

CLASS AGAINST CLASS

ORGAN OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANISATION OF BRITAIN

S U P P L E M E N T T O
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AFGHANISTAN

On July 17th., 1973 a military coup led by Lt.-General Sardar Mohammed Daud, a former Prime Minister and a cousin and brother-in-law of King Mohammed Zahir Shah, overthrew the monarchy and established a republic.

The monarchist government, formally headed by Prime Minister Mohammed Musa Shafiq, had been endeavouring to move the country into dependence upon United States imperialism, and the coup was organised by a section of the Afghan ruling class who were interested in maintaining dependence upon Soviet neo-imperialism. The coup was supported by the Soviet Union, which was the first state -- followed shortly by India -- to recognise the new regime.

On the day after the coup, Daud was proclaimed President of the Republic of Afghanistan, and in that capacity appointed himself Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence.

At an officially-sponsored public rally in Kabul on July 21st., renewed support was put forward for the Pakhtunistan issue, which had been played down in recent years by the monarchist government as part of its policy of seeking closer relations with its US-dominated neighbour, Pakistan.

Pakhtunistan is the name given to the territory occupied by the Pathans, who live partly within Afghanistan (where they form the major ethnic group) and partly within Pakistan, as a result of the artificial frontiers imposed upon Afghanistan by British imperialism at the end of the 19th. century. The Afghan ruling class have, however, used this issue not to support the unity of all Pathans within an autonomous or independent state, but as a pretext for seeking the effective inclusion within Afghanistan of territory within the frontiers of Pakistan occupied by other peoples, in particular the Baluchs.

On July 28th., the new regime dissolved Parliament and transferred the powers of the Supreme Court to a council within the Ministry of Justice.

On August 24th., the former king, who had been in Italy at the time of the coup, announced his formal abdication.

In September some senior army officers, led by former Prime Minister Mohammed Hashim Maiwandwal and aided by the government of Pakistan, attempted unsuccessfully to stage a coup against the new republican government.

ANDORRA

In May 1973 the Council of the Valleys of the semi-feudal republic of Andorra, composed of a group of valleys in the Pyrenees between France and Spain, resolved that women should for the first time have the right to hold public office.

In August the Co-Princes of Andorra -- Georges Pompidou, President of France, and Juan Marti Alanis, the Spanish Bishop of Urgel -- met for talks. This was the first meeting between the Co-Princes since 1278.

ARGENTINA

Years of struggle against the military dictatorship imposed in 1966 by the pro-US landlord/comprador bourgeois classes -- struggle led by the national bourgeoisie had resulted, by 1972, in disunity among the leaders of the Argentine armed forces which led, in turn, to the promise to hold elections in 1973.

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In November/December 1972 78 year old ex-President Juan Peron, the leader of the political movement of the national bourgeoisie, visited Argentina from his exile in Spain and succeeded in welding the political factions representing the interests of the national bourgeoisie into a single movement, the Justicialist Liberation Front (FREJULI).

The election held in March 1973 was for President, Vice-President, Deputies, Senators and certain regional officials. FREJULI gained 6.0 million votes (49.6% of the poll), the Presidency, Vice-Presidency and a majority in both houses of Congress. The nominee of the military junta, Brigadier-General Ezequiel Martinez, won only 2% of the votes.

Eleven days after the election, President-elect Hector Campora called a meeting of political parties at which the representatives of the Communist Party (illegal since 1966) promised the party's support to Campora. Five days later the party was legalised.

Meanwhile the state of siege in force since 1966 had been lifted, political detainees released and diplomatic relations established with Cuba, the German Democratic Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

On May 25th. the FREJULI Presidential candidate Hector Campora, Peron's nominee, was installed as President and immediately flew to Madrid for talks with Peron.

Later in June Peron arrived back in Argentine with his wife, ex-cabaret dancer Marie Estela. The mass rally organised to welcome his arrival at Ezeiza International Airport was broken up by fighting between orthodox Peronists, who understood that FREJULI was a movement of the national bourgeoisie, and left-wing Peronists -- mostly young -- who had been deceived by the vague "socialist" slogans put forward by the movement and who carried revolutionary slogans.

On the following day, in a broadcast speech, Peron warned "the young people who carry revolutionary slogans" that FREJULI was determined to impose "constitutional order" and to "neutralise those who fight to deform the movement".

In July the President and Vice-President resigned, and it was announced that new Presidential elections would be held in which Peron himself would be a candidate.

In August a congress of the Communist Party resolved to support FREJULI "so long as it pursues a policy of national and social liberation".

On September 23rd Peron was re-elected President with 7.4 million votes (62% of the poll), and his wife as Vice-President.

In October President Peron announced that a policy of "open warfare" against "Marxism" would be initiated immediately. The dismissal of "Marxist" public servants began with the Rector of the University of Buenos Aires, Rodolfo Puiggras.
(SEE ALSO : PERU, URUGUAY)

AUSTRALIA

As part of the policy of the Australian ruling class of moving away from former dependence on British imperialism, in January Prime Minister Gough Whitlam announced a competition for a new national anthem to replace "God Save the Queen" and in February reference to the Queen was deleted from the oath of allegiance. At the same time the Citizenship Act was amended making immigrants from Britain liable to the three years' residence required of immigrants from other countries.

In March the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, Dzemail Bijedich, paid an official visit to Australia, protected by intense security involving more than 1,000 armed police. After the visit Attorney-General Lionel Murphy alleged to the Senate that the previous Attorney-General, Ivor Greenwood, had "protected" three Croat terrorist organisations which had been operating in Australia from 1956.

Also in March an Australian-Soviet trade agreement was signed

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in Canberra providing for Soviet purchases of Australian grain, alumina and bauxite.

(SEE ALSO : PAPUA NEW GUINEA)

AUSTRIA

In September, following a raid by Arab terrorists, Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky announced that his government was withdrawing facilities for organised groups of Jews to pass through Austria on route from the Soviet Union to Israel and was closing the transit camp established for such Jews at Schonau Castle.

BAHAMAS

In July 1973 the 700 islands forming the Bahamas were transformed from a colony to a neo-colony of British imperialism, becoming the "Commonwealth of the Bahamas", an "independent" state within the Commonwealth. The Prime Minister, Lynden Pindling, said that the new state would

"... follow the concepts of Christianity, democracy and the rule of law".

BAHRAIN

With political parties illegal, elections were held in December 1973 to the 30 elective seats in Bahrain's National Assembly. The 30,000 male voters elected all 10 candidates of the Popular Bloc of the Left, representing the interests of the national bourgeoisie, and defeated the President, Vice-President and Secretary-General of the Constituent Council set up in December 1972.

The Constituent Council, consisting of 20 appointed members and 22 elected members, had been charged by the ruler, Shaikh Isa bin Khalifa, with approving a Constitution which laid down that Bahrain was an "Islamic State", whose legislation must be based on Islamic law.

A new government was formed later in December, with Shaikh Khalifa bin Sulman al Khalifa (brother of the ruler) as Prime Minister.

BANGLADESH

In the general election held in March 1973, the ruling Awami League headed by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, gained 73% of the votes and 292 of the 299 seats in the Assembly. After the election, Rahman became Prime Minister and took over the portfolios of Defence, Planning and Cabinet Affairs.

In the months after the election, however, shortages of basic commodities, high unemployment and corruption among officials has given way -- as "The Guardian" pointed out -- to "disillusion":

"Everywhere the gap is felt between official promises and practical hardships. The contrast has become more painful between talk of 'socialism' and the practical exploitation of scarcities by men in power or close to power.

Strong-arm tactics increase in direct proportion to the discontent. The Rakhi Bahini, an armed force under the command of the Prime Minister's office, is an effective and widely feared private army under the control of Sheikh Mujib's nephew.

Two dissident students were murdered on their campus in Dacca a few weeks ago and many more were beaten up. Last week neither of the two English-language weekly newspapers which take an independent line -- 'Holiday' and 'Dawn' -- was able to appear after clashes with authority.

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Corruption, intimidation and reaction in the party are directly linked in people's minds with the crippling shortages and inflation. Rice is short not because of a drought . . . but because so much of it is smuggled to India with the connivance of officials who grow rich on the trade.

Rackets associated with controls and scarcity . . . are now part of the Bangladesh scene".
("Guardian", October 17th., p. 6).

Such is the result of a national-democratic revolution when it is led by the national bourgeoisie and not by the working class.

In April Abu Chowhury was re-elected President of Bangladesh.

In August an agreement was signed between the governments of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh providing for the immediate simultaneous repatriation of Pakistani prisoners-of-war (except for 195 awaiting trial for war crimes), of Bengalis living in Pakistan and of non-Bengalis living in Bangladesh who wished to live in Pakistan.

In November the government announced an amnesty for 30,000 persons accused of collaboration with the Pakistan Army.

In December Abu Chowhury resigned as President of Bangladesh in order to devote himself to diplomacy.

BARBADOS :

SEE REFERENCE UNDER TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BELGIUM

Following the resignation in November 1972 of the government headed by Gaston Eyskens as a result of differences over boundary changes between Flemish and Walloon districts, a new coalition government was formed in January 1973 composed of Ministers from the Christian Socialist, Socialist and Liberal Parties, with Edmond Leburton, chairman of the Socialist Party, as Prime Minister.

(SEE ALSO : BURUNDI, RWANDA).

BELIZE

In June 1973 the name of the British colony of British Honduras was changed to "Belize".

BOLIVIA

In September 1973 the Bolivian Minister of the Interior, Castro Avendano, announced that the government had discovered a "left-wing plot" to overthrow the dictatorship of President Hugo Banzer and that 100 opposition politicians and trade union leaders had been arrested.

In November President Banzer declared his "irrevocable" decision not to contest the Presidential elections due in June 1974. Later General Carlos Alcoraza, Commander-in-Chief of the army, demanded that the elections should be postponed on the grounds that the country was "not ready for a return to democracy".

BRAZIL

In a declaration issued in May 1973 3 archbishops and 10 bishops accused the Brazilian government of repression, and condemned Brazil's "economic miracle" as a means to "make the

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rich richer and the poor poorer".

Later in May Francis Jentel, a French priest, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for "subversion" after he had assisted peasants to resist eviction from their land by land developers.

In July the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (CNBB) announced that Pedro Casaldaliga, Bishop of Sao Felix de Araguaia, had been placed under house arrest after he had condemned the trial of Father Jentel as "a farce".

In August the Pope appealed to the Brazilian government "to respect human rights", and in November the CNBB published a statement accusing the government of persecution of the Church.

BRITISH HONDURAS : SEE BELIZE

BURMA

In December a new Constitution under which Burma was declared to be a "Socialist Republic" was endorsed by a referendum.

The constitution provided for an elected People's National Congress and for a State Council, responsible for policy making, elected by the Congress, The Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP), led by the dictatorial Prime Minister, General Ne Win, was declared to be "the only political party leading the state".

BURUNDI

As in their neighbouring neo-colony of Rwanda (which, with Burundi, formed until July 1962 the Belgian "trusteeship territory" of Ruanda-Urundi), the Belgian imperialists have sought to maintain their domination over the central African republic of Burundi by fostering antagonism between the Hutu tribe (which forms 90% of the population) and the Tutsi tribe (which forms 9%). Whereas in Rwanda, however, they have maintained the Hutu majority in the position of ruling class and encouraged their brutal repression of the Tutsi minority, in Burundi they have maintained the Tutsi minority in the position of ruling class and encouraged their brutal repression of the Hutu majority.

In May 1972 the Hutus proclaimed in south Burundi the "People's Republic of Martyazo". The armed forces of the Tutsi ruling class replied with an organised massacre of educated Hutus, in which some 200,000 were killed and a further 85,000 forced to flee the country.

In April and May 1973 renewed fighting took place between the armed forces and Hutu tribesmen.

In June 1973, after allegations that Tanzania was "protecting Hutu rebels", Burundi troops crossed into Tanzania and killed 10 Tanzanian villagers, and in the same month dictatorial President Michel Micombero took over, by presidential decree, the posts of Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior.

CAMBODIA (See: KHMER REPUBLIC)

CAMEROON

In March/April 1973 Ahmadou Ahidjo, President of Cameroon (the West African state composed of the former British "trusteeship territory" of British Cameroons and the former French "trusteeship territory" of French Cameroons) visited Peking at the invitation of the Chinese government. During his visit an agreement on economic and technical cooperation between China and Cameroon was signed. Its terms included a Chinese loan to Cameroon of \$US 17 million.

In May "elections" were held to the 120 seats in the National Assembly, all candidates being selected by the Political Bureau of the sole legal political party, the Cameroon National Union.

CANADA

In January 1973 the main party of the Quebec national bourgeoisie, Quebec Unity, resumed its former name of National Union.

In February the Canadian government recognised the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, while maintaining diplomatic relations with the Republic of Vietnam.

It was announced in April that the joint US-Canadian North American Air Defence Command (NOROD), set up in May 1958, would be extended for a further two years from May.

In April it was also announced that contracts valued at \$C200 million had been signed with the Soviet grain trading corporation V/O Exportkhleb for the sale to the Soviet Union of 58 million bushels of wheat and 20 million bushels of barley.

In October Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau paid an official visit to China, and signed agreements on consular representation, trade, and cooperation in the fields of science, technology, culture, education and sport.

In October, at an election in the province of Quebec, the Liberal government headed by Prime Minister Robert Bourassa was returned to office with an increased majority.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

In April the Minister for Housing and Transport, Augusto M'Bongo, was dismissed from the government of the French neo-colony of the Central African Republic (formerly part of French Equatorial Africa and still a member of the "French Community")

The President, General Bodol Bokassa, who assumed power in a military coup against the former government in January 1966, declared that the former Minister had been "placed under surveillance" for having attempted to suborn the Deputy Chief-of-Staff, General Jean-Claude Mandaba, to overthrow the government.

CEYLON : SEE SRI LANKA.

CHAD

In the late summer of 1973 the dictatorial President of the French African neo-colony of Chad, François Tombalaya, decided that it would be prudent to make some minor concessions to rising national liberation sentiments.

In August he announced that the Chad Progressive Party -- the sole legal political party, representing the interests of the pro-imperialist comprador bourgeoisie -- would be renamed the "National Movement for the Cultural and Social Revolution", which would carry out a "cultural revolution" in the country.

Three days later the "cultural revolution" began when the President changed his pronomine from François to Ngarta, and announced that French personal and place names would gradually be replaced by African names. In November the name of the capital was changed from Fort Lamy to Ndjamena.

CHILE

On September 11th., 1973, on the orders of its new commander-in-chief General Augusto Pinochet, the army overthrew the Popular Unity Front government headed by President Salvador Allende in a military coup. Allende was murdered in the burned-out shell of the Presidential Palace.

On September 14th. Pinochet was made President of Chile, and the new military dictatorship proceeded to ban all political parties which had supported the Allende government, together with the trade unions; to dissolve Congress; to arrest thousands of

active supporters of the Allende government who had not been butchered out of hand; and to burn "Marxist" books.

(For a full analysis of the coup and the events leading up to it, see: "CHILE -- THE 'PEACEFUL' ROAD TO COUNTER-REVOLUTION", published by THE RED FRONT MOVEMENT).

CHINA

In January 1973 the last three British citizens detained for unspecified "criminal offences" during the "cultural revolution" -- David Crook, Elsie Epstein and Michael Shapiro -- were released by the Chinese government. In March the last three United States pilots shot down over Chinese territory were also released.

In February Henry Kissinger, then Special Adviser on Foreign Affairs to US President Richard Nixon, visited Peking. A communique stated that both governments were agreed on the desirability of "the acceleration of the normalisation of relations" and would establish "liaison offices" in each other's capitals.

In March the Chinese government established diplomatic relations with fascist Spain, and in the same month offered to hold talks, open or secret, with the Chiang Kai-shek regime in Taiwan on the question of the reunification of China.

During an official visit to China of the President of Mexico, Luis Echeverria, in March/April, it was announced that the Chinese government had agreed to sign the Additional Protocol II to the 1967 Treaty for the Denuclearisation of Latin America (the Treaty of Tlatelolco), prohibiting the stockpiling or use of nuclear weapons in Latin America.

In April trade unions, forcibly dissolved during the "cultural revolution", were permitted to function legally.

In May, in an attempt to weaken the growing rapprochement of Japan with the Soviet Union, the Chinese government offered to sell 1 million tons of crude oil to Japan. The agreement was signed in Peking between China's National Chemical Import and Export Corporation and Japan's International Oil, a consortium set up specifically for negotiation with China.

In June Foreign Minister Chi Pong-fei visited Britain, France, Iran and Pakistan, and an agreement was signed in Peking between British Airways and the Chinese state airline for the commencement of air services between London and Peking.

In the same month it was announced that the Chinese government had carried out the test of a hydrogen bomb "over the western region" (the 15th. nuclear test since China began testing such weapons in 1964). The governments of Japan, Australia and New Zealand protested to the Chinese government. Foreign experts estimated the explosion to be one of 2 to 3 megatons.

From August 24th. to 28th., the "Tenth Congress of the Communist Party of China" was held secretly in Peking. A report published afterwards stated that the congress had been attended by 1,249 delegates, whose class composition was not revealed. It was stated that Mao Tse-tung had "presided" at the congress, but no statement by him was published.

Subsequently the texts were released of two reports stated to have been given at the congress: the Political Report of the Central Committee, presented by Chou En-lai, and a Report on the Revision of the Party Constitution, given by a new vice-chairman of the Party, former Shanghai factory worker Wang Hung-wen.

Chou's report (like that given by Lin Piao at the "Ninth Congress") made no mention of the national capitalists; neither did it give any figures of economic progress. It laid main emphasis on the defeat of the faction headed by Lin Piao, who was denounced as "a bourgeois careerist, conspirator, double-dealer, renegade and traitor". Chen Po-ta, formerly Mao's secretary and a leader of the "cultural revolution", was similarly denounced as "a Kuomintang element, trotskyite renegade, enemy agent and revisionist". However, the report asserted that "the line of the Party's Ninth Congress had won great victories", despite the fact that already before this congress Lin Piao had opposed "the continuance of the revolution"; no

explanation was offered as to why, in these circumstances, Lin was permitted to present the main report at the congress and was named in the Constitution adopted at it as Mao's successor.

The main amendment made to the Party Constitution was the elimination of the name of Lin Piao as Mao's successor.

The congress elected a Central Committee of 195 members, which included Teng Hsiao-ping, former General Secretary of the Party, who had associated himself with the faction of the CPL headed by Liu Shao-Chi prior to the "cultural revolution" but had since confessed his "errors".

Early in September the United States announced its intention to withdraw 3,000 of its 9,000 troops from Taiwan.

In November Henry Kissinger, now US Secretary of State, paid a further visit to Peking and assured the Chinese government that a change of Administration in Washington would not affect Sino-US relations. Shortly after his visit it was announced that the first Chinese commercial mission would visit the United States early in 1974.

(SEE ALSO: CAMEROUN, CANADA, DAHOMEY, KHMER REPUBLIC, MALAGASY REPUBLIC, ZAIRE, ZAMBIA).

COMORO-ISLANDS

Elections in the French colony of the Comoro Islands (off the east coast of Africa) in December 1972 resulted in the victory of "The Union", a three-party coalition standing for the "independence" of the colony. Ahmed Abdallah, a businessman who had been a member of the French Senate since 1959, was appointed Prime Minister.

In June, after several months of negotiations, an agreement was signed in Paris promising neo-colonial "independence" for the islands within five years, after which relations with France would be on the basis of "cooperation agreements". After the agreement had been signed Abdallah said:

"Everything is going to take place in the best conditions, in friendship, collaboration and cooperation with France".

CONGO

In February 1973 Marion Nguabi, President of the French African neo-colony of Congo, announced that he was personally taking control of the country to put an end to the "subversive movement" led by Ango Diawara (who had escaped after an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the government in February 1972). The President then ordered the dissolution of the police force, which he characterised as "unreliable", and transferred its functions to the army, followed by the arrest of Minister of Information Sylvain Bemba and several other members of the Central Committee of the ruling Congolese Party of Labour (representing the interests of the comprador bourgeoisie) together with ex-Prime Minister Pascal Lissoube, for alleged complicity in "subversive activities".

In April Radio Brazzaville announced that army units had killed 12 guerillas, including Diawara.

In June elections were held for a new National Assembly of 115 members, and in August Henri Lopes was appointed Prime Minister by the Political Bureau of the Ruling Congolese Party of Labour.

CUBA

SEE REFERENCE UNDER PERU.

CYPRUS

In February 1973 Archbishop Makarios was re-elected unopposed for a further five-year term as President of the British neo-colony of Cyprus. Rauf Denktaş, a Turkish Cypriot, was elected Vice-President.

In March three Cypriot bishops of the Orthodox Church -- Anthimos of Kitium, Yennadios of Paphos, and Kyprianos of Kyrenia -- announced that a session of the Holy Synod of the Church of Cyprus had deprived Makarios of his episcopal titles in view of his refusal to accede to their demand (first made in March 1972) that he should resign as President. Makarios refused to recognise this decision as valid, and in July a Synod of the Orthodox Church held in Nicosia unfroked the three bishops concerned.

During the summer of 1973 clashes continued between Cypriot security forces and armed supporters of General George Grivas, who has been demanding Enosis (the union of Cyprus with Greece).

In July the Minister of Justice, Christos Vakis, was kidnapped by Grivas terrorists and held as a hostage, while in August government security forces succeeded in arresting Stavros Stavrou, Grivas's second-in-command.

For some time the US Central Intelligence Agency has been supporting the Grivas forces, believing that Enosis would enable Cyprus to be transformed into a United States base. However, the Western European imperialist powers have recently been placing intense pressure on the Greek government to repudiate the campaign of terrorism organised by Grivas. On August 24th. this pressure was successful in causing Greek President George Papadopoulos to issue a statement declaring that the Greek government recognised Cyprus as "an independent sovereign and unified state", repudiating Grivas's campaign and urging him to dissolve his organisation.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In March 1973 the Federal Assembly re-elected General Ludvik Svoboda as President of Czechoslovakia for a second term.

In June a treaty was signed in Bonn normalising relations between Czechoslovakia and the Federal Republic of Germany. The treaty declared the Munich Agreement of September 1938, by which the Sudetenland was ceded to Germany, to be null and void.

DAHOMEY

In January 1973 an agreement on economic and technical cooperation was signed between the governments of China and Dahomey -- the French neo-colony which formerly formed part of French West Africa. As a part of this agreement, the Chinese government granted Dahomey an interest-free loan of £20 million.

In May a military court in Cotonou convicted eight defendants, including former President Colonel Alphonse Alley, of conspiring to overthrow the government of President Mathieu Kerekou.

In September the military government set up a 67 - member "National Council of the Revolution" charged with preparing for "democratically elected revolutionary institutions".

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

In December 1972 a new Constitution was adopted in the DPR of Korea, designed to bring the North constitutionally more into line with the South and so assist the movement towards the reunification of the country. Under the new constitution, Marshal Kim Il Sung (General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea) became President, and was replaced as Premier by

former Vice Premier Kim Il.

On June 23rd., 1972 President Kim Il Sung proposed that Korea should apply for admission to the United Nations as a confederal state - the Confederal Republic of Koryo. The proposal was rejected by the government in the South.

Later in June the DPRK was granted observer status in the United Nations.

(SEE ALSO : REPUBLIC OF KOREA).

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

On January 27th., 1973 -- following lengthy negotiations between Henry Kissinger (Foreign Affairs Advisor to US President Nixon) and Le Duc Tho (representative of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam), a peace agreement was signed in Paris between representatives of the USA, the DRV, the Republic of Vietnam, and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

The agreement provided for:

- A standstill cease-fire on the following day;
- the withdrawal of all US forces from Vietnam;
- the exchange of prisoners-of-war;
- the establishment of an International Commission of Control and Supervision (ICCS) to ensure the carrying-out of the agreement;
- the formation, by agreement between the political parties in South Vietnam, of a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord which would organise general elections in the South;
- the holding of an international conference on Vietnam within 30 days.

The International Conference provided for in the agreement met in Paris in February/March and approved the terms of the peace agreement.

The United States government published in March casualty figures for the war in Vietnam from January 1st., 1961 to January 28th., 1973 as: 45,941 killed, 300,635 wounded and 1,811 missing. Casualties among the civilian population of South Vietnam were given as 415,000 killed and 935,000 wounded. On March 7th. Olof Stroh, General Secretary of the Swedish Red-Cross, reported that 1 million citizens of the DRV were homeless as a result of US bombing.

In the months following the signing of the peace agreement, many states established diplomatic relations with the DRV -- including Britain in July 1973.

In August the US ended bombing raids over the Khmer Republic, thus bringing to an end ten years of aerial bombing in Indo-China during which the US dropped 7.4 million tons of bombs (three times the tonnage dropped by US planes during World War II) at a cost of £6,700 million. During this period the US lost (according to its official figures): 3,706 planes, 4,866 helicopters and 4,240 pilots killed.

(SEE ALSO: KHMER REPUBLIC).

DENMARK

On June 8th., 1973 an agreement was signed between the governments of Denmark and Sweden for the construction of a bridge and tunnel for road traffic, and a tunnel for rail traffic, between the two countries. The work, estimated to cost \$445 million, is scheduled for completion in 1985.

On December 5th. a general election brought about a reduction in the number of seats held by the governing Social

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Democratic Party from 70 to 46, and of its ally the Socialist People's Party from 17 to 11. The revisionist Communist Party won 6 seats (from none in the former Folketing).

The rest of the 178 seats in the Folketing were divided among seven small parties, including the new cranky "Progress Party" which, standing for "the abolition of income tax", won 28 seats to become the second largest parliamentary group.

In December, a new highly unstable government was formed with Poul Hartling -- leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, which holds only 22 seats in the Folketing -- as Prime Minister; 7 of its 12 Ministers were drawn from outside the Folketing.

EGYPT

In September the political union between Egypt and Libya came -- purely formally -- into existence.

In October the Egyptian government awarded a \$398 million contract for the construction of an oil pipeline from Suez to the Mediterranean to the US Bechtel Corporation.

On October 6th Egypt and Syria launched a war to liberate the occupied Arab territories from Israel. (For an analysis of the war, see the Special Edition of CLASS AGAINST CLASS published in October 1973).

On October 22nd. the United States and the Soviet Union sponsored a joint resolution in the United Nations Security Council, which was carried, calling for an immediate standstill cease-fire, for the implementation of the United Nations resolution calling for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory, and for negotiations to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

On October 25th. a United Nations peace-keeping force began to interpose itself between the two sides under the command of Major-General Siilasvuo of Finland.

On November 11th. the cease-fire agreement was formally signed between representatives of Egypt and Israel on the road between Suez and Cairo.

On December 21st. the Middle East Peace Conference, co-sponsored by the US and Soviet governments, opened in Geneva. The invitations to attend were accepted by Egypt, Jordan and Israel, but the Syrian government's announcement that it would boycott the conference was followed by strong pressure from the Soviet neo-imperialists to reverse this decision.

(SEE ALSO : JORDAN, LIBYA, together with the special edition of CLASS AGAINST CLASS of October 1973 devoted to the Middle East War).

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

In August 1973 a new constitution was signed by President Francisco Macias under which the Spanish West African neo-colony of Equatorial Guinea (formerly Spanish Guinea, composed of the two territories of Rio Muni and Fernando Poe) became a unitary state. The capital, Santa Isabel, was renamed Malabo and Fernando Poo was renamed Macias Nguema Island (after the President).

The constitution had previously been approved by a congress of the country's only political party, the Sole National Party (PUN).

ETHIOPIA

In January 1973 French President Georges Pompidou, together with Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann, paid an official visit to Ethiopia as part of the plan of the French imperialists to detach the country from its dependence upon US imperialism.

During their visit agreements were signed for the building of a road from the capital, Addis Ababa, to the port of Djibouti, in the French Overseas Territory of the Afars and Issars, and for the reduction of the interest on the balance of 32 million francs outstanding from France's 1967 "defence loan" to Ethiopia.

In recent years Somalia, backed by Soviet imperialism, has been putting forward claims for an alteration of the border between Ethiopia and Somalia so that Somalia at present included within Ethiopia's frontiers would be transferred to Somalia; the alteration would involve the loss of almost one-third of Ethiopia's present territory. President Siyad Barreh of Somalia at first refused to attend the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), held in Addis Ababa in May, on the grounds of a military threat from Ethiopia. Later he accepted a special invitation to attend, and both he and Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia agreed to the setting up of an 8-member "good offices committee", presided over by President Yakubu Gowon of Nigeria, charged with seeking "normalisation of relations" between Ethiopia and Somalia. At the same time the Ethiopian Minister of Information, Tosfaye Gabre-Egzy, declared:

"We will not cede one-third of Ethiopia to Somalia, not even one inch".

In June/July a "general election" was held for the 250 members of the rubber-stamp "Chamber of Deputies". Democrats being barred from standing as candidates as "subversive elements" and political parties being banned under the Constitution, all the candidates stood as "Independent" supporters of dictatorial Emperor Haile Selassie.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

The European Space Conference held in Brussels in December 1972 set up a European Space Agency (ESA) to take over the European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO) and the European Space Research Organisation (ESRO).

The new Agency was made responsible for the development of the new L3-S launcher vehicle designed to carry a payload of 750 kilograms, and also for the European part in the construction of a manned spaceship in the context of the US post-Apollo space programme.

At the beginning of 1973 US President Richard Nixon proclaimed 1973 to be "the year of Europe" and Henry Kissinger, then Foreign Affairs Adviser to the President, proposed a "new Atlantic Charter" linking the EEC and the USA. The Western European imperialist states organised in the EEC pointedly failed to respond to the overtures of the US imperialists.

In February the three new member states of the EEC -- Britain, Denmark and the Irish Republic -- formally adhered to the EEC's common agricultural policy. Under this agreement Britain is required to bring its prices of all agricultural produce up to the level of the rest of the EEC within five years.

In February a European Trade Union Confederation was formed by representatives of the national trade union organisations from 14 EEC and EFTA countries (excluding the Irish Republic and Portugal). Vic Feather, then general secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, was elected first President of the Confederation.

In April it was announced that the EEC had sold to the Soviet Union 200,000 tons of butter at the knock-down price of 8p. a pound; this is a fifth of the EEC price, and the loss of £125 million on the deal will be met by the taxpayers of the EEC countries. The deal was engineered by the French "Communist" millionaire, Jean Doumeng, who is founder and chairman of the

import/export firm Interagra.

In April the EEC established a European Monetary Co-operation Fund, intended to be the nucleus of an EEC Central Bank.

In July a "Communist and Allies Bloc" came into existence within the "European Parliament", composed of 3 representatives of the French Communist Party, 8 representatives of the Italian Communist Party, 1 Dutch "Left-wing Independent", and 1 representative of the (Danish) People's Socialist Party. Giorgio Amendola, of the Italian Communist Party, was elected Chairman of the bloc.

In September a United Sugar Action Committee was formed in Britain with the aim of putting pressure on the EEC to keep its promises to Commonwealth sugar producers to continue the importation of sugar. The European beet sugar producers, on the other hand, are pressing the EEC to ban this importation.

In November the EEC states adopted a joint declaration calling upon Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab territory. As a result the Arab oil-producing states decided to exempt EEC countries (except for the Netherlands) from the cuts in oil supplies imposed to back their demand for Israel's withdrawal.

In December an open dispute arose between the Federal Republic of Germany and Britain over the size of the EEC's Regional Fund, designed to aid economically underdeveloped regions within the EEC states. Britain stands to put in 13% of the funds required and to draw out 25%, because of its large economically backward areas, while West Germany stands to put in considerably more than it draws out. Thus the British government is demanding a Regional Fund of £1,250 million over three years, while the FRG government is refusing to agree to more than 20% of this total. In an effort to put pressure on the West German government on this question, Britain -- together with Italy, which is in a similar position in relation to the fund -- is holding back its agreement on the proposed joint energy policy for the EEC.

At the end of 1973 the United Nations published figures showing that there were 8 million immigrants now working in EEC countries, the majority in West Germany, France and Britain. So far as continental Europe is concerned, the largest numbers of immigrants have come from North Africa, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece.

(SEE ALSO : FINLAND, ROMANIA, SOVIET UNION, YUGOSLAVIA).

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

In May 1973 Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, signed in Bonn a treaty for the development of trade between the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Germany, making the FRG the Soviet Union's largest trading partner in western Europe.

In October the first natural gas began to flow into West Germany by pipeline from the Soviet Union.

(SEE: CZECHOSLOVAKIA, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, ROMANIA, SOVIET UNION).

FINLAND

In May 1973 an agreement was signed in Moscow between Finland and the Soviet-dominated Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) providing for economic, scientific and technological cooperation and making Finland eligible for credits from COMECON's International Investment Bank, set up in 1971.

In June the Finnish government notified the governments of the eight COMECON countries (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia) that it was ready to conclude mutual free trade agreements with them.

In October the Finnish government signed a Special Relations Agreement with the European Economic Community and the European Coal and Steel Community.

FRANCE

On March 4th. and 11th. 1973 general elections took place in France. The Union of the Left (comprising the revisionist Communist Party, the Socialist Party and a section of the Radical Socialist Party) obtained 9.1 million votes (42.5%) and gained 175 seats out of 490 in the National Assembly. The largest group in the new Assembly was made up of deputies of the Gaullist Union of Progressive Republicans for the Support of the President of the Republic (URP), which gained 183 seats. Pierre Messmer, of the URP, was re-appointed Prime Minister.

In June the government banned the trotskyite "Communist League" and the fascist "New Order", following violent clashes at an anti-immigration meeting held by the latter. Later in the month Alain Krivine, leader of the "Communist League", was arrested and charged with organising violence.

In June the French Michelin tyre concern bought from the Italian Fiat company the latter's 49% share in the holding company controlling the car firm of Citroen SA, making Michelin the majority shareholder in Citroen.

In July and August -- in opposition to a decision of the International Court of Justice and the protests of numerous governments -- France exploded five nuclear devices in the atmosphere on Mururoa Atoll in the Pacific. This brought the number of French nuclear tests to 52 since they began in 1960. The New Zealand government sent a frigate carrying a Cabinet Minister into the testing area, and the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the New Zealand Federation of Labour asked all unions to boycott French goods and all postal, shipping and aircraft communication with France; these bodies lifted the boycott in September. The British government refused demands to protest against the tests, but the General Council of the British Trades Union Congress asked unions to impose a similar ban to that in Australia and New Zealand for seven days only.

In August 3,000 French police forcibly ejected workers from the factory of the Swiss-owned LIP watch company in Besançon, in eastern France. The employees had staged since April a work-in with the aim of preventing the closure of the factory, and had proceeded to sell the 60,000 watches they had made to pay their wages. The police action was followed by sympathetic strikes by other workers, notably in eastern France. The expelled Lip workers, having appropriated spare parts from the factory, continued to manufacture and sell watches from a Besançon gymnasium.

On October 12th. the Finance Committee of the National Assembly refused to authorise the state Office of French Radio-Television (ORTF) to collect licence fees in 1974 on the grounds that it had exhibited "left-wing bias" in its reporting of the Middle East war, the military coup in Chile and the Lip affair. On October 23rd. Prime Minister Pierre Messmer dismissed the Director-General of ORTF, Arthur Conte, and replaced him by a civil servant, Marceau Long; on the same day Philippe Malaud was replaced as Minister of Information by Jean-Philippe Lecat. On October 26th. after hundreds of dismissals of ORTF staff had occurred, the ORTF was granted the

right to collect (increased) licence fees in 1974, and the joint council of ORTF trade unions called a 24 hour strike against government interference in journalistic freedom, in which many press journalists also participated.

In November 1973 a Senate commission published a report alleging that the security authorities were currently tapping -- illegally, in the great majority of cases -- up to 5,000 telephones each day.

In November the Channel Tunnel Agreements and Treaty were signed in London between representatives of the French and British governments. They mark Phase 2 of the project, covering access works on both coasts and the construction of initial lengths of service tunnel. The cost of this phase will be £30 million, of which about £8 million will be provided privately and the rest by Government-guaranteed loans.

On December 4th. the publishers of the satirical journal "The Chained Duck" revealed that an attempt had been made by the security services to "bug" their offices.

On December 6th. a one-day general strike took place, organised by three trade union federations - the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), the French Democratic Federation of Labour (CFDT) and the Federation of National Education (FEN) -- and four parties -- the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Left Radicals and the Unified Socialist Party (PSU) - in protest against the high cost of living. More than 500,000 demonstrators took part in a march through Paris.

(See also: ANDORRA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, COMORO ISLANDS, CONGO, DAHOMEY, ETHIOPIA, GABON, GUADELOUPE, HAITI, MALAGASY REPUBLIC, MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, SENEGAL, SOVIET UNION).

GABON

In February 1973, Albert-Bernard Bongo was "re-elected" President of the French West African neo-colony of Gabon as representative of the sole legal political party, the Gabonese Democratic Party, which represents the interests of the comprador bourgeoisie.

GAMBIA

In April 1973 the capital of the British West African neo-colony of Gambia, Bathurst, was renamed Banjul.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Over the last two years the revisionist leaders of the German Democratic Republic have been officially fostering the view that there is no longer a single German nation split by imperialism, but two German nations -- a "capitalist nation" in the West and a "socialist nation" in the east. Thus in recent months a host of institutions have had their names changed from "German" to "GDR", and the national anthem (which begins "Germany, united fatherland . . .") is no longer sung.

This view was implicit in the Treaty on the Basics of Relations between the FRG and the GDR, which was signed between the two governments in December 1972 and came into force in June 1973.

Following the signing of the treaty, most foreign states including Britain, which had formerly not recognised the GDR established diplomatic relations with it.

In June 1973 the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved the admission to the United Nations of both German states.

In October Willi Stoph was elected Chairman of the Council of State in succession to Walter Ulbricht, who died on August 1st., and Horst Sindermann became Prime Minister.

In December the British government signed a ten-year agreement for economic, scientific and technological cooperation with the government of the GDR.

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF : See: FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

GHANA

In September 1973 the Government of Ghana imposed a "Selective Alien Employment Tax" of about £2,000 on foreigners (chiefly Asians).

In December a military court in Accra passed death sentences on three men charged with attempting to overthrow the government of the National Redemption Council", headed by Head of State Colonel Ignatius Kutu Acheampong. Those sentenced to death included John Tettegah, former Secretary-General of the All-African Trades Union Federation, and Kojo Betsio, a former Foreign Minister under President Nkrumah.

GREECE

Following an attempted naval mutiny in May sponsored by EEC intelligence services in association with exiled king Constantine II, Regent and Prime Minister George Papadopoulos declared that the monarchy had been abolished and a republic established with himself as Provisional President.

In July a referendum was held to approve a republican constitution and to confirm Papadopoulos as President till 1981. It was claimed that 78% of the voters had endorsed these proposals.

In August Papadopoulos was formally sworn in as President and announced that he would sign decrees ending martial law and establishing a civilian cabinet. This cabinet came into being in October, headed as Prime Minister by historian Spyros Markezinis (formerly leader of the Progressive Party). On his appointment Markezinis pledged the restoration of "normal political conditions" and the holding of parliamentary elections in 1974.

On November 14th. 5,000 students occupied the Athens polytechnic demanding academic and political freedoms. Two days later army units smashed into the building with tanks and forcibly evicted the students. The student action was, at least in part, provoked by agents provocateurs planted within the students' organisation by the Greek counter-intelligence agency, KYP; this works closely with the United States Central Intelligence Agency, which was opposed to the moves towards "normal political conditions" being made by Papadopoulos.

On November 25th., therefore, Papadopoulos was displaced in a military coup led by General Demetrios Ioannides, head of the military police. The military junta then installed as President Lieutenant-General Phaidon Gizikis, commander of the First Army Group and a close friend of Ioannides. The new President appointed as Prime Minister a Chicago-trained lawyer, Adamantios Andrioutsopoulos, who announced that martial law would be continued and that elections would be postponed indefinitely.

The Greek universities, which had been closed since November 13th., were reopened on December 3rd. Three days later the government announced that the "State Commissioners" appointed by the previous regime to supervise the universities would be removed.

(SEE ALSO: CYPRUS)

GUADELOUPE

In December a by-election in the French West Indian Colony of Guadeloupe (legally, a department of France) resulted in the victory of a Communist, Hégésippe Ibéné on a platform of Autonomy for the colony.

This increased Communist representation in the French National Assembly to 74.

GUATEMALA

In May and June 1973 armed peasants endeavouring to squat on land owned by landlords were involved in violent clashes with government armed forces.

GUINE

In January 1973 Amilcar Cabral, leader of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (Portugal's West African colonies) was assassinated by agents of Portugal's colonial regime. He was succeeded as leader of the party by Aristide Pereira.

In September a National Assembly was held in the liberated area of Guinea. This proclaimed Guinea an independent republic, adopted a constitution, and elected a 15-member Council of State with Luis Cabral as President.

Within the next month the new state had been recognised by more than 70 foreign governments, and in November the United Nations General Assembly (against the opposition of the representatives of Portugal, Britain, the USA, Greece, Brazil, Spain and South Africa) recognised the independence of Guinea.

GUYANA

In July 1973 elections were held in the British South American neo-colony of Guyana. The government was responsible for large-scale fraud in the conduct of the elections -- most obviously in the field of "overseas voters". Of the 29,643 overseas voters, 29,031 were declared to have voted for the ruling People's National Congress, led by James Burnham. Granada TV's "World in Action" team found that 70% of the names on the electoral list for Britain were incorrect.

The result of the election was declared to be as follows:

People's National Congress:	37 seats
People's Progressive Party:	14 seats
Guyana Liberator Party:	2 seats

This gave the PNC the two-thirds majority in parliament required to enable it to amend the Constitution against the opposition of its parliamentary rivals. Both the People's Progressive Party, led by Cheddi Jagan, and the Guyana Liberator Party announced that they would boycott the new parliament.

(SEE ALSO: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO)

HAITI

In June 1973 Marie-Denise Dominique, sister of the US-backed President of Haiti Jean-Claude Duvalier, returned to Haiti and, after becoming aide to her brother, endeavoured to seize political power in a coup on behalf of the French imperialists.

On July 23rd. a massive explosion in the Presidential palace destroyed most of the building, but the coup was unsuccessful. On August 9th. Marie-Denise was deported from Haiti, and her associates Information Minister Fritz Cineas and Finance Minister Edouard Francisque were dismissed.

HONDURAS

In December 1972 a military coup overthrew the government of President Ramon Ernesto Cruz and replaced him by the Commander-in-Chief of the army, General Oswaldo Lopez Arelano.

HONG KONG

54% of the 1.2 million full-time workers in the British colony of Hong Kong work in industry -- the highest proportion in Asia -- and their conditions, especially in the 20,000 small workshops, are among the worst in the world. The colony's 19th-century labour regulations--(which impose a limitation on working hours and a compulsory rest day only for women workers, and prohibit the employment of children under 14 only in factories and bars) are honoured as much in the breach as in the observance, and when an employer is prosecuted for a breach of the labour regulations the fine is ludicrously small. Government statistics issued in March 1973 admitted an average working month of 26 days, while many workers work 11 or 12 hours a day, for a wage that averages £10 a week. In many of the smaller factories the workers sleep above their machines on an overhead platform.

The trade union movement is weak and fragmented -- the 400 unions are mostly mere friendly societies -- and any militants are constantly harassed by the police. In October 1973, therefore, a landmark in the history of Hong Kong's workers occurred when the Chinese employees of British Cable and Wireless began industrial action in support of a claim for major improvements in wages and working conditions.

ICELAND

Stepping up their "cod war" with Iceland; in May 1973 the British imperialists sent in the Royal Navy to protect British trawlers fishing within Iceland's 50-mile territorial limits. The Icelandic government appealed to NATO to take steps to secure the removal of the British naval vessels, threatening to expel US forces from their bases in Iceland unless this were done.

In October, under strong pressure from the US imperialists, the British government withdrew its naval vessels and, in November signed a treaty with the Icelandic government under which Britain would be permitted to operate 139 vessels within the disputed 12-50 mile zone and to catch a maximum of 130,000 tons of fish a year (50,000 tons less than the annual catch in 1972).

INDIA

In October 1972 the Supreme Court upheld the validity of the Mulki Rules (imposed in 1919 by the Nizam of Hyderabad). This ruling meant that all posts in the state government offices in Hyderabad City, the capital of the state of Andhra Pradesh, had to be filled by persons who had been born, or who had lived for 15 years, in the Telengana region (until 1956 a part of the state of Hyderabad).

Demonstrations, mainly by students, followed in the Andhra region demanding the repeal of the Mulki Rules, and in November

1972 Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared that the rules would be applied only to minor government posts and would cease to operate in Hyderabad City in 1977.

This failed to satisfy the demonstrators, who proceeded to put forward the demand for the formation of the Andhra region into a separate state. The state government of Andhra Pradesh eventually resigned in January, and President Varehgiri Giri imposed President's rule on the state. This ended in November, when a new Ministry was formed in Andhra Pradesh under Homavati Nandan Bahuguna.

In January 1973 the two-year ban on the Pleviscite Front in Indian-occupied Kashmir was not renewed when its leadership, headed by M.A. Beg, pledged their loyalty to the Indian Constitution.

In March the Congress Party suffered a notable setback in Bombay, where it won only 45 out of 140 seats on the municipal council. A councillor from the ultra-right Shiv Sena was elected Mayor.

In April 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that Parliament had the right to amend any section of the Constitution, but not to alter its basic structure.

In May students at Lucknow University, in the state of Uttar Pradesh, demonstrated when police were brought in to scrutinise examinations at the university. The Provincial Armed Constabulary joined in the demonstrations, and on May 22nd. the army was ordered in to forcibly occupy the police stations in the state. On June 12th. the state government of Uttar Pradesh resigned, and on the following day President's rule was imposed on the state.

In June a committee of the Punjab Assembly, headed by Harchand Singh, reported on its investigations into alleged corruption in connection with the setting up of farms for landless persons. The report found that 44 persons -- including Captain Rattan Singh, (state Minister of Agriculture), Darbara Singh (Speaker of the state Assembly); and Vjagar Singh (General Secretary of the state Congress Party) -- were guilty of corruption. All resigned from their posts during the next three months.

In November visiting General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Leonid Brezhnev, during an official visit to India, signed four agreements on economic, commercial and cultural cooperation with the Indian government.

(SEE ALSO: SIKKIM, SRI LANKA).

IRAN

In July 1973 a 20-year agreement was signed between the Iranian government and the oil companies operating within Iran placing their operations under the overall control of the state-owned National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC).

(SEE ALSO: PAKISTAN).

IRAQ

In March 1973 all outstanding disputes between the Iraq government and the Iraq Petroleum Co., including compensation for the nationalisation measures carried out in 1972, were settled.

On June 30th. an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the government was led by Colonel Nazem Kazzar, Director of Public Security and responsible for the torture and murder of thousands of opponents of the regime, in conjunction with the US Central Intelligence Agency. Kazzar arrested General Hamad Shohab

(Minister of Defence) and Lieutenant-General Saadoun Ghaidani (Minister of the Interior), and arranged for a squad of security police to assassinate President Ahmed Bakr and Vice-President Sadom Takriti at Baghdad airport when the President arrived back from an official visit to Poland. However, the aircraft was delayed and the assassination squad, believing the plot had been discovered, dispersed. Kazzar attempted to flee but was arrested after killing Shohab and wounding Ghaidani.

There followed a purge of the security organs, and the notorious Baghdad prison of Qasr Al-Nihayah was demolished and the site made into a park.

On July 13th. the Revolutionary Command Council approved amendments to the Constitution empowering the President to rule by decree, to declare a state of emergency and to appoint officials. Three days later the RCC approved a law providing for the establishment of a National Council of 100 members selected by the RCC. On the same day an Action Pact was signed between the ruling Baath Party and the revisionist Communist Party: in return for recognising the leading role in the state of the Baath Party, the Communist Party was made legal (for the first time since 1934) and allowed to participate with other "progressive parties" (including the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, led by Mustafa Barzani) in a "National Front".

In October, on the outbreak of the war in the Middle East, the Iraqi government nationalised the US and Dutch holdings in the Basrah Petroleum Co.

(SEE ALSO: PAKISTAN).

IRELAND, NORTHERN: See: NORTHERN IRELAND

IRISH REPUBLIC

In February 1973 the Fine Gael party, led by Liam Cosgrave, and the Labour Party, led by Brendan Corish, signed a joint election manifesto.

On February 28th. a general election was held, the result being:

Fiance Fail:	69 seats
Fine Gael:	54 seats
Labour Party:	19 seats

A coalition government was then formed between the Fine Gael and Labour parties, with Liam Cosgrave as Taoiseach (Prime Minister).

On March 28th. the Irish navy, in cooperation with the British navy, seized the coaster "Claudia" carrying Libyan arms to the Provisional IRA. Joe Cahill, former commanding officer of the Belfast brigade of the Provisional IRA, was arrested on board the ship and sentenced in May to three years' imprisonment.

On May 30th., in a Presidential election, Erskine Childers (Fianna Fail) was elected President of the Irish Republic in succession to Eamonn de Valera, defeating his Fine Gael opponent, Thomas O'Higgins, by 636,000 votes to 588,000.

In August the new Irish government published documents showing that the former Taoiseach, John Lynch, had been officially informed by Whitehall in January 1973 of the involvement of Kenneth and Keith Littlejohn (extradited to Dublin by the British government in connection with a Dublin bank raid in October 1972) with the British intelligence service. This was completely contrary to Lynch's statements at the time -- he was anxious to conceal the closeness of his association with British imperialism -- and he explained the discrepancy as "a lapse

of memory".

The Littlejohn affair began with a payroll robbery in Smethwick in November 1970. Kenneth Littlejohn came under suspicion because his brother-in-law, Brian Perks, had held keys to the safe. Perks was convicted and sentenced to six years' imprisonment; Kenneth Littlejohn's name was placed on the "Wanted" list in the "Police Gazette", but by that time he had fled to the Irish Republic, where he formed a "hotpants" company, Whizz Kid Fashions (Ireland) Ltd., in conjunction with a certain Robert Stockman. In October 1971 he moved to a cottage at Clogher Head in Louth.

Meanwhile, his younger brother Keith, who was serving a sentence for robbery in England, had become friendly with an aristocratic prison visitor, Lady Pamela Onslow. It was she who informed Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Defence, that the brothers were willing to become spies for the British government in Ireland.

In November 1971 Perks and Keith Littlejohn were released from prison, and Kenneth Littlejohn's name was removed from the police "Wanted" list. Four days later the elder brother flew to London and that evening had a meeting with Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, then Carrington's Junior Minister, at Lady Pamela's flat in Kensington. On the following day Johnson-Smith arranged a meeting for Littlejohn with an MI6 agent, Douglas Smythe, in a flat in Cavell Street, London.

From that date the brothers were working for British intelligence, and they returned immediately to Ireland. There Kenneth Littlejohn joined the Official IRA (the Provisionals would have nothing to do with him), sent information on their activities to his contact, and acted as an agent provocateur in the south with the aim of providing a pretext for the Lynch government to bring in anti-IRA legislation.

In September 1972, however, Littlejohn was expelled from the Official IRA. He then joined up with a group of other expelled Officials and on October 13th., 1972 they carried out an armed raid on the Allied Irish Bank in Grafton Street, Dublin, obtaining £67,000. (Littlejohn planned to use his share of the money to buy the Tudor Restaurant in Torquay in conjunction with Stockman). Returning to England after the raid, the Littlejohns were arrested.

Meanwhile in December two car bombs exploded in the centre of Dublin, killing 2 people and injuring 73, and providing just the right atmosphere for Lynch to get through his anti-IRA Bill. 19 days later the Irish police arrested a British intelligence agent, John Wyman, and a Dublin Special Branch sergeant, Patrick Crinnion, in connection with the explosions.

An exchange deal was then arranged between the British and Irish governments. In January extradition orders were granted in London, after proceedings held in camera, against the Littlejohns and they were taken to Dublin. In February Wyman and Crinnion were released from prison in Ireland and flew together to London.

Meanwhile, however, on January 3rd., 1973 the Ministry of Defence had been forced to confirm the meeting with Johnson-Smith in a letter to the Littlejohns' London solicitor, Peter Hughman.

(SEE ALSO : NORTHERN IRELAND).

ISRAEL

(See the special edition of CLASS AGAINST CLASS of October 1973)

(AND ALSO: AUSTRIA, EGYPT, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, JAPAN, LEBANON, PALESTINE).

ITALY

In June 1973 the leader of the fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), ex-classics teacher Giorgio Almirante, gave an interview to John Cornwall, correspondent of "The Guardian", in which he said:

"We need a new legislative assembly based not on election, but selection -- in which labour, production, local and cultural categories are all represented. . .

Under the present system a mob of lunatics and psychopaths can vote and swamp my vote, which represents civilised values: do you call that democracy? . . . We believe in a partnership between management and industry which will preclude such militancy. At the same time we will make negotiation and arbitration obligatory. I have admired Edward Heath for his courageous stand on the Industrial Relations Bill -- we should introduce something similar".

("The Guardian", June 20th., 1973, p.11).

Also in June the coalition government of Christian Democrats, Social Democrats, and Liberals, headed by Giulio Andreotti, resigned after the Republican Party withdrew its support from the government in opposition to the proposed ban on private cable television companies.

On July 8th. a new coalition government was formed of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Social Democrats and Republicans, with Mariano Rumor (Christian Democrat) as Prime Minister.

(SEE ALSO : EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, FRANCE).

JAMAICA

The movement of the British Caribbean neo-colony of Jamaica further into the sphere of influence of United States imperialism was illustrated by the announcement in January 1973 that the devalued Jamaican dollar would in future be pegged to the US dollar.

(SEE ALSO: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO).

JAPAN

In February the revisionist Japanese Communist Party proposed joint action with the Socialist and Komei Parties around a common programme. In March agreement was reached on joint parliamentary action between the Communist, Socialist, Democratic Socialist, and Komei Parties around a common programme of six points, and on joint extra-parliamentary action between the Communist and Socialist Parties.

In April Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka proposed electoral "reforms" to replace the existing several-member constituencies by smaller one-member constituencies; this would enable the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party, on the basis of the 44% vote it obtained at the last election, to gain 75% of the seats, so giving it the two-thirds majority required under the constitution to enable it to amend the constitution against the opposition of other parties -- in particular, to pass legislation making remilitarisation legal. Throughout May a powerful campaign developed against the proposed "reforms", the highest point being a mass demonstration of 120,000 people in Meiji Park, Tokyo, on May 15th. On the following day, the Tanaka government announced that it would defer the introduction of its electoral "reform" Bill. At an emergency conference on May 17th., delegates from 232 organisations set up a permanent committee to continue the struggle against the "reforms", and two days later the Council of Trade Unions of Japan

(SOHYO) warned the government that it would call a general strike if it went ahead with its proposal.

In September the Japanese Upper House adopted a Bill to increase the armed forces of 260,000 (declared unconstitutional by a Japanese court) by 7,000, and establish a new air unit.

In September/October Prime Minister Tanaka made a tour of European capitals, including Moscow. In September Japanese banks granted a £24 million loan to Poland -- the first Japanese credit to any East European country. In London Tanaka discussed with the British government the desire of Japanese oil companies to participate in North Sea oil and gas exploitation. In Moscow Tanaka made no progress on the conclusion of a peace treaty with the Soviet Union, the government of which was unwilling to agree to the return of the Kurile Islands occupied by Soviet forces in the closing days of the last World War.

In November the Kanmon Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in Asia, measuring 1,068 metres, was opened across the Kanmon Strait, linking Japan's main island of Honshu with the island of Kyushu.

Also in November the Japanese imperialists, heavily dependent on imported oil for their economy, declared in favour of the withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied Arab territory, and Japan was subsequently classed by the Arab oil-producing states as "a friendly state".

In November the Japanese government imposed emergency measures to ration oil and electric power for industry, and on December 23rd imposed a state of emergency on the country.

(SEE ALSO: CHINA, SOVIET UNION)

JORDAN

In April the Jordanian government adopted legislation giving women for the first time the right to vote and stand for public office.

In May Prime Minister Amjed al Lauzi resigned "for health reasons", and was replaced by Zaid Rifai, a personal friend of King Hussein, who also took over the portfolios of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

In September King Hussein took part in a Summit Conference with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and President Hafez al Assad of Syria. Diplomatic relations were resumed between Jordan and Egypt, and between Jordan and Syria, and Hussein agreed that Jordanian forces would -- in the new situation created by the secret backing of the US imperialists (see the special edition of CLASS AGAINST CLASS for October 1973) -- participate at least nominally in the war of liberation against Israel planned for October.

On the conclusion of the cease-fire agreement, King Hussein put forward the demand that his government should be recognised as "the sole representative" of the Palestinians in the forthcoming peace negotiations.

KENYA

During 1973 more than 1,500 notices were issued by the government of Kenya to "non-citizens" (chiefly Asians) ordering them to sell their business to Africans. By November a total of 3,500 such transfers had been made.

KHMER REPUBLIC (formerly CAMBODIA)

By March 1973 Khmer national liberation forces had liberated 90% of the territory of the country and 79% of its

24.

population, and had cut all roads leading out of the capital Phnom-Penh. The US-sponsored puppet government of President Lon Nol was enabled to survive only by the resumption of US bombing in February, and its intensification in March.

In March bombs fell on Lon Nol's Presidential palace in Phnom-Penh. The President proclaimed a state of emergency and banned all newspapers except those controlled by the government. Many arrests followed, including members of the royal family.

In April the puppet National Assembly approved "a state of national danger" and granted even further "emergency powers" to the President. Military courts were empowered to impose the death penalty, without right of appeal, for "subversive activity".

In May a new cabinet was formed in occupied Cambodia, with In Tam, the leader of the Democratic Party, as Prime Minister. It declared that its main aim was to open negotiations with the national liberation forces. In August, however, a spokesman for the cabinet of the national liberation forces said in Peking that there would be no negotiations with the Lon Nol regime, but the liberation forces would fight on until the country was completely liberated.

Meanwhile in May both houses of the United States Congress had voted to cut off all funds for military action in Cambodia. Defence Secretary Elliot Richardson replied that bombing would go on in Cambodia whether Congress voted funds for it or not.

Also in May Henry Kissinger, Special Adviser on Foreign Affairs to US President Richard Nixon, held talks in Paris on the subject of Cambodia with the representative of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Le Duc Tho.

(SEE ALSO: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM).

In September Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the nominal leader of the national liberation forces, told a correspondent of "The Guardian" that the liberation forces were now "totally isolated". He had earlier, in November and December 1972, accused the Soviet government -- which still recognised the Lon Nol regime -- of conducting "frenzied manoeuvres" to persuade Cambodian Communists "to rally to the Lon Nol regime". He now revealed that the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam had banned all material for the Cambodian liberation forces from passing through its territory "because they want American aid", while China was "now playing the Big Power game with the United States". As a result of this isolation, said Sihanouk, the complete liberation of Cambodia would be likely to take several years.

In October, following world publication of Sihanouk's statements, the Soviet government closed its Embassy in Phnom-Penh and announced that it recognised the Sihanouk government as the legitimate government of the Khmer Republic.

KOREA, NORTH : See: DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KOREA, SOUTH : See: REPUBLIC OF KOREA

KUWAIT

In December 1973 the government of Persian Gulf state of Kuwait announced that it had taken over 60% of the Kuwait Oil Company (jointly owned by British Petroleum and the US Gulf Oil Corporation).

LAOS

In February 1973 the Royal Government of Laos, headed by Prince Souvanna Phouma as Prime Minister, signed a stand-still cease-fire agreement with representatives of the national

liberation forces, Pathet Lao, leaving the latter in control of two-thirds of the country. The agreement further provided for the withdrawal of all foreign forces within 60 days, the exchange of prisoners-of-war, and the setting up of a Provisional Government.

In August right-wing elements opposed to the cease-fire, led by Air Force Brigadier-General Thao Ma, attempted to overthrow the Royal Government by a military coup, but the attempt was defeated.

In September an agreement was signed between the Royal Government and representatives of Pathet Lao on the composition of the Provisional Government. Prince Souvanna Phouma (now Prime Minister of the Royal Government) would be Prime Minister, and Prince Souphanouvong (brother of Souvanna Phouma and leader of Pathet Lao) would be Deputy Prime Minister. The other portfolios would be equally divided between representatives of the Royal Government and of the Pathet Lao. A National Political Consultative Council would also be set up, charged with the organising of elections for a National Assembly.

LEBANON

In April 1973, following a raid on Lebanese territory by Israeli commandos, Saab Salaam resigned as Prime Minister.

Within a week of coming to office, his successor, Amin Hafez, ordered the 18,000-strong Lebanese army to launch an attack upon the Palestinian liberation forces within Lebanon. The army was assisted in its attack by right-wing para-military forces, numbering 12,000 -- armed and financed by the US imperialists. (See the special edition of CLASS AGAINST CLASS of October 1973). A cease-fire was signed in May.

In June, following the resignation of two of his Ministers, Amin Hafez resigned as Prime Minister and was succeeded in July by Takieddine Solh.

LESOTHO

In September 1973 the National Assembly of the British southern African neo-colony of Lesotho refused to debate a motion calling for the establishment of diplomatic relations with South Africa.

LIBYA

In April 1973 the President of the Revolutionary Command Council of Libya, Muammar al Ghadafi, pursued his bid for ideological leadership of the Arab states by calling for a Moslem "cultural revolution" and for a constitution based on the principles of Islam. In the next few weeks 2,000 "people's committees" were set up throughout the country, with their membership vetted by the Revolutionary Command Council. At the same time all books containing "foreign" or "non-Islamic" ideas were ordered to be burned.

In May Ghadafi carried forward this policy by calling for the Arab world to adopt the "Third International Theory" - that the social systems of Arab states should be based on "Islamic socialism".

In July Ghadafi visited Egypt for talks with President Anwar Sadat in which he pressed him to make the agreement already reached for the political union of Egypt and Libya real and not merely nominal. Rebuffed by Sadat, Ghadafi staged a march of 40,000 Libyans on Egypt; these broke down the frontier barriers, but were forcibly prevented from proceeding. Ghadafi resigned in protest, and then withdrew his resignation.

In August/September the Libyan government nationalised the oil companies operating in Libya to the extent of 51%.
On October 1st., the political union of Egypt and Libya came -- purely formally -- into operation.

(SEE ALSO : EGYPT, IRISH REPUBLIC).

LIECHENSTEIN

In February a referendum of the male electors in the principality of Liechtenstein -- situated between Switzerland and Austria -- rejected the demand for women's suffrage by 2,100 votes to 1,700.

MALAGASY REPUBLIC (formerly MADAGASCAR)

In January 1973 the Chinese government made an interest-free loan of £3 million to the Malagasy Republic (formerly Madagascar) to enable it to repay a loan to South Africa. It was announced at the same time that the Malagasy Republic had bought 40,000 tons of rice from China.

Also in January Foreign Minister Didier Ratsiraha, representing a government of the national bourgeoisie, arrived in Paris to negotiate with the French government on measures to liberate the country from its neo-colonial status.

In June an agreement was signed between the governments of France and the Malagasy Republic under which French troops would be withdrawn from the island by September 1st. The Malagasy government rejected the demands of the French government for unrestricted transfer of capital between the two countries. It withdrew from the franc zone on May 22nd. and established its own Central Bank on June 16th. It conceded, however, that France would for a time supply equipment and training officers for the Malagasy army, and would be accorded most favoured nation status with regard to fisheries.

In August the Malagasy government withdrew from the French-oriented Common African, Malagasy and Mauritian Organisation.

MALI

During a visit to the West African republic of Mali in February/March 1973 of the Head of Government of Nigeria, General Yakubu Gowon, he signed a treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance with President Moussa Traore of Mali.

MAURITANIA

In February 1973, on the insistence of the government of the former French West African colony of Mauritania (headed by President Mokhtar Ould Daddah), three new agreements were signed with the French government. The main provisions were that Mauritania would leave the franc zone and set up its own Central Bank. The French government refused the demand of the Mauritanian government that the agreements giving land and harbour facilities to French armed forces should be cancelled.

In July Mauritania introduced its own monetary unit, the ouguiya.

In October Mauritania was admitted to the Arab League.

MEXICO

In March/April 1973 President Luis Echeverria Alvarez made a world tour which included official visits to Britain,

Belgium, France, Canada, the Soviet Union and China. Before his departure he said that the main purpose of his trip was to reduce Mexico's dependence upon the United States (which accounts for 66% of Mexico's foreign trade and 80% of its investment) by developing trade and cultural exchanges with the European Economic Community, the Soviet Union and China.

(SEE ALSO: CHINA).

MOROCCO

In March 1973 King Hassan of Morocco decreed the extension of offshore fishing limits from 12 to 70 miles. This was followed by the arrest of a number of Spanish fishing vessels, and exchanges of gunfire between Moroccan and Spanish naval vessels. French fishing interests were safeguarded by the formation of a Moroccan company in which the French fishing industry held a 40% share.

MOZAMBIQUE

In August 1973 two Spanish priests, Vincente Berenguer and Julio Moure, told a press conference in London of an atrocitiy committed by Portuguese troops in the East African colony of Mozambique. On December 16th., 1972 troops from the 6th. Commando Group had moved into the village of Wiliamo, south-east of Eto, had shot down all the villagers in cold blood and had then burned their bodies and huts with petrol; 100 people died.

The Portuguese government at first denied the story, alleging that it had been invented to upset the visit of Prime Minister Marcello Caetano to Britain. Early in September, however, the government dismissed the Governor and military commander of Tete District, Colonel Armindo Videiro.

Father Jose Roman told the correspondent of "The Observer":

"The present state of affairs in Mozambique is no more than the explosion and unleashing of a long history of oppression, repression and violence against the black population by Portuguese colonialists under the pretence of Western and 'Christian' civilisation. The Church has also been involved in this history, either through its collaboration or through its silence".
("The Observer", July 22nd., 1973; p.6),

and the newspaper commented:

"The conference of Mozambique bishops were presented last year with pictures as well as statements of earlier atrocities. They took no action, and the priest who had supplied them with information was arrested by the political police -- on information laid by one of the bishops".
(Ibid.; p.6).

NETHERLANDS

(See reference under SURINAM).

NIGERIA

(See references under ETHIOPIA, MALI).

NAMIBIA (SOUTH WEST AFRICA)

In March 1973 the "Advisory Council on South West Africa" held its first meeting in Windhoek under the chairmanship of Johannes Vorster, the white racist Prime Minister of South Africa.

Some days before, the National Convention -- a front of seven African organisations, including the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) and the South West Africa National Union (SWANU) -- had issued a statement repudiating the Advisory Council as a non-representative body. On March 18th, 3,000 Africans attended at Katutura the largest meeting on record in Namibia to lay the foundations for the future government of Namibia.

In May the United Nations Committee for Namibia accused the South African government of "occupying illegally the territory of Namibia" and in June declared that it would continue to work "to hasten the liberation of Namibia".

Also in May the South African government transformed the province of Ovamboland into the first "self-governing territory" within South West Africa. Limited powers were given to the Ovambo Legislative Council (composed of 35 nominated and 21 "elected members", the Executive Council was replaced by a "Cabinet" and an Ovambo High Court was set up. Later in the month the province of Kavango became the second "self-governing territory" within South West Africa.

In August the first "elections" were held to the Ovambo Legislative Council. SWAPO called for a boycott of the "elections" on the grounds that "self-government" was a sham, and only 2.3% of the electorate took part in the poll. When SWAPO attempted to hold meetings during the campaign, these were broken up by the police and a number of the leaders of the organisation were arrested and handed over to the comprador chiefs for public flogging "in accordance with tribal custom".

On December 11th., 1973 the UN Security Council decided unanimously to discontinue the efforts made by the Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, to promote the independence of Namibia through negotiations with the government of South Africa.

On the same day the UN General Assembly, by 107 votes to 2 (Portugal and South Africa) and with 17 abstentions (including Britain and the United States), deplored the failure of the South African government to negotiate the independence of Namibia, and recognised SWAPO as "the authentic representative of the Namibian people".

NEW ZEALAND

In November 1973 New Zealand became a member of the Development Assistance Committee of the US "aid" organisation, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

NIGERIA

In June 1973 the Nigerian National Oil Corporation acquired 35% of the assets of Shell-BP Petroleum Development Co. of Nigeria, with the option to increase this to 51% by 1982.

NORTHERN IRELAND

On March 8th, 1973 a Border Poll was held in Northern Ireland, with the Nationalist, Republican Labour and Social Democratic and Labour Parties calling on their supporters to boycott the voting. In these circumstances, the result of the poll was as follows:

29.

To remain part of the United Kingdom:	592,000 (57%)
To be united with the Irish Republic outside the UK:	6,000 (1%)

On March 20th., the British government published a White Paper on the future constitutional status of Northern Ireland. Its proposals were embodied in the Northern Ireland Constitution Act, passed in July. The main provisions of the Bill were as follows:

- 1) Northern Ireland would retain its existing 12 representatives in the British Parliament and its colonial status;
- 2) There would be a Northern Ireland Assembly with limited powers of 78 seats elected for a four year term on the basis of proportional representation;
- 3) The Assembly would elect an Executive no longer based on the domination of a single party;
- 4) Following the establishment of the Assembly and its Executive, the British government would invite representatives of Northern Ireland and of the Irish Republic to participate in a conference to set up a Council of Ireland.

In March 1973 the Provisional Irish Republican Army commenced terrorist activities within Britain.

On June 28th. elections were held for the 78 seats in the new Northern Ireland Assembly. The results were as follows:

Pro-White Paper Parties:

Official Unionists (led by Brian Faulkner):	22 seats
Social Democratic and Labour Party (Gerry Fitt):	19 seats
Alliance Party (Robert Cooper):	8 seats
Northern Ireland Labour Party (David Blakley):	1 seat
	<hr/>
	50 seats

Anti-White Paper Parties:

Unofficial Unionists:	13 seats
Democratic Unionist Party (Ian Paisley):	8 seats
Vanguard Unionist Progressive Party (William Craig):	7 seats
	<hr/>
	28 seats

In July 1973 the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act was passed by the British imperialists, implementing the main provisions of the Diplock Commission on Legal Procedures to deal with Terrorist Activities in Northern Ireland. It provided for trial by judge without jury for a wide range of alleged offences, including murder, manslaughter, arson, wounding, causing explosions, carrying or possessing firearms, and robbery. It also extended the special powers of arrest and detention of the police and army.

In August Hubert O'Neill, the Derry City Coroner, declared at the inquest on the 13 people killed by British troops on "Bloody Sunday" that the soldiers had "run amok" and had committed "sheer, unadulterated murder". Army witnesses were prohibited from taking part in the inquest.

On November 22nd. agreement was reached between representatives of the pro-White Paper parties in the Assembly on the formation of an Executive: It will consist of 6 Official Unionists, 4 members of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and 1 member of the Alliance Party -- 11 members in all. Brian Faulkner (Official Unionist) will be Chief Executive, and Gerry Fitt (SDLP) will be Deputy Chief Executive.

On December 3rd. the anti-White Paper Unionist members of the Assembly formed a new party, the Ulster Unionist Assembly Party, led by Harry West.

On December 8th. representatives of the government of the Irish Republic and of the Northern Ireland Executive met with representatives of the British government at Sunningdale (England) and agreed on the setting up of a Council of Ireland. This would be composed of representatives of the two parts of Ireland; it would comprise a Council of Ministers of 14 members, and a Consultative Assembly of 60 members, half elected by the Dail of the Irish Republic and half by the Northern Ireland Assembly. All decisions of the Council of Ministers would have to be unanimous.

On December 28th. the Social Democratic and Labour Party, at the demand of the Unionist Party, called for the ending of the rent and rates strike -- although when it was initiated in August 1971 as a protest against internment they declared that it would continue until internment had been ended. However, the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association called for the strike to continue.

(See also: IRISH REPUBLIC).

PAKISTAN

On February 10th., 1973 Pakistan police raided the Iraqi Embassy in the capital, Islamabad, and declared that they had discovered there arms and ammunition intended for Baluch insurgents. The government expelled Iraqi diplomats and recalled its own from Baghdad.

On February 13th. the Governor of Sind province, Rasul Bakhsh Talpur, resigned after his brother had been accused of involvement in the gun-running. He was replaced by Rana Liaquat Ali Khan, widow of a former Prime Minister.

On February 15th., President Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto dismissed the Governors of Baluchistan province (Ghaus Bisenjo) and of North-West Frontier Province (Arbab Sikander Khan Khalil). He also dismissed the elected provincial government of Baluchistan, headed by Sardar Attaullah Khan Mengal as Chief Minister, a coalition government in which the National Awami Party played the leading role, and imposed President's rule on the province. Some 2,000 Baluch guerrillas are operating in the Pakistan-occupied part of Baluchistan, and Bhutto accused the provincial government of "failing to check large-scale disturbances". The Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, had also demanded the dismissal of the provincial government of Baluchistan on the grounds that its existence stimulated Baluch opposition within Iran-occupied Baluchistan.

On February 16th. the provincial government of North-West Frontier Province resigned in protest at the actions of the central government.

In April Bhutto, seeking to play off the Bugti tribe of Baluchs against the Marri tribe, appointed the chief of the Bugtis, Sardar Akbar Bugti as Governor of Baluchistan, and Aslam Khan Kattak as Governor of North-West Frontier Province. In the same month Jam Ghulam Qadir was appointed Chief Minister of Baluchistan, and Inayatullah Khan Gandapore Chief Minister of the North-West Frontier Province. Since the governments formed by these puppets did not have the support of majorities in the Provincial Assemblies, it was announced that these would not be summoned.

Meanwhile, On April 12th. a new Constitution for Pakistan came into force. It set up a system of cabinet government headed by a Prime Minister, and the National Assembly obediently elected Bhutto as Prime Minister, replacing him in the now formal office of President by Chaudri Fazal Elahi. With Islam as the state religion, the new Constitution set up a Council of Islam Ideology as a special constitutional court with the right to decide whether existing or future laws were in conformity with Moslem doctrine.

In May, Prime Minister Zulfiqar Bhutto made a four-day visit to Iran and signed with the Shah a secret agreement on "coordination of defence" designed to suppress the movement for Baluchi autonomy in both Iran and Pakistan.

In October and November more than 200 members of the National Awami Party were arrested in Pakistan-occupied Baluchistan.

(See Also: AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH).

PALESTINE

In November 1973 a Palestinian delegation visited Moscow for high-level talks. The delegation was led by Yasser Arafat, and included George Habash, Zuheir Mohson and Abdul Kayyali. The Soviet revisionists placed intense pressure on the delegation to accept, as part of a Middle East peace plan, the formation of a Palestinian state coexistent with Israel, to include the West Bank of the Jordan, the Gaza Strip and part of the Golan Heights.

(See Also: JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA).

PANAMA

In March the United Nations Security Council met, at the invitation of the government of Panama, in Panama City. A resolution calling for the restoration of Panamanian sovereignty over the Panama Canal Zone (a ten mile strip on each side of the Panama Canal occupied by the United States) was vetoed by the US delegate.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

On December 1st, 1973 the Australian government granted internal self-government to its territory of Papua New Guinea, with the Australian Government retaining control of the territory's defence, foreign affairs, judicial matters and electoral policy.

PARAGUAY

In Presidential "elections" held in February 1973, General Alfredo Stroessner (who, as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, seized power in a military coup in 1954) was re-elected President for a fifth five-year term.

PERU

In January 1973 General Edgardo Mercado Jarrin, army Chief-of-Staff, was appointed Prime Minister of the military dictatorship (representing the comprador bourgeoisie/landlord ruling class) in succession to General Ernesto Montagne Sanchez.

In May the government announced its intention of nationalising all enterprises of the fishmeal and fishoil

industries (involving about 100 factories and 1,500 fishing vessels).

In August the US-dominated Inter-American Development Bank offered Peru a credit of \$12.3 million.

In September Javier Arias Stella, secretary-general of the conservative Party of Popular Action was departed after issuing a statement by his party demanding a return to democratic institutions.

At a conference of heads of the armies of the Organisation of American States held in Caracas (Venezuela) in September, the Peruvian delegation, led by General Mercedo, was supported by the Argentine delegation in demanding that the official aims of the OAS should no longer declare it to be directed "against Communist aggression". A majority of the delegations rejected the demand.

In October an agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation was signed between Peru and Cuba.

In November a strike called by the Trade Union Defence Committee in Arequipe, Peru's second largest city, was followed by the imposition of a state of emergency in the district. The strike was in support of demands for the release of 90 leaders of the illegal trade union movement who had been detained in October following a teachers' strike.

In December the government nationalised all property of the Cerro de Pasco Corporation, a subsidiary of the US Cerro Corporation. The company, with 15,000 employees, was the largest producer of zinc in South America and the world's most important exporter of cismath; it also exploited deposits of copper, lead, silver and tungsten.

PHILIPPINES

Following the imposition of martial law in September 1972 (CLASS AGAINST CLASS, No. 1, 1973, p.40), on January 13th., 1973 President Ferdinand and Marcos proclaimed a new Constitution under which, while retaining the posts of President and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, he became also Prime Minister, with dictatorial powers.

At the end of December 1972 it had been stated by the government that since September 8,281 persons had been detained.

In July it was declared that a "referendum" had approved the extension of Marcos's term of office as President.

During the summer and autumn fighting continued between government forces and guerillas: the "Moslem Revolutionary Forces", operating in the southern island of Mindanao and on the Sulu archipelago and backed by Libya, and the maoist-led "New People's Army" operating on the northern island of Luzon.

In September a progressive priest, Luis Jalandoni, was arrested on charges of aiding the guerilla forces.

PORTUGAL

In June 1973 there was celebrated in Portugal the 600th anniversary of the alliance between Portugal and Britain.

Portugal has been since 1933 a fascist state with its Constitution modelled upon that of fascist Italy. No political parties are permitted to exist except the ruling fascist National Popular Action Party. Trade unions and strikes are illegal, and "workers' representatives" are included in the state Corporative Chamber. A ruthless security police, the DGS, backed by the NATO-equipped army, suppresses all democratic liberties and is notorious for its tortures and murders of political prisoners. Not unnaturally, Portugal has the lowest standard of living in Europe, with wages averaging a quarter even of those in Britain while prices are about the same time. It also has the highest illiteracy, child mortality and tuberculosis rates in Europe.

It retains the largest old-type colonial empire in the world, although its repressive control of its colonies has been seriously weakened in recent years by the armed struggle of national liberation movements.

In June the Duke of Edinburgh attended the celebrations in Lisbon of the alliance with Britain, while in July Prime Minister Marcello Caetano paid an official visit to Britain. Protected by a massive police guard, he was greeted by large hostile demonstrations.

On October 28th., 1973 a "general election" was held to the National Assembly. Under intense intimidation all Opposition candidates withdrew before polling took place, and all 150 members of the fascist National Popular Action party were elected. The new National Assembly then endorsed Marcello Caetano as Prime Minister for a further term of office.

(See Also: GUINE, MOZAMBIQUE, USA).

QATAR

Qatar is a sheikhdom on the Persian Gulf coast of the Arabian peninsula which is a neo-colony of British imperialism. In January 1973 the Qatar government signed agreements with the Shell Co. of Qatar (a subsidiary of the Shell group) and with the Qatar Petroleum Co. (which is jointly owned by British, US and French oil companies) which it purchased a 25% interest in the two companies.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

In October 1972 a new Constitution -- the "Revitalising Reforms Constitution" -- was adopted in the Republic of Korea. The main change was the setting up of a 2,359 member "National Conference for Reunification" (NCU).

In December 1972, with political parties still banned, "elections" were held for the NCU, which obediently re-elected Park Chung Hee as President for a further six-year term.

In February "elections" took place for a new National Assembly of 219 members -- 146 directly "elected" and 73 "elected" by the NCU on the recommendation of the President. Two officially approved opposition political parties were permitted to take part in the "elections" -- the New Democratic Party and the Democratic Unification Party. Of the 146 directly "elected" seats, the ruling Democratic Republican Party won 73 (exactly half), the NDP 52 and the DUP 52 and the DUP 2. The government was, of course, assured of a comfortable majority in the National Assembly through the 73 members "elected" by the NCU.

In June President Park Chung Hee proposed that both Korean states should apply for separate admission to the United Nations, and rejected the counter-proposal of President Kim Il Sung of the DRPK that Korea should apply as a single confederal state.

The movement for the reunification of Korea began when the South was a complete semi-colony of US imperialism, and the North was moving into a similar position following the rapprochement between China and the US imperialists. The slowing up of the movement towards reunification in recent months is mainly the result of the movement of the southern comprador bourgeoisie away from dependence upon US imperialism towards dependence upon Japanese imperialism. In 1973 total Japanese investment in the South exceeded for the first time total US investment, while in the first six months of 1973 Japan furnished 99% of foreign investment in the Republic of Korea (\$167 million out of a total of \$169 million).

In August Opposition leader Kim Dae Jung was kidnapped from Japan and forcibly brought back to South Korea by agents of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency. The affair brought in November a humiliating apology from Premier Kim Jung Pil to the Japanese government and people, and in December Lee Hu Rak, the detested Director of the KCIA, was dismissed and was stated to have gone to Britain. At the beginning of the year Lee's predecessor as Director of the KCIA Kim Hyong Wook, went to live in the United States.

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

In December 1972 the "Democratic Party" was formed as the official government political party, led by President Nguyen van Thieu. By the time registration of political parties closed on March 27th., 1973 two other parties had registered: the Liberal Party, led by Tu Do, and the Social-Democratic League, led by Chu Xa Hoi.

In February 1973 President Thieu formed the "Popular Front to Fight for Peace and the Right to Self-Determination" as a broad organisation to fight the National Liberation Front in the coming political struggle.

In July the government of the Republic of Vietnam signed contracts for off-shore oil exploration and exploitation with four international oil companies -- Pecten Vietnam (a US-based Shell subsidiary), Cities Services (US), Mobil (US), Esso (US), and Sunningdale (Canada).

On December 21 the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam walked out of the Paris peace talks, accusing the government of South Vietnam of seeking to sabotage free elections in the South.

On December 29th. President Thieu declared that there would be no elections and that there was "no third force" in South Vietnam, as stated in the Paris Peace Agreement. His statement was regarded as a repudiation of the Agreement.

RHODESIA: See: ZIMBABWE

ROMANIA

In June President Nicolae Ceausescu paid an official visit to the Federal German Republic. During his visit 8 agreements were signed at government level on taxation, interchange of social security benefits, economic, scientific and technological cooperation, and 3 agreements were signed with West German firms for joint projects in the fields of marine engines, hydraulic and mechanical units.

In the same month the European Economic Community offered Romania special trading privileges as a "developing country".

RWANDA

As in their neighbouring neo-colony of Burundi (which, with Rwanda, formed until July 1962 the Belgian "trusteeship territory" of Ruanda-Urundi), the Belgian imperialists have sought to maintain their domination over the central African republic of Rwanda by fostering antagonism between the Hutu tribe (which forms 90% of the population) and the Tutsi tribe (which forms 9%). Whereas in Burundi, however, they have maintained the Tutsi minority in the position of ruling class and encouraged their brutal repression of the Hutu majority, in Rwanda they have maintained the Hutu majority in the position of ruling class and encouraged their brutal repression of the Tutsi minority.

In July 1973, after President Gregoire Kayibanda had strongly opposed a pogrom which had begun in February against the tribal minority, forcing large numbers of Tutsis to flee the country, and had initiated measures aimed at giving them equal civil rights, he was overthrown in a military coup led by the Hutu Minister of Defence, Major-General Juvenal Habyalimana, and placed under house arrest.

SAN MARINO

In January 1973, as a result of disagreement over economic policy between the Christian Democratic Party and the Democratic Socialist Party forming the coalition Congress of State (government) the government resigned.

A new government was not formed until March 22nd., by the formation of a coalition between the Christian Democratic Party and the Socialist Party, supported by the Communist Party. Francesco Francini (of the Christian Democrats) and Primo Bugli (of the Socialist Party) were elected Captains-Regent by the Great and General Council.

In September the Great and General Council approved a Bill giving women the right for the first time to hold public office.

SAUDI ARABIA

In December 1972 the government of the US neo-colony of Saudi Arabia signed agreements with British Petroleum, the Compagnie Française des Pétroles, the Exxon Corporation (formerly Standard Oil of New Jersey), Mobil, Shell, Texaco, and Standard Oil of California, providing for purchase by the government of a 25% interest in their Saudi Arabian subsidiaries.

In December the British government began secret negotiations with the government of Saudi Arabia for the supply of 30 million tons of oil a year in exchange for arms and machinery.

SENEGAL

In January 1973 President Leopold Senghor was declared "re-elected" unopposed President for a further 5-year term of the French West African neo-colony of Senegal. At a "parliamentary election" held in the same month, 100 candidates of the ruling Senegalese Progressive Union (SPU), the sole legal political party, were declared elected.

SIERRA LEONE

In April 1973, three weeks before "elections" were due to be held in the British West African neo-colony of Sierra Leone, the government declared a state of emergency. Two opposition newspapers were closed down, and their editors as well as a number of opposition candidates were detained. The "People's Militia", an armed fascist organisation controlled by the ruling All People's Congress, began a campaign of terrorism against the remaining opposition candidates and their active supporters. On May 4th. all opposition candidates withdrew from the election.

When the "elections" were finally held on May 15th., the All People's Congress, led by President Siaka Stevens, was declared to have won 84 of the 85 elected seats in the House of Representatives (the remaining 12 seats are reserved for chiefs who support the government). The only "Independent" candidate to win a seat announced that he would apply to join the All People's Congress.

On the following day Serie Ibrahim Koromo was reappointed Prime Minister.

SIKKIM

In January 1973 "elections" were held to the State Council of the autocratic Himalayan kingdom of Sikkim -- an Indian protectorate with its "defence", foreign relations and communications controlled by the Indian government.

The "elections" resulted, officially, in the victory of the Sikkim National Party, formed of supporters of the Indian puppet Chogyal (king), Palden Thondup Namgyal. The two opposition parties -- the Sikkim National Congress and the Sikkim Janata Congress -- declared that the election had been rigged.

On March 27th. the leader of the Sikkim Janata Congress, Kashirai Pradhan, was arrested and charged with making a "subversive speech". The two opposition parties then formed a Joint Council of Action, which proceeded to organise demonstrations, culminating in a march on the capital Gangtok, of 20,000 demonstrators. When police opened fire on the demonstrators, the movement began to take the form of a popular uprising, the demonstrators taking over a number of police stations and public buildings.

On April 8th. the Chogyal requested the Indian government to take over the administration of Sikkim. Indian troops (already stationed in the country) accordingly took over public buildings and the Indian government appointed B.S. Das to be Chief Administrator of Sikkim.

Following meetings between the Indian Foreign Minister Kewal Singh, the Chogyal, and the leaders of the three political parties, an agreement was signed on May 8th. conceding some of the demands of the opposition parties for democratic reforms.

SINGAPORE

In January 1973 the government set up a Press Council to lay down editorial guidelines and scrutinise newspaper staff appointments.

SOMALIA

(See reference under Ethiopia)

SOUTH AFRICA

In February 1973 a strike of black workers in Durban grew to involve 50,000 workers, paralysing sections of the local authority services and partially or totally closing more than 100 factories.

Settlement of the strike was held back by the fact that the employers had in most cases no workers' representatives with which to negotiate. Although works committees and trade unions for African employees have long been legal, few employers have permitted their organisation. In April, therefore, the government adopted legislation encouraging the formation of works committees for African workers, and in May further legislation making it for the first time legal for African employees to strike -- after conciliation procedures through works committees had been exhausted and a 30-day "cooling-off period" had elapsed.

Also in February the government granted "self-government" to two further "Bantu Homelands" -- Venda Territory and Gazankulu. At the same time a movement for the federation of the "Bantu Homelands" was launched by Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima of Transkei.

An article in "The Guardian" on March 12th. exposed the wages being paid to black employees of British firms operating

in South Africa. The article was based on a study conducted for the South African Trade Association (the report of which was suppressed) disclosing that 80% of black workers in South Africa were being paid wages below official subsistence levels.

The chairmen of a number of British companies operating in South Africa duly expressed "horrified surprise" to hear these facts, and as a result of the publicity many companies increased the wages of their black workers by 25% to 100%. In May the government of South Africa raised the legal minimum wage by 32-54% (but still leaving it below the Poverty Datum Line, the highest minimum wage, in Cape Town, being £8.33 a week).

On April 24th. Prime Minister Johannes Vorster warned employers not to yield to overseas pressure to increase wages of workers "simply because they were black".

In July the British House of Commons set up a Select Committee on the wages of the African employees of British companies operating in South Africa. The evidence given to the committee by representatives of these companies proved interesting. Lonrho, the mining company, revealed that it paid its African miners less than £1.75 a week. Associated British Foods said that the wages of their black workers were calculated at 70% of the Poverty Datum Level. Lord Stokes of British Leyland said that he subscribed to the view that companies operating in a foreign country should follow "the custom and practice" operating in that country, and that if he had been in business in the 19th century he would have accepted slavery.

The South African government refused permission for the Select Committee to make investigations in South Africa on the grounds that this would constitute "interference in the republic's internal affairs".

In May the de Vries Commission into university finance recommended that a fine of £580 should be imposed on any student arrested for "political agitation" regardless of whether he were convicted or even charged; that universities should be fined an amount equal to the annual salary of any member of its staff arrested on similar grounds; and that a university should be fined 10 times the affiliation fee in the event of a students' council voting to continue affiliation to an "undesirable" inter-university student organisation (i.e., the National Union of African Students).

Also in May the South African government approved, at a cost of £330 million, the construction of a plant for enriching 12,000 tons of uranium a year. South Africa has the world's richest deposits of uranium, which can be extracted at less than \$10 a pound.

In June the trial ended of the "Pretoria Six" -- Alexandre Mumberis, John Hoseney, Theophilus Cholo, Gardner Sijaka, Maquina Mpanza and Petrus Mtombu -- charged under the "Terrorism Act" with being members or supporters of the illegal African National Congress. The defendants were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 5 to 15 years. It was revealed during the trial that Mumberis's London flat had been burgled in August 1972 by South African intelligence agents.

In June students at the University of West Cape (which is reserved for "coloured" students, i.e., students of mixed race) demonstrated against "white control" of the university, which has no black professors and only one senior black lecturer. The authorities immediately closed the university, expelled all its 1,600 students, and required them to apply for re-registration.

On June 14th., however, the government backed down in face of the continued unity of the students: Minister of Coloured Affairs Schack van der Merwe announced in the House of Assembly

that in future staff applications from "coloured" persons would be given "preference". In July all the students were readmitted and the government agreed to set up a Commission to inquire into their grievances.

Also in June representatives of 180 million trade unionists from 130 countries met under the joint auspices of the United Nations Special Committee on Apartheid and the International Labour Organisation. The meeting called for:

the ending of all political, economic, diplomatic and cultural relations with South Africa;

the ending of all investment in South Africa;

the expulsion of South Africa from all United Nations organisations;

the closing of all ports and airports to South African ships and aircraft; and

a trade union boycott of all goods coming from or going to South Africa.

(See Also: LESOTHO, NAMIBIA)

SOUTH WEST AFRICA: SEE NAMIBIA

SOVIET UNION

Following the disastrous Soviet harvest of 1972, in the autumn Soviet buyers (by means of secret deals with many individual wheat dealers in the United States) purchased 25% of the total US wheat crop at government-subsidised export prices.

In February 1973 it was announced that the Soviet 140-seat supersonic airliner TU-144 would be in passenger service by 1974. In June, however, a TU-144 crashed while making a display flight at the Paris Air Show.

At a meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in April, at which General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev reported on foreign affairs, Pyotr Sholest (who had supported a Ukrainian national movement) and Gennady Voronov (who had opposed the policy of working for an alliance with the Western European imperialist powers while seeking a temporary detente with the US imperialists) were replaced on the Political Bureau by Yuri Andropov (Chairman of the State Security Committee), Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, and Defence Minister Marshal Andrei Grechko. After the meeting Sholest was removed as Deputy Premier and Voronov as Chairman of the People's Control Committee. Sholest had been last year removed from the post of First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine.

In April the largest Soviet-US contract yet was signed in Moscow between the Soviet Government and the US Occidental Petroleum Co., providing for the joint construction of a large mineral fertiliser complex at Kuibyshev in the Soviet Union for the manufacture, using US super-phosphoric acid, of 4 million tons of ammonia and 1 million tons of urea annually.

In May the Soviet government adhered to the Universal Copyright Convention. This requires books by Soviet authors intended for publication abroad to be passed through official channels if money is to be transferred to the authors.

In May General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev paid an official visit to the Federal German Republic. During his visit a 10-year agreement on economic and technical cooperation was signed, together with an agreement on cultural cooperation and a supplementary protocol to the 1971 air traffic agreement. A joint communique issued at the conclusion of the visit particularly welcomed the agreement to build, as a joint Soviet-West German project, a steel works at Kursk in the Soviet Union at an estimated cost of 2,000 million Deutschmarks.

In the same month Brezhnev also visited Poland and the German Democratic Republic.

In June Brezhnev returned an official visit paid by French President Georges Pompidou to the Soviet Union in January. Following his visit to Paris two 10-year agreements were signed in Moscow for Franco-Soviet economic cooperation and for scientific and technological cooperation; the first provided for French investment in the Soviet Union of 5,000 to 7,000 million francs by 1980.

Also in June Brezhnev paid a 9-day visit to the United States, accompanied by Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, Minister of Foreign Trade Nikolai Patolichev and Minister of Civil Aviation Baris Bugayev. During his visit, agreements were signed on cooperation in agriculture, transportation and oceanography, and on cultural and scientific exchanges. Agreements on the further limitation of strategic arms and on the prevention of nuclear war were also signed, together with a convention on taxation and a trade protocol establishing a Soviet trade mission in Washington and a US trade mission in Moscow.

In June a Protocol of Intention was signed in Moscow for the participation of US firms in the exploitation of natural gas in Yakutia, northern Siberia, for which payment would be made by the supply of Soviet natural gas to the United States. The project, estimated to take 6 years to develop, envisaged the production of 2,000 million cubic feet of gas a day and its transmission through a 2,000 mile pipeline to the port of Vladivostok; from there it would be conveyed in liquefied form to the West Coast of the United States in a fleet of 20 tankers. The cost of the project was estimated at \$10,000 million.

In July it was announced that Japanese firms had also been permitted to participate in the Yakutia natural gas project.

In July the official campaign against ultra-revisionist intellectuals -- who demand that the facade of a "socialist state" should be dropped in favour of multi-party "parliamentary democracy" -- was intensified. In this month Andrei Amalrik, author of "Will the Soviet Union Survive until 1984?" was rearrested after serving a three-year prison sentence and sentenced to three years in a labour camp. In August geneticist Zhores Medvedev was deprived of Soviet citizenship while in Britain.

In August sentences of prison and exile were passed on Pyotr Yakir (son of General Yona Yakir, executed for treason in 1937) and Viktor Krasin for subversion. The defendants had founded in 1969 the ultra-revisionist "Action Group for the Defence of Civil Rights" and had been associated with the ultra-revisionist "Chronicle of Current Events", published clandestinely from 1968 to October 1972. The defendants admitted the charges at their trial.

At the same time a violent press campaign was launched against Andrei Sakharov, founder of the ultra-revisionist "Committee for Human Rights" and author of "Thoughts on Progress, Peaceful Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom", published abroad in 1968, following interviews given by him on Swedish TV in which he attacked the Soviet dictatorship.

On July 3rd. the "European Security Conference", a main target of Soviet foreign policy for many years, opened in Helsinki with the participation of 35 countries -- all European states except the People's Republic of Albania, together with the United States and Canada.

The principal aim of the Soviet government in relation to the conference is to lay the basis for the eventual unification of the Soviet Union and its semi-colonies in Eastern Europe together with the West European states into a single powerful European imperialist bloc.

40.

In July the Georgian Communist Party newspaper "Zarya Vostoka" announced that the Georgian Minister of Trade, Vakhatang Tokhadze, had been dismissed and four officials of the Ministry arrested for swindling and corruption.

The Eastern European correspondent of the "Financial Times" had noted (June 1st., 1973):

"At its height, this most flagrant of the Soviet Union's black markets reached such staggering proportions that agriculture officials in Tbilisi made no attempt to conceal it. Indeed, they could not. . . . The largest slice of the trade was conducted by professionals who chartered complete aircraft, stuffed them with fruit and vegetables and flew north, where huge profits awaited them. . . . There are said to be many millionaires in Georgia. Tbilisi is the only Soviet town where I have seen local people driving big American cars".

In August General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev, addressing a meeting in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan, said that the Soviet government had made "no progress" in the normalisation of relations with China.

Following preparatory talks from January to June 1973, a conference of officials of NATO and Warsaw Pact states on the Mutual Reduction of Forces and Armaments and Associated Measures in Central Europe opened in Vienna on October 30th.

At a plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in December, General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev outlined plans for converting existing state and collective farms into larger "rural units", with their own light industrial plants.

In December the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, visited Moscow for discussions with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

A new book published at the end of 1973 in Moscow is "The Special Regions of China 1942-1945", the diary of Pavel Vladimirov, who was during this period first Comintern liaison officer and later Soviet Government adviser to the "special regions" of China controlled by the Communist Party of China under the revisionist leadership of the faction headed by Mao Tse-tung. The diary runs to 650 pages and reveals that behind Mao's public tributes to Stalin lay bitter hostility. He cites Mao as declaring on July 29th., 1942:

"Stalin does not and cannot know China. And yet he presumes to judge everything. All his so-called theories on the revolution are the blabberings of a fool".

(See also: AUSTRALIA, CANADA, EGYPT, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, FINLAND, INDIA, JAPAN, KHMER REPUBLIC, PALESTINE, SYRIA, YUGOSLAVIA)

The "Socialist Colonies"

"Most Western businessmen have been turning their thoughts to the USSR as a source for long-term supplies of raw materials and energy; a growing number is also beginning to see the Soviet Union as a potentially valuable source of low-cost labour. Just as corporations have been investing in textile plants in Taiwan, in India, and indeed throughout the Third World, and then exporting the products back to the West, some of the more far-sighted companies are floating the idea of fitting Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union into this pattern. . . .

More and more companies are talking now of investing capital there. . . . The idea has suddenly gained ground that Eastern Europe is one of the most stable and opportune areas for investment in the world.

41.

It needed a considerable shift in Soviet attitudes for Mr. Brezhnev to persuade his colleagues to accept Western capital in the huge Siberian raw material projects. . . . There were powerful psychological and emotional barriers to be overcome. . . .

None the less, officials can produce a plausible rationalisation if challenged. . . .

The raw materials deals can be explained by the emotionally satisfying notion of Russia as some sort of powerhouse of the world to which capitalists come running. . . .

With the question of Western capitalists' interest in the Soviet Union as a source of relatively cheap labour, the problem really begins. The Soviet leadership can hardly tell its people: 'All those Western businessmen are coming here because of our low wages'. The other Eastern European countries that have accepted Western capital for individual ventures recognise that compared to the advanced countries of the West they are at a lower stage of industrial development. Romania, for example, felt no shame recently in applying to the Common Market specifically for tariff preferences as 'a developing country'. Naturally, Romania's leaders do not stress that it has relatively low wages. But they argue that Western capital is useful in helping to train the Romanian workforce and as one of the motors for industrial growth". ("The Guardian", June 16th., p.11).

SPAIN

The General Assembly of the United Nations, at its 27th. Session in September-December 1972, called for the granting of independence to the Spanish colony of Spanish Sahara.

In April 1973 Spain established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

Also in April Spanish police reported that they had killed Eustaquio Mendizabal, leader of the military wing of the Basque national anarchist organisation, Basque Nation and Liberty (ETA).

On June 9th Chief of State General Francisco Franco relinquished the post of Premier to Admiral Luis Blanco Carrera, Deputy Prime Minister since 1967. Francisco remained Chief of State and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

In November the ultra-revisionist Spanish Communist Party issued a statement opposing the proposal of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to call another international "communist" conference in 1974. The party declared that it would not join in "the intended denunciation of the Communist Party of China".

In September 1968 the Central Committee of the Spanish Communist Party adopted by 66 votes to 5, under the leadership of Dolores Ibarruri (Chairman) and Santiago Carrillo (General Secretary) an ultra-revisionist resolution condemning the Soviet military intervention in Czechoslovakia.

In September 1970 the Central Committee resolved to seek normalisation of relations with the "left" revisionist Chinese Communist Party and expelled from the party a pro-Soviet orthodox revisionist faction headed by Enrique Lister.

The Spanish Communist Party was the driving force behind the "First Free Assembly of the Democratic Forces of Catalonia", held secretly in Barcelona on November 7th., 1971, attended by 300 delegates who included representatives of the SPC, social-democratic, trotskyite and anarchist groups and Bourbon royalists. The assembly adopted a programme demanding an amnesty for political prisoners and the restoration of fundamental democratic freedoms.

42.

While plans were being made for a second Assembly, 113 persons were arrested in Barcelona on October 28th., 1973 and charged with trying to hold an illegal meeting.

On December 22nd., Premier Luis Carrero was assassinated when his car was blown up by terrorists. The Basque national anarchist organisation Basque Nation and Liberty claimed responsibility for the action.

On December 30th. Franco appointed Carlos Arias Navarro, former Minister of the Interior, to succeed Carrero as Premier.

Also in December the ten leaders of 'Workers' Commissions, headed by Marcelino Camacho, were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 12 to 20 years for farming trade union organisations.

(See also: ANDORRA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, MOROCCO).

SRI LANKA

In April 1972 the National State Assembly of Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) passed the Criminal Justice Commissions Act, establishing special commissions of judges to try in secret and without right of appeal persons charged with insurrection and sabotage.

The introduction of this repressive Bill brought about a split in the revisionist Communist Party; although the party decided to oppose the Bill, two Communist Ministers -- Peter Keuneman (General Secretary of the party) and B. Y. Tudawe -- supported the Bill within the Cabinet and the Assembly.

At the 8th. Congress of the party, in August, S.A. Wickremesinghe was elected General Secretary in place of Keuneman.

In September Keuneman resigned from the party, declaring that it had fallen under "ultra-leftist" domination, and Tudawe was expelled.

In the same month Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike announced that the Communist Party had been expelled from the governing "United Front".

In February 1973, at talks between delegations of Sri Lanka and India headed by the Foreign Ministers of two countries, the Indian delegation rejected a proposal that India should repatriate more than the agreed quota of 525,000 persons of Indian origin living in Sri Lanka.

In April 1973 the talks were continued at a higher level during a state visit to Sri Lanka of Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, but no agreement was reached.

In July the government of the Sri Lanka national bourgeoisie, headed by Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, acquired 75% of the shares of the "Lake House Group" from the Wijewardene family. The group controlled through Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. 60% of the newspapers in Sri Lanka.

In October, following a large fall in food production and export earnings as a result of the drought of 1971-2, the government introduced stringent food rationing.

SUDAN

On May 8th. 1973 the first Constitution in the British neo-colony of Sudan since it became "independent" in January 1956 came into force. It established Islam as the state religion, and set up a "People's Assembly" elected under a limited franchise from candidates nominated by the "Sudanese Socialist Union" (SSU), the sole legal political party headed by President Mohammed al Nemery. Limited autonomy was laid down for the three southern provinces.

43.

On May 10th. a cabinet was formed headed by President Nemery as Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.

In September the Government declared a State of Emergency after police repression of student demonstrations had provoked protest strikes by railwaymen and river shipping workers.

SURINAM

In November 1973 elections to the Legislative Assembly in the Dutch South American colony of Surinam, ousted from office the governing Progressive Reform Party, (VHP), led by millionaire Jaggernath Lachmon, representing the comprador bourgeoisie -- predominantly of Indian descent -- dependent upon Dutch and United States imperialism; the VHP's partner, the Progressive National Party led by Jules Sedney, lost all its 8 seats in parliament. The four-party National Party Coalition, headed by Henk Arron (representing the interests of the national bourgeoisie) won 22 seats out of the total of 39, against 17 for the VHP.

The new government pledged itself to work for early independence from Dutch rule.

SWAZILAND

The British "High Commission Territory" of Swaziland -- lying between the Union of South Africa and the Portuguese colony of Mozambique -- was turned into an "independent" kingdom within the Commonwealth (i.e., into a British neo-colony) in September 1968.

In April 1973 King Sobhuza II (the chief made monarch by the British imperialists) announced that the "Independence Constitution" had been repealed. All political parties and political meetings were banned, and the king took over legislative, executive and judicial powers.

Dr. Ambrose Zwane, leader of the opposition National Liberatory Congress Party, declared that the royal dictatorship would serve the interests of white business interests.

In May Zwane and three other leaders of his party were detained for "holding political meetings".

SWEDEN

In June 1973 the Riksdag approved a new Constitution (to come into effect in January 1975). This greatly reduced the residual powers of the monarchy and also reduced the number of seats in the Riksdag from 350 to 349 to avoid ties.

In September King Gustaf VI Adolf died and was succeeded by his grandson, as Carl XVI Gustaf.

In the same month a general election resulted in the governing Social Democratic Party, headed by Olof Palme, receiving only 156 seats in the Riksdag. The support of the 19 members of the revisionist Communist Left Party gave the SDP exactly half the seats, with the other half held by opposition members. A new SDP cabinet, with Palme as Prime Minister, was formed, but forced to resign in October after the resignation of 5 of its Ministers.

(See also: DENMARK)

SWITZERLAND

In May 1973 a referendum approved by 791,000 to 649,000 an amendment to the Federal Constitution removing the ban on the Jesuit Order and on the establishment of religious houses and orders.

44.

In December Ernst Bruggner was elected President by a joint session of both Houses of Parliament.

SYRIA

In January 1973 the People's Council approved the draft of a new Constitution of the Syrian Arab Republic. It defined the state as

"a socialist popular democracy with a planned socialist economy in which private property is recognised", and laid down that its legislation must be based on Islamic law. The President would be elected for a 7-year term and would be General Secretary of the ruling Baath Party, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and President of the Progressive Front of National Union; he would appoint Ministers and have power to declare an emergency under which he could rule by decree.

Following opposition from Moslem priests to the failure to recognise Islam as the state religion in the new constitution, in February the draft constitution was amended to lay down that the President must be a Moslem.

The new constitution came into force in March following a referendum.

In July the first stage of the Euphrates Dam -- at 4,500 yards almost 1,000 yards longer than the Aswan Dam in Egypt -- was completed at Revolution City almost a year ahead of schedule. The project, costing £130 million, was financed to the extent of one-third by a Soviet loan and constructed with the aid of 800 Soviet technicians. The dam will double Syria's area of permanently irrigated land and provide initially 800 megawatts of electricity.

In September the Syrian government closed down the "Voice of the Palestine Revolution" radio station, operated in Deraa by the Palestine national liberation movement, and arrested its staff.

TANZANIA

In October 1973 Prime Minister Rashidi Kawawa of Tanzania announced that 50 large farms in the Kilimanjaro area, mostly European-owned, would be nationalised, and that Tanzania's capital of Dar-es-Salaam would be renamed Dodoma.

(See also: BURUNDI).

THAILAND

On December 15th., 1972 King Bhumibol Adulyadej promulgated an interim-Constitution which replaced the National Executive Council (formed after the military coup of November 1971 and composed, with one exception, of representatives of the armed forces) by a Cabinet, and setting up a 299-member National Legislative Assembly (all the members of which were to be selected by the government) in place of that dissolved at the time of the coup. Under the constitution the Prime Minister was given extensive powers to suppress activities "injurious to the security of the state".

On December 18th., 1972 the king appointed as Prime Minister Field-Marshal Thanom Kittakachorn, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and virtual dictator of Thailand since 1963. On the following day Thanom formed a cabinet in which all the key posts were still held by representatives of the armed forces.

On August 24th., 1973 the US and Thai governments signed an agreement under which the US forces in Thailand would be reduced initially by 3,550 men and 100 aircraft (leaving 40,000 men and 400 planes).

45.

In September the US air base at Nam-Bhong was closed down. On October 14th. Prime Minister Thanom ordered troops to suppress student demonstrations (which had been proceeding in the capital for three days and had been partly provoked by agents provocateurs sent into the students' organisation by the army). The officer corps refused to obey the order, and in this situation the government resigned. On the same day the king appointed the Dean of Thammasat University, Sanya Thammasak, to be Prime Minister. It was later announced that Thanom and the former Deputy Prime Minister, General Prapass Charusathirara, had left the country.

The new coup was followed by a successful wave of mass strikes for higher wages by many sections of workers.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

In July 1973 the Treaty of Chaguaramas was signed in Trinidad by the Prime Ministers of several British neo-colonies in the Caribbean, namely, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. The treaty established a common market between the member states.

TURKEY

In November 1972 the National Assembly approved legislation dissolving student organisations which "involved themselves in politics", and providing for three months' imprisonment for belonging to an illegal student organisation.

In February 1973 the Martial Law Commander, General Faik Turun, banned newspapers in the capital from publishing allegations of torture by the police. In the same month the National Assembly approved constitutional amendments setting up "State Security Courts" to try crimes endangering the state after the lifting of martial law and permitting the detention of persons suspected of "subversion" for 15 days without charges being preferred.

Also in February 1973 the Republican Reliance Party (RRP) was formed under the leadership of Turhan Feyzioglu by the merger of the Republican Party and the National Reliance Party -- both of which had split away from the social-democratic Republican People's Party on the grounds of its "left-wing" tendencies under the leadership of Bulent Ecevit.

In March the Minister of the Interior, Ferk Kubat, revealed that during the previous two years 1,383 persons had been tried by military courts, 179 were in process of being tried, and 2,991 were awaiting such trial.

In March ballots began in the National Assembly for the election of a new President to succeed Covdit Sunay, whose term of office was due to expire on March 29th. and who was not eligible for a further term. The Republican People's Party abstained from voting in protest at the continuation of martial law and the interference of the armed forces in the election -- General Faruk Gurler having resigned as Chief-of-Staff in order to be put forward as the army's candidate for President. As a result 14 ballots were held during March and early April without any candidate, including General Gurler, receiving the required majority.

On March 29th. the Speaker of the Senate, Tekin Ariburun, succeeded Sunay as Acting President.

On April 6th., however, the Republican People's Party, the Republican Reliance Party and the Justice Party (led by Suleyman Demirel) agreed to support a compromise candidate, Fahri Koroturk, a former Commander-in-Chief of the navy. On the same day the Grand National Assembly elected Koroturk as President in the 15th. ballot.

46.

On April 12th., following the resignation of the cabinet, President Korotürk appointed Naim Talû (Independent), a former Governor of the Central Bank, as Prime Minister, and the latter formed a coalition cabinet representing the interests of the pro-US comprador bourgeoisie composed of representatives of the Republican Reliance Party and the Justice Party. The new government announced that its domestic programme would be based on "strengthening the rule of law" and "the struggle against Communism", while its foreign policy would be based on the encouragement of foreign investment and full participation in the US-dominated NATO and CENTO alliances.

In October the Bosphorus Bridge, the fourth longest suspension span in the world measuring 1,074 metres, was opened, linking Europe and Asia.

General elections were held on October 14th. in which the Republican People's Party, led by Bulent Ecevit, replaced the Justice Party, led by the former Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel, as the largest party in the National Assembly, but without an overall majority.

The result was as follows:

Republican People's Party:	185	3.6 million
Justice Party:	149	3.2 million
National Salvation Party:	48	1.3 million
Democratic Party:	45	1.3 million
Republican Reliance Party:	13	0.6 million
National Action Party:	3	0.4 million
Turkish Unity Party:	1	0.1 million
Independents:	6	0.3 million

Elections for the Senate held on the same day gave a similar result, with the RPP winning 25 seats against 22 for the Justice Party.

UGANDA

Following the announcement that the Ugandan government intended to seize British assets in the country (analysed in CLASS AGAINST CLASS, No. 1, 1973, p.42), in December 1972 the British government cancelled the £10 million development loan it had agreed to provide to Uganda.

In February the International Commission of Jurists reported that the Ugandan government had been carrying on the systematic murder of its political opponents. In a letter to the Assembly of the Organisation of African Unity in May, former President Milton Obote accused the Amin Regime of the murder of 80,000 - 90,000 persons.

In August President Idi Amin said that English would continue to be Uganda's official language.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

In December 1972 British Petroleum sold for £330 million a 30% interest (out of its two-thirds interest) in Abu Dhabi Marine Areas to a consortium of Japanese oil companies, the Overseas Petroleum Corporation.

The Abu Dhabi government gave its approval to the sale in return for the financing by BI of the construction of a state-owned oil refinery at a cost of £14 million and an interest-free loan to the government of £20 million.

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company then took over a 25% interest in the concession, leaving Abu Dhabi Marine Areas controlled as follows:

47.

British Petroleum (Britain):	27 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Overseas Petroleum Corp'n. (Japan):	22 $\frac{1}{2}$ %
Compagnie Française des Pétroles (France)	25%
Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (United Arab Emirates):	25%

In May 1973 a new monetary unit, the dirham, was introduced into the United Arab Emirates.

In September the Abu Dhabi Minister of Petroleum and Industry, Mona Al Oteiba, stated on television that his government was now seeking accelerated progress towards 51% participation.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On January 11th., 1973 Phase Three of the administration's "anti-inflation" programme commenced, ending conditionally state control of wages and prices but calling for "voluntary restraint". During the first three months of the operation of Phase Three the official consumer price index rose at an annual rate of 9.2% compared with 3.4% for 1972. In March the administration reimposed price control on oil and petroleum, and on the wholesale and retail prices of meat. In April the Economic Stabilisation Act extended the administration's powers to control wages and prices for a further year.

On January 27th. (the day on which the Vietnam peace treaty was signed) Defence Secretary Melvin Laird announced the ending of conscription.

The United States entered 1973 with a trade deficit for 1972 of \$6,439 million (compared with \$2,014 million for 1971) and with a balance of payments deficit for 1972 of \$10,112 million, while reserves of gold and foreign currency stood at December 31st., 1972 at \$13,150 million. This situation reflected the increasing economic weakness of United States imperialism and led in February 12th. to the devaluation of the dollar by 10% -- associated by agreement with the floating of the stronger Japanese yen, producing its virtual upward revaluation of 11%.

In February 200 Oglala Sioux Indians, and members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) from other tribes, occupied Wounded Knee, South Dakota (the site of the last major battle between Indians and the US army), holding it against the armed attacks of US Marshals for ten weeks in order to spotlight the general neglect of Indians by the administration. The Indians demanded examination by a Senate Committee of the 371 Treaties made between the Federal government and the Indian people, -- in particular the 1868 Treaty with the Sioux, which entitled the Sioux tribes to hold 130 million acres of land, a figure later forcibly whittled down to 7 million acres.

In February scientists of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that vast areas of the Atlantic Ocean -- between 50% and 90% of the areas investigated -- were polluted by floating oil, tar and plastics coming principally from oil-tanker sludge.

In March President Richard Nixon, in his international economic report to Congress, accused the European Economic Community and Japan of "unfair competition" and warned that the administration would be compelled to resort to "protective devices" if it continued.

In April Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Rush declared that the United States government would welcome improved relations with the People's Republic of Albania.

Also in April Henry Kissinger, Special Advisor on Foreign Affairs to President Nixon, called for "a new Atlantic Charter" linking the United States and Canada with the European Economic Community. The representatives of the West European imperialists did not make a positive response.

In May, following the completion of the "Apollo" space programme under which six manned landings were made on the moon, the US "Skylab" space programme began with the launching of "Skylab 1", weighing 88 tons, into an orbit 270 miles high. The first contingent of astronauts, led by Captain Charles Conrad, returned to earth in June after spending 28 days in the vehicle.

In May the Florida state legislature changed the name of Cape Kennedy back to its original name of Cape Canaveral.

In August the Pentagon revealed that for the past three years Portuguese air force officers have been receiving training in the United States and at US bases in Germany. At the same time administration officials disclosed that the US Export-Import Bank had begun to subsidise the sale of aircraft and helicopters to Portugal for use in the Portuguese West African colonies. It is to be noted that the US lease of bases in the Portuguese Azores expires in February 1974.

On August 12th, Phase Four of the administration's "anti-inflation" programme came into effect, providing that prices might rise in direct proportion to cost increases, while wage increases would be restricted to not more than 5.5% a year plus certain fringe benefits.

On September 6th, President Richard Nixon vetoed as "inflationary" a Bill to raise the minimum wage from \$1.60 to \$2.30 an hour.

On September 21st, Henry Kissinger (former Foreign Affairs Adviser to the President) was appointed Secretary of State in succession to William Rogers.

Also in September the British Trades Union Congress offered "practical support" to the US United Farmworkers' Union in the shape of the boycotting of Californian grape imports into Britain. For some 12 years the United Farmworkers' Union led by Cesar Chavez, has been leading a strike against grape and lettuce growing firms in California who refuse to recognise the union.

Recently, after talks between the leader of the corrupt Teamsters' Union, Frank Fitzsimmons, and President Nixon at his "Western White House" in San Clemente, thugs paid by the Teamsters' Union were brought in to assist the police in breaking the picket lines of the grossly underpaid workers, mostly of Mexican descent. Even George Meany, the reactionary head of the million-strong AFL/CIO has been compelled to denounce the activities of the Teamsters' Union as "vicious, disgraceful union-busting" and supported a donation of \$540,000 to the strikers. The boycott organised in the United States by the UFW has been markedly successful, as is demonstrated by a suit for \$145 million damages brought against the UFW by the largest US chain of food-stores, Safeway.

In December Gerald Ford was sworn in as Vice-President in succession to Spiro Agnew, and the Senate approved the nomination of William Saxbe as Attorney-General in succession to Elliot Richardson. In the same month Melvin Laird, who had succeeded John Ehrlichman in June, resigned as Chief Domestic Adviser to the President.

On December 11th, Nelson Rockefeller resigned as Governor of New York. Press commentators regarded his resignation as in preparation for the Presidential elections.

(See also the special edition of CLASS AGAINST CLASS for January 1973 on "Watergate: The Unmaking of the President", together with: CANADA, CHINA, CYPRUS, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, EGYPT, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, GREECE, HAITI, JAMAICA, KHMER REPUBLIC, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, PANAMA, SOVIET UNION, THAILAND).

URUGUAY

49.

On February 7th., 1973 President Juan Bordaberry appointed General Antonio Francese to be Minister of Defence, and on the following day called for the resignation of General Cesar Augusto Martinez (who had declared that the armed forces would not tolerate in future attacks by politicians "on the honour of the armed forces) as Commander-in-Chief of the army.

Later on February 8th. troops occupied all radio and TV stations in the capital, Montevideo, and broadcast a demand, in the name of the army and air force, for the dismissal of Francese on the grounds that he had been "lenient" towards the Tupamaro urban guerrilla movement.

On February 9th. President Bordaberry announced the resignation of Francese as Minister of Defence.

On February 10th. a 19-point programme of demands by the army and air force was broadcast, the central point being supervision of government by the armed forces in order to "fight corruption".

On February 11th. Rear Admiral Juan Zorrilla resigned as Commander-in-Chief of the Navy "to avoid armed clashes between the services". He was replaced by Lt.-Commander Conrado Olazabal, who announced that the navy now associated itself with the demands put forward by the army and air force. On the same day the General Staff replaced Martinez as Commander-in-Chief of the army by General Hugo Chiappe Posse.

On February 13th. President Bordaberry agreed to all the demands of the armed forces, and a National Security Council (COMASED) was set up to effect supervision by the armed forces over the administration. On the following day troops withdrew from their occupation of the radio and TV stations.

On February 16th. the new Minister of Defence, Colonel Nestor Bolentini, said that up to the previous day 2,228 detainees had appeared before military courts, 55 were awaiting trial, and warrants of arrest had been issued for a further 321 persons "suspected of sedition".

On February 23rd. General Gregorio Alvarez was appointed Secretary of the National Security Council.

On June 1st., after Congress had refused to extend further the "exceptional security measures" (providing for detention without trial and police searches without warrant), President Bordaberry extended them by decree.

On June 27th. troops in armoured cars surrounded the Congress building and President Bordaberry issued a decree dissolving both Houses of Congress and replacing them by a 20-member appointed Council of State. The same decree imposed press censorship and closed all schools and colleges till July 20th.

On June 28th. all municipal councils were dissolved and replaced by appointed boards. On the same day the National Workers' Convention (CNT) called a general strike in protest against the imposition of military dictatorship; this effectively paralysed Montevideo.

On June 30th. a further Presidential decree was issued banning the CNT, confiscating its assets and ordering the arrest of its leaders. On the same day troops forcibly expelled students who were occupying the National University in a sit-in demonstration of protest.

On July 3rd. the government ordered an immediate pay rise of 25% for workers in the state sector, and of 31% in the private sector, at the same time authorising the conscription of strikers into the armed forces. The workers replied by occupying a number of key factories.

On July 4th., as the strike continued, a Presidential decree authorised employers to dismiss striking employees without

notice or compensation.

On July 9th. President Bordaberry ordered the armed forces to occupy the capital and forcibly expel the sit-in strikers from the factories. More than 300 persons were arrested after a fierce street battle between demonstrating workers and police.

On July 11th. the general strike was called off.

In July the leader of the Popular Union, Enrique René Erró, set up a Committee-in-Exile in Buenos Aires to organise Uruguayan resistance from abroad.

Between July and October numerous arrests were made, including that of Rodney Arismendi, Secretary-General of the Uruguayan Communist Party, and several newspapers closed down, including the daily "The Final Hour".

On August 1st. the government adopted a law providing for the formation of "non-political trade unions", with former officials of the National Workers' Convention (CNT) barred from holding office in them.

At the end of October the National University in Montevideo was closed down by the authorities on the grounds that students were manufacturing weapons. On October 29th. the Rector Samuel Lichtensztein, and the entire governing council of the university were arrested for "negligence in allowing the subversive activity in the university".

In November it was officially admitted that political detainees totalled more than 6,000.

In the same month a treaty of equal rights in navigation on the River Plate was signed between Uruguay and Argentina.

In December the Communist Party and all its publications were banned.

VENEZUELA

In February 1973 Venezuela became the sixth member of the Andean Group -- a common market formed by the Treaty of Cartagena in 1969 and embracing Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru). In doing so the Venezuelan government agreed to adopt Decision 24 under which foreign-owned enterprises must be transformed by 1986 into mixed companies in which foreign capital holds less than 50% of the shares.

In elections held on December 9th., Carlos Andres Perez, secretary-general of the opposition Democratic Action party, was elected President in succession to Rafael Caldera. Democratic Action also won an absolute majority (102 out of 203) of seats in the Chamber of Deputies, and also in the Senate (29 seats out of 49).

VIETNAM, NORTH : See: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

VIETNAM, SOUTH : See: REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

YUGOSLAVIA

During the first half of 1973 the campaign for "increased discipline" within the revisionist League of Communists of Yugoslavia (CLASS AGAINST CLASS, No. 1, 1973, p. 42), continued with further expulsions and trials of nationalist elements.

In February 1973 the Penal Code and the Code of Judicial Procedure were altered to provide for new offences and for more severe penalties for existing offences. The death penalty was laid down for "terrorism" and the offence of "hostile propaganda" made to carry a penalty of twenty years' imprisonment. The police were empowered to detain persons for up to three days without preferring charges.

In April President Josip Broz Tito told the General Assembly of the Federation that in recent years "negative and basically

anti-socialist tendencies had gathered momentum" and had broken into "the ranks of the League of Communists".

And in May Stano Delane, Secretary of the Federal Executive Bureau of the League of Communists, told a conference of the League that "economic self-management" was being opposed by "dogmatist, centralistic and neo-Stalinist forces".

In June the Yugoslav government signed a five-year trade agreement with the European Economic Community providing for free trade in manufactured goods (except for cotton textiles) and for most favoured nation status in other items.

In September-October Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin paid an official visit to Yugoslavia. During his visit it was announced that the Soviet government had granted a credit of \$45 million for the development of the Yugoslav non-ferrous metals industry.

In November an agreement was signed for a Soviet loan of £225 million at 2% interest for the construction or modernisation of 38 Yugoslav industrial enterprises.

In December President Josip Broz Tito paid an official visit to the Soviet Union.

(See also : AUSTRALIA).

ZAIRE

In January 1973 Sese Mobutu, President of Zaire (formerly the Belgian Congo) visited Peking at the invitation of the Chinese government. (In April 1971, on a visit to Taiwan, Mobutu had said that his country "would never turn its back on its commitments to Taipei"). During his visit agreements were signed between China and Zaire on trade, and on economic and technical cooperation.

In February the Government relinquished control of 18 companies operated by Cominière (a subsidiary of Lorrho) which had been placed under state control in 1970.

ZAMBIA

On December 8th., 1972 the Zambian National Assembly passed the Constitutional Amendment Bill banning all political parties except the ruling United National Independence Party (UNIP), headed by President Kenneth Kaunda, which holds 85 of the 110 seats in the Assembly. In signing the Bill, Kaunda made it clear that at the next election all candidates would have to be members of the UNIP. The 17 deputies of the African National Congress (ANC) left the chamber in protest.

In the same month the High Court in Lusaka awarded damages against the government amounting to £4,150 each to 5 former members of the banned United Progressive Party (formed in October 1972) for false imprisonment and assault and battery by the police.

In January 1973 it was announced that Nalumin Mundia, former deputy leader of the ANC, had been detained under the Preservation of Public Security Act. In June Harry Nkumbula, former leader of the ANC, announced that he had decided to join the ruling UNIP and advised all members of the ANC to follow his example.

In August the amended constitution, based on "one-party participating democracy under the philosophy of humanism", came into force, and Mainza Chona, formerly Vice-President of Zambia, was appointed the country's first Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, on January 11th., 1973, the Rhodesian government had closed its border with Zambia on the grounds that the Zambian government had been "aiding terrorists" to make raids

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on Rhodesian territory. The Zambian government immediately took steps to divert its trade routes through East Africa (including the 28,000 tons of copper a month which had been exported through Rhodesia).

On January 24th. the Zambian government requested United Nations "aid" to assist in the development of these new trade routes, and in March the UN Security Council adopted a resolution requesting all states to render such "aid". In the next few months foreign grants or loans totaling \$20 million had been made to Zambia, the largest amount of "aid" (\$4 million) having come from China.

On February 4th. the Rhodesian government declared that it had "received satisfactory assurances from the Zambian government that it would do all in its ^{power} to prevent terrorist raids" against Rhodesia and was prepared to reopen the frontier. The Zambian government denied having given any assurances, and declared that its frontier with Rhodesia would remain closed.

During 1973 the work of building the Great Uburu Railway -- from landlocked Zambia to the Tanzanian capital of Dar-es-Salaam, a distance of 1,500 miles -- approached completion. The railway is the largest aid project of the People's Republic of China to date, costing \$169 million. Some 15,000 Chinese technicians are working alongside 40,000 Tanzanians and Zambians, and the project is being financed by an interest-free loan from the PRC, which will also supply the initial 102 locomotives and 2,000 wagons.

In August President Kenneth Kaunda announced that the government would "take immediate and full control" of the foreign-owned Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines and Roan Consolidated Mines.

In December Kenneth Kaunda was "re-elected" President unopposed, and a new government was formed with Mainza Chona as Prime Minister.

ZIMBABWE (RHODESIA)

During 1973 clashes between Rhodesian security forces and armed national liberation fighters intensified.

In January national service was extended from 9 months to 1 year, and territorial units were called up for an indefinite period to assist the regular forces in combating guerrillas. Also in January new emergency regulations were issued empowering the imposition of unlimited collective fines on "the inhabitants of any area" where it is "declared" that any person has aided and abetted guerrillas.

In March it was announced that the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) had signed an agreement forming a united front and a joint military command for struggle against the Rhodesian government. The talks were attended by representatives of the governments of Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia.

In April British journalist Peter Nieswand was sentenced to imprisonment for "offences against the Official Secrets Act" (in fact for writing articles to which the government took exception). In May, after world-wide protests, the Court of Appeal set Nieswand's sentence aside and he was deported.

Also in April it was revealed that Air Rhodesia had succeeded in buying, despite the United Nations sanctions, three Boeing-720 jet aircraft. The planes had been sold by a West German firm through a company registered in Liechtenstein.

In May new emergency regulations established "closed areas" from where the African inhabitants could be forcibly evicted if found to be "exposed to intimidation by terrorists".

Also in May the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution aimed at preventing breaches of sanctions by the

importation of Rhodesian goods under the disguise of imports from South Africa or Portugal's African colonies, and calling for the repeal of special laws permitting imports from Rhodesia (as the US legislation permitting the importation of Rhodesian chrome).

In June the state of emergency in force in Rhodesia since 1965 was extended for a further year. Prime Minister Ian Smith admitted that the struggle against the guerilla movement would be "a big haul". All white males up to 50 years of age were required to register for military service.

In July members of the Territorial Army Reserve were called up for military service.

In August several students at the University of Rhodesia in Salisbury were given prison sentences following demonstrations in support of higher wages for African workers employed at the university and against racial discrimination in university appointments.

In September the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act came into force providing the death penalty for undergoing guerilla training or aiding guerillas, and 30 years' imprisonment for acts of sabotage.

(See also: ZAMBIA)