forces were uniting and carrying on a vigorous campaign both outside and within the People's United Front, the progressive forces were still disunited.

He said that the United National Party which was routed in 1956 and beaten back when it tried to march on Kandy in 1957, was today able to spearhead a counter-offensive aimed at forcing an early dissolution of Parliament and general election to install a Right-wing Government and undo the advance made by the people in 1956.

"The People's United Front, he said, should be held responsible for this situation be-

cause of its Government's vacillations and retreats. He pointed out that the masses, who defeated the United National Party in 1956 and voted for a radical turn in Ceylon's affairs, are now faced with the need to conduct a two-front struggle against the real danger of the Right wing coming to power again, and at the same time, against the vacillations and retreats of the People's United Front Government which are helping to strengthen the Right wing in the country.

BRITAIN

CALL FOR UNITY TO DEFEAT TORIES

THE British Communist Party in an open letter to all members of the Labour, trade union and cooperative movements, has outlined the way in which the Tories can be defeated in the next elections.

The letter called for the use of Labour's power to compel the Government to stop the United States war plans in the Far East, stop nuclear tests, go to a summit meeting, agree to the banning of all nuclear weapons, close all U. S. bases in Britain and reach a settlement in Cyprus and in the Middle East.

The three other points put forward by the letter for a real anti-Tory policy based on Socialist principles are: all-out support for wage increase for the workers, extended nationalisation of the key sectors of industry and a drastic cut in arms expenditure. The money saved, should be used to build more houses, schools and hospitals, give higher pensions and improve all social services.

The letter denounced the Labour Party policies endorsed at Scarborough as an encouragement to the Tories and employers to make further attacks on the working class. It called on every member and every worker to develop the struggle in factories and localities now against the Tories and employers.

"In the course of that struggle we can rally the people both to defeat the Tories in the coming election and to fight for a more militant Labour policy." "It will be successful if the all Left forces unite in the struggle," the letter stressed.

"A great step towards this aim would be taken if the bans and proscriptions which the Right-wing leaders have imposed were swept away. Anti-Communism divides the Labour movement and plays the game of the Tories. History has shown that there can be no effective Left fight except in association with the Communists," the letter concluded.

CHINA'S TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

*FROM PAGE 7

lution is seen as a result of the merger now taking place of agricultural cooperatives into People's Communes, a trend sweeping through China's countryside. The Communes are able to pool more funds and manpower for industry and other purposes. Small enterprises are being put up to go into operation quickly and as soon as they bring in profits, they are expanded again and again for enlarged reproduction.

Technicians are needed of course in their hundreds of thousands. Many are being drawn from existing iron and steel enterprises which are training grounds as well as productive plants. New plants often send their workers to the old ones to learn the trade. Master steel workers are training more apprentices. But the process of training does not rest there.

Everywhere the people are learning, by experience and from books, refusing to be intimidated by technical "mysteries". Smelting classes have been opened to train still more people in iron and steel output. Mobile technical teams are organised to make the rounds of various small plants to help solve technical problems. The old plants are serving as technical advisers to the new ones. The corps of iron and steel technicians is growing rapidly.

China today is in the midst of a technological revolution and this applies to iron and steel too. Textbook norms and standards are being broken. The coefficient of blast fur-

nace utilisation (the volume of furnace required to produce one ton of iron in 24 hours) is already down to as low as .395 in a few plants.

The Taiyuan Iron and Steel Works and the Chungking Iron and Steel Works have successfully employed a new steel tapping method in which three troughs are used instead of one and this has increased steel output by 50 per cent.

Shanghai's No. 3 Steel Plant uses three rows of tuyere instead of two in side blowing. As a result, the time for blowing steel in a converter has been shortened by 13 per cent; the rate of loss in blowing has dropped by 27 per cent; output has gone up by 14 per cent; and the quality of the steel is just as good as that produced in an open hearth furnace.

Experiments in applying the latest techniques in alloy steel making, using both electric furnace and converter, have proved successful and now China will be able to produce its own alloy steel in quantity. The latest technique of continuous rolling has been adopted to simplify the heating process and this has raised output by over five per cent. Another new technique introduced is continuous casting, which simplifies the blooming process.

As a result of these and other innovations, investment in this field can be greatly reduced. China produced 4,000 types of steel products in 1957. Thanks to her growing mastery of all technical processes, she expects to produce far more within three years.

World Agricultural Conference

THE Second World Conference of Agricultural and Forestry Workers was held in Bucharest, Rumania from October 16 to 19. Among members elected to the Presidium were Djugito (Indonesia), Prasada Rao (India), E. Gurazdov (USSR), Ho Ying-Tsing (China), Abdul Karim (Morocco), Boeambo (Black Africa), Carrone (France) and Silva (Brazil).

Delegates From 32 Countries

Delegates from 32 countries from all continents were present at the Conference. India, which had the biggest delegation was represented by N. Prasada Rao, P. R. Madhavan Pillai, MLA (Kerala), Shankar Dayal Tewari (U.P.), K. Mohan Rao (Andhra), and Ramakrishna Patil (Orissa).

General Resolution

The General resolution, moved by Moroccan delegate Abdul Kareem, contained the following demands:

For agricultural, forestry and plantation workers—

- Equal pay for equal work;
- No discrimination in wage scales on grounds of race, nationality and colour;
- Higher scales of wages for technical and skilled workers;
- Provision of full employment and unemployment insurance;
- Medical, education and other social benefits;
- Reduction in hours of work;
- Proper housing conditions;
- Collective agreement through workers' unions, and
- Extension of democratic rights.

For peasants—

- Land reforms which include redistribution of land, protection to tenants, reduction of rent burdens;
- Tax and debt relief;
- Promotion of all types of cooperatives;
- Recognition of peasants unions; and
- Elimination of unequal exchange and bringing the prices of farm produce comparable to prices of industrial goods.

Other Resolutions

Sri Prasada Rao moved a number of resolutions dealing with the problems of colonial people's struggle for independence, of peace, of the situation in the Taiwan Straits, on the release of leaders of pe-



Algerian people's fight against French colonialism: Picture shows guerrillas who fight in coordination with Algerian National Liberation Armymen.

Four Years Ago Began The Algerian Revolution

by CHERIF GUELLAL

REPRESENTATIVE IN INDIA OF THE ALGERIAN FRONT OF NATIONAL LIBERATION

IT was on November 1 four years ago that a handful of determined militants took the historic decision of mobilising the Algerian people on the path of a war of liberation. After four years of struggle, four years of sufferings and losses, of hardship and hope, September 19, 1958, marked the rebirth of the Algerian State.

Growth Of Popular Army

During these four years of struggle, Algeria has seen the growth of a powerful and well-structured Popular Army numbering 200,000 soldiers.

It has further seen the efficient organisation of the new Algerian State being installed throughout the territory. In the same way today, in the international arena, the voice of Algeria is listened to and respected, whether in the U.N. or in International Conferences. Whether in Asia or in Africa, the Algerian Revolution has become the symbol of the vast movements of emancipation in today's world.

The proclamation of the

Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic, made simultaneously in all the provinces of Algeria, and in Cairo, Rabat and Tunis, marked a historic stage in the Algerian people's struggle for liberation.

The Algerian Government, conscious of its responsibilities, has offered to negotiate with France the political and military conditions for a cease-fire.

No Sign Of Weakness

The offer of Prime Minister Abbas is not made from any position of weakness, it is an expression of the desire for peace of the Algerian people.

The Algerian people have shown that they prefer self-extermination to accepting French domination, whatever form it may take. By coming to an agreement with the Government of Algeria, France would only recreate the values of her great past and emerge greater from this test.

An independent and friendly Algeria will be an asset to France, not the liability she is today.

The newly-elected Administrative Committee met in Sinala and took some important decisions. It was decided to hold a World Forestry Workers' Conference next year in Poland. An Organising Committee with Poland, Germany, Finland, Africa and France as members was appointed. Three regional commissions for better coordination of work among plantation workers were set up, the Southeast Asian Commission consisting of Indonesia, China, India and Ceylon as members.

NEW DANGER FROM PAKISTAN

One military coup followed by another, in quick succession, has rocked Pakistan. How did the situation worsen so far and what else is in store? This is the question that is anxiously and excitedly being discussed in the Press and Foreign Offices of the major countries of the world and above all in India.

INDIA and Pakistan were born together in the form of modern parliamentary democracies. Not a vestige of democracy remains in Pakistan; elected Cabinets have been dismissed, the legislatures, municipalities, district boards—all popular bodies—dissolved and even the constitution abrogated. President Mirza who used the army to liquidate all democracy in his country has himself been exiled to England by the army chief General Ayub who alone is now the sole *satrap* of Pakistan.

Mirza and Ayub justified their rape of democracy by demagogically denouncing the corruption and selfishness of the politicians of Pakistan who have so far ruled over it. If they sincerely believed in all that they said, respected the oath of their own high offices, and the constitution of their country, they could have waited for the elections that were due and let the people of Pakistan give their just verdict against the corrupt and the selfish and "clean up the mess" that undoubtedly existed.

But Mirza and Ayub themselves, as much as any of the other politicians of Pakistan, were leading parties to the reactionary policies which had brought Pakistan to the sad plight in which it fell. It was to carry on the same pro-imperialist and anti-people policies that they staged their coups and made scape-goats of their politician colleagues.

Mortal Fear Of Elections

The leaders of Pakistan's political parties had so far staged constitutional coups against each other with the help of the same President Mirza from above, avoiding elections from below, year after year. In fact no general elections have been held so far in Pakistan. They were tried in East Pakistan and led to the big knock-out of the once all-powerful Muslim League.

China's People's Communes

- ★ Facts about the stupendous progress of China's plan.
- ★ What are the People's Communes? How were they formed? What role do they play in China's march to Communism?

NEXT WEEK New Age gives special material to answer these questions.

gue. They dare not repeat them in Western Pakistan.

Party splits, palace coups, formation and re-formation of parties all took place above

military alliances with the Anglo-U.S. imperialists has never been very popular with the people of Pakistan but it was sold as the only way out to settle the quarrel with India. As years went by this policy only brought greater ignominy and misery but no success against India.

Western military alliances became unpopular and neutralism popular. The demand for pur-

by
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while below discontent grew and with it the demand for general elections throughout Pakistan. Ultimately the ruling political parties, to save their own skins, had to commit themselves to holding and demanding the general elections. It was obvious to everybody that pro-imperialist feudal reaction would get seriously weakened as and when the elections were held.

It was at this stage, to

swuing, like India, an independent foreign policy was gathering strength. As the resurgence of Arab nationalism grew, the people of Pakistan found it impossible to swallow their national pride. The revolution in Iraq was hailed in Pakistan and its appeal was so great that even the pro-imperialist militarists who staged the counter-revolutionary coup named it revolution and paraded its parallelism with Baghdad!

Lessons For India

avoid the verdict of the common people of Pakistan in the general elections that were due this winter, that the imperialist masters of Pakistan decided that the old politicians of Pakistan could no more serve their purpose and with them had to go all forms of democracy, the very constitution of the country and that naked military dictatorship had to be installed.

Unpopular Line

The dominant foreign policy of pro-Western alignment and

The discredited leaders of the Muslim League sought to rehabilitate themselves by adopting the banner of solidarity with Arab nationalism.

The Awami League grew in popularity on the basis of anti-feudalism and anti-imperialism. Suhrawardy betrayed its policy by pursuing a pro-Western policy. Despite this betrayal, the Awami League continued to be associated in the minds of the masses with anti-imperialism and neutralism.

Suhrawardy's antics split the Awami League and the National Awami Party stood for uncompromising anti-imperialism and anti-landlordism and rallied all the veteran anti-imperialists of Western Pakistan.

It was clear enough that the policy of subservience to the West was doomed in the coming elections.

Fate Of Pak Economy

Pakistan was not only militarily aligned with the imperialist West but the recipient of very generous "economic aid" from the USA. The feudal-bureaucratic ruling class keeping intact the old feudal order and pursuing policies that necessarily follow from accepting U.S. aid had brought Pakistan "on the brink of economic disaster,"

as virtually unanimously admitted on September 9 by the spokesmen of the various parties during a debate on the floor of the Pakistan National Assembly.

"The foreign exchange reserves have touched a new low, earnings are dwindling at an alarming rate, imports have mounted considerably and cereal production during the last year has recorded a net decline of about six per cent."

Finance Minister Amjad Ali disclosed the above and that the industrial production languished for want of raw materials and hardly 35 per cent of installed capacity of industrial units in the Karachi areas was being utilised. The trade index which stood at 100 in April 1949 had dropped to 63 this June, while with the continued uptrend in money supplies and almost unchanged supply position in balance between the monetary demand and supply availabilities grow large.

Former Prime Minister and Finance Minister Ch. Mohammad Ali called the story of Pakistan's economy a "rake's progress".

Mr. Amjad Ali also revealed that during the last five years economic aid of \$800 million had been received but investment in production enterprises was only of the order of \$186 million, the remaining amount having been spent on food imports and raw materials for certain industries

were only forty per cent of the programmed volume because of the time-consuming and needless procedural restrictions. Generally, the funds invested had not yielded commensurate benefits. Such was the estimate of the Committee which went on to state: "Foreign aid should not continue beyond the period necessary."

When all the above was being admitted and discussed inside the ruling circle itself, it can easily be imagined what the common people of Pakistan must be thinking of United States aid and what it had meant in terms of their worsening life, growing unemployment, hunger and want.

In A Changed World Set-Up

It is not only that the foreign and economic policies of their puppets had become unpopular among the people of Pakistan and that saving Pakistan as a Western base implied the installation of military dictatorship, but the need was underlined by the developments in the entire Afro-Asian world. The Anglo-American aggressive policies had faced fiasco after fiasco in the Arab countries. The Baghdad Pact had collapsed, and Pakistan was left as the only major country on the basis of which even its pretense could be kept up.

Imperialist aggression had been shifted from the Middle to the Far East, where it had met with a resounding rebuff from People's China. Even Dulles had to formally recognise that Chiang could not be the instrument for re-entering the Chinese mainland.

Pakistan was the only big country in the entire Afro-Asian world left in the hands of the West and it had to be saved at all costs to serve as a base against the USSR and People's China. Hence, the military coup in Pakistan and around.

Moreover, the statesmen of the West have now come to realise that Indian foreign policy played a big role in neutralist countries and also exerted a powerful influence over the people of those countries whom the imperialists had inveigled into the above Baghdad Pact and SEATO. They, therefore, changed their old attitude. They pretended to respect India's neutral policy, but coupled it with a big drive to soften it through economic aid.

Western Press

At a stage when they were negotiating this complicated manoeuvre against India, the second largest Power in Asia, they could not afford to let Pakistan, India's direct neighbour, slip out of their grip. Hence a military dictatorship and no democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan remains the biggest available military and political pressure point in the hands of the imperialists against India.

The Western imperialists claim to be champions of democracy against Communist totalitarianism and it is they

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