

Will It Lead To Break With British Imperial Power - Politics ?

Last week Pandit Nehru outlined in a Press conference at Delhi the main principles of the foreign policy of the Interim Government; and there is no doubt that every Indian democrat will welcome his statement as one that directly breaks away from the imperialist policy of India as Britain's satellite, and puts forward in its place the democratic policy which the Congress has always demanded.

BUT the Interim Government is not a free Government; it is hedged in by the Viceroy's veto, the presence of British troops, a bureaucracy that is yet mainly British controlled.

The question, therefore, is: will the Interim Government be able to fight these limitations of its power and really translate these noble principles into actual practice and bring India into the camp of world democracy?

What are the main points of Pandit Nehru's statement:

International Relations

FIRST, India, that has always followed Britain and Whitehall in its international policy, will in future act independently of Whitehall and also of the Commonwealth bloc, judging each issue as it is and coming to an independent conclusion, based on justice and fair compromise.

It will stand for colonial freedom and self-determination for all peoples; and naturally it will fight vigorously against the present South African Government's policy of discrimination, and maltreatment of Indians.

In the United Nations Organisation itself, accepting the Charter, it will play its full part; in particular on the controversial question of veto power for the Big Five, the Indian delegation will support the retention of the veto (though Pandit Nehru regards it as an "essential democratic provision") by the great power unanimity of the "greatest import-

ing this, Pandit Nehru certainly moved forward in his previous statements criticising the veto power; however, reference to it as "undemocratic" does indicate that he may be trapped by the "small nations" tricks of Britain's chief satellite, Dr Evatt.

FINALLY, Pandit Nehru made quite clear that India intended to establish direct relations with other countries, particularly her neighbours, and great powers like the U.S.A. and Soviet Union.

Cognition Of Soviet

It is, however, significant that in the official statement to the Press conference, Pandit Nehru seemed to have carefully avoided mention of the Soviet Union; his reference to it came only in his answer to a question, and even then in the words of the Free Press Journal:

"His lead was less definite than it might have been," as "Russia holds an interest deeper than geographical proximity of Big Power States. Her experiments in the socio-economic field have a value which no nation can underestimate.... There is little reason why Free India should not profit by them."

In fact, one of the principal facts of British control of India, a foreign policy has been the suggestion of an "iron curtain" to off the Soviet Union from In-

If the Interim Government is really to put into effect its

with the Frontier tribes also Pandit Nehru emphasised the need for a reversal of the old policy. The tribal areas have always been used for intrigue and Afghanistan was sought to be transformed into an anti-Soviet base; instead, Panditji stressed the need for a "friendly" policy, based on an attempt to solve their economic difficulties, while respecting their freedom, and Afghanistan's interests.

It is very clear and plain, however, that an effort at the implementation of every one of these declared aims of India's foreign policy will bring the Interim Government continuously into conflict with the British.

Consistent Battle

To stand for the independence of all nations must lead to opposition to British attempts to enslave Indonesia and Greece; to support the principle of freedom for all colonial peoples must put India on the side of

by
M. Kumaramangalam

declared wish that good relations between the two countries are to be established, then clearly enough the first thing is not only the establishment of diplomatic relations but the destruction of this "iron curtain" so that the truth (and not Reuters' lies) comes to India from our great northern neighbour and all restrictions on Soviet books, literature and films coming to India are raised.

BRING THEM BACK !

Indian Troops Abroad

"In addition to the army in India, we have still a large number of divisions and brigades of Indian troops overseas in the Middle East, Iraq, Burma and Malaya, besides our occupational troops in Japan."

—F. M. Sir Claude Auchinleck, C-in-C, in India, August 2, 1946, Staff College, Quetta.

In fact, there are 40,000 Indian troops still being used by the British to suppress rising national movements. Here are the figures as far as we know them:

Burma—	17th Indian Division	10,000 troops.
Hongkong—	7th " " "	10,000
Indonesia—	26th " " "	10,000
Iraq—	one Division	10,000
Total Indian troops abroad.		40,000 troops.

In addition, there are still numbers of Indian troops in Malaya, Siam, French Indo-China, Andamans, Middle East.

When are they coming back ?

Are we to be satisfied with British promises to bring them back or is the Interim Government going to move and move fast independently ?

India must not allow her sons to be used as tools to suppress the freedom movements of her neighbours !

This will enable the Indian people to learn their fill from the great experiences, and lessons of the Soviet revolution.

India's Neighbours

Regarding India's neighbours also, Pandit Nehru made clear that India's aim will be to establish friendly relations and not allow Indian troops, men or money to be used to suppress the national movement of any country.

Thus here too is an explicit reversal of the old position, when Indian troops were always employed to police ports of the British Empire and India was used as a base from which these troops used to operate. He also said that "in practice" India recognised the Indonesian Republic and wanted it to "win through and establish freedom".

On the question of relations

Egypt in demanding the withdrawal of British troops; to work for world peace must mean an active struggle against the warmongers of Britain, and the U.S. with their troops, and bases spread out over the five continents. So also with tribal policy and India's attitude to Burma and Malaya.

Thus a consistent implementation will demand a battle against the British, and the question arises: Will the Interim Government see that its representatives abroad fight this battle, and actually strive for such a democratic foreign policy in practice—thus breaking away from the old imperialist foreign policy of Wavell and the External Affairs Department?

Weakness In Practice

Yet, in fact, it is when Pandit Nehru came from broad principles to immediate prac-

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tical issues facing the Government that he seemed to falter; it is then he almost seemed to reconcile himself to the present and the past policy of Wavell and the External Affairs Department and to shirk a battle to break with that policy.

He wanted Indian troops in Indonesia and other countries to be withdrawn—but, he said, apologetically, as though justifying the imperial policy, the "question of shipping" and the "static" nature of organisations like the War Office made for difficulties and delay.

Surely, considering the tremendous support in India behind the demand for the withdrawal of Indian troops, Pandit Nehru could and should have taken a stronger and more determined position.

Why could not a representative of the Interim Government itself go to Indonesia, cut through all the red tape of the War Office and first of all see that Indian troops take no more part in the fighting or garrisoning of Indonesia, and, secondly, arrange transport to effect the speedy repatriation of these troops.

Could not a similar procedure be followed for the thousands of Indian troops in Iraq, Burma and Malaya?

All India must demand that this be done and the Interim Government move quickly to implement India's declared policy.

Goa, Baluchistan

So also with regard to Goa; while admitting the situation in Goa to be "deplorable", he dismissed Goa as "a small bit of India"; yet just because it is small, a mighty country like ours should be able to tackle it swiftly.

Why cannot economic sanctions and boycott be applied to Goa and Portugal? Would not that bring the wretched Fascist Government of Portugal to its senses?

And perhaps the weakest and most apologetic part of Pandit Nehru's entire statement was his reference to Baluchistan; it seemed that the Viceroy's veto was speaking when he trotted out the usual imperial device of "an advisory council" in view of the "backwardness of political development."

Is this not the argument always used by the imperialists to justify denial of freedom to India? Did it not give birth to the restricted franchise and "advisory" clauses of the numerous reform schemes of Britain for India?

Break With The British !

Let the Interim Government immediately take steps to introduce adult suffrage in Baluchistan and hold democratic elections—and all democrats in India will give them every support.

This would be the way to break away—in practice—from the old imperial policy of "advisory" councils because of "backwardness", a policy that has always resulted in perpetuating both backwardness and an advisory regime.

Thus despite the fact that the general principles of foreign policy laid down by Pandit Nehru mark a clear advance, yet, because there is not the determination to destroy the limitations on the Interim Government imposed by the British plan, in practice there is no real break away from the old imperialist foreign policy, but instead, apologetic justifications of it.

For, in fact, only a clean break with imperialism; only the achievement of complete independence through consistent struggle against the British, can ensure for India the emergence of a truly democratic foreign policy, enabling our great countries to stand in the world arena as one of the foremost defenders of the democratic principles of equality and freedom for all peoples.



"And now, my little ones, let us hear how to vote for the rights of 'small' nations." Jez (Hedgehog), Belgrade.

ASAF ALI'S PLEDGES TRAMPLED UNDER NEW ROUND OF TERROR, VICTIMISATION

On September 24, nearly 2,000 workers of the Golden Rock workshop and 60 per cent of the workers on the line, who had held out in the teeth of the most brutal repression, went back to work at the call of the Joint Strike Committee.

They went back almost with a feeling of elation and victory, for, the news had come through the Hindu that the Government of India decided to apply the "Discipline and Appeal Rules" to all railways and that, from now on, no railway worker could be dismissed without a prior enquiry. This rule had been in force till now only on the S.I.R. and the G.I.P.

It had been because these rules were withdrawn on the S.I.R. that the strike had been called, and if the Hindu report was correct the S.I.R. strike had resulted in a great victory for all railwaymen in India.

But from the very moment the strike ended, a new round of repression, terror and victimisation began. All the Railway Board's promises that it would not "countenance any victimisation", all Mr. Asaf Ali's assurances were totally ignored.

Workers Being Humiliated

Inside the Golden Rock workshop, foremen are going all out to humiliate and overwork every single worker by threats and intimidation.

No talk of any sort was allowed inside the workshops.

Leading workers like Alageri Swamy Naidu, President of the Wagon Repair Section Committee, and Pandurang are being compelled to do humiliating tasks.

Blacklegs are being given

freedom to roam about the workshops and spy on the workers.

The Prakasam Ministry is backing up the Railway Board in every possible way.

Victimisation And Arrests

The Malabar Special Police continues to parade the streets of Golden Rock and Trichinopoly.

The Communist Party and the S.I.R. Union are refused permission to hold any meetings.

Behind the protective guns of the Prakasam Ministry, General Manager Reynolds is busy dismissing leading militant workers by the dozen. A list of some of those victimised is given in Column 4.

Apart from dismissals and suspensions, arrests are also taking place. In Golden Rock itself, Mariappan, member of the Central Strike Committee, has been arrested. In Tanjore, two leading workers, Rajgopal and Rangasamy; in Quilon Sankaran, a gang cooly, have been arrested.

Apart from all this, the General Manager has withdrawn the right of every Branch Union to make representations to the local railway authorities.

In fact, it is reliably reported that he intends to ask the S.I.R. Labour Union's General Secretary "to show cause" why the recognition given to the Union should not be withdrawn in view of his allegation that the workers under the leadership of the Union have become most "undisciplined."

Bolstering Congress Union

Side by side with this, the General Manager has recognised the Congress-sponsored "S.I.R. Workers' Union"—an insignificant organisation with a membership of less than a thousand, compared with the 35,000 (approximately) membership of the S.I.R. Labour Union, and whose weakness was demonstrated even in the last Assembly elections when the Congress candidate could secure hardly a thousand votes from the S.I.R., and the Communist-Labour Union candidate Anandan Nambiar won a resounding victory.

In this endeavour to disrupt working-class unity, the Ministry is rendering the General Manager every possible help. While the S.I.R. Labour Union is refused permission to hold meetings, the Congress Union is given a free hand and its meeting on the 25th was actually addressed by Sjt. Bhashyam, Member for Law, when he took the oppor-

tunity to attack the S.I.R. Labour Union.

This is how the pledges of Mr. Asaf Ali are being kept.

VICTIMISED AFTER STRIKE WAS CALLED OFF

In Golden Rock:

* Nine workers have been dismissed on the ground that they were convicted and had to pay a fine under the Criminal Procedure Code.

* Twenty leading workers were suspended because the Prakasam police has arrested them for participation in the strike.

* Five workers were refused admission to work and asked to produce certificates from the Police Station to the effect that there were no cases against them.

From the branches similar reports are coming:

In Tinnevely:

Sultan Kandam, Pandurangam, Sudalandy, Karuppaswami and Muthu Krishnan were discharged on the ground that they were all on strike.

In Quilon:

Dasthageer, Krishna Murthy and Muthural Muthu were not taken back to work.

In Mandapam:

Narayana Iyer of the Catering Section was refused admission.

In Vrindavanagar:

Kalifa Pillai and another were not taken back.

In Tanjore:

Four workers of the Traffic Section and one in the Engineering Section as well as all scavengers were suspended on the ground that there are cases pending against them in court. Althamathanam and a Pointsmen Krishnan have been refused work.

In Coonoor:

The President of the local Branch, E. C. Subramaniam has been discharged.

In Palni:

Poochiappan and Alagappan were refused work.

In Villupuram:

Velayudham Pillai, Branch Secretary, and R. Rajadurai, Treasurer, were refused work.

POLICE VANDALISM

"I have seen the havoc caused to the Union buildings at Golden Rock by the Malabar Special Police stationed there during the strike period.

The "Thozhilarasu" press, mikes, typewriters, radio, clocks, electrical fittings, most of the almirahs and tables and chairs are all broken to pieces.

The Union car has been taken away and a large number of cycles are smashed up, photos and busts of Mahatma Gandhi and other national and labour leaders and Marshal Stalin are either disfigured or broken.

I learn a sum of Rs. 5,000 is also missing apart from the personal belongings and cash of a number of workers and Union office-bearers.

I hope the Madras Government will immediately make good the loss caused to the Union which can be easily estimated to be above Rs. 50,000 and take action on the officers concerned for such vandalism."

—P. Balachandra Menon, General Secretary of the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress, in a Press statement.

S. I. R. CENTRAL RELIEF FUND

The S.I. Railway Labour Union and the S.I.R. Station Masters' Association have decided to raise a Central Relief Fund to give relief to the families of those who have been killed in action and to conduct the defence of the 475 arrested workers at Golden Rock over the line.

All collections should be sent to: The S.I.R. Labour Union Office, Golden Rock, TRICHINOPOLY.

FOR S. I. R. RELIEF

The railway workers of Ajmer have sent Rs. 500 to the Relief Fund.

Every S.I.R. worker has promised to pay Rs. 5 to the Fund as soon as they receive their wages.

RESOLUTIONS OF S. I. R. UNION REPRESENTATIVES

Nearly 200 representatives from over 40 branches of both the S.I.R. Labour Union and the S.I.R. Station Masters' Association met at Tanjore on September 22 and unanimously decided to withdraw their 29 days old strike. M. Kalyanasundaram, President of the S.I.R. Labour Union and Vice President, A.I.R.F., presided. Among those present were S. Guruswamy, General Secretary, A.I.R.F., C. V. Nair, General Secretary, S.I.R. Station Masters' Association, K. A. Nambiar, M.L.A., General Secretary, S.I.R. Labour Union, P. Balachandra Menon, General Secretary, Madras Provincial T.U.C., and others.

Nine resolutions the representatives passed. Below is given the full text of five of these. The other resolutions appeal to the public for relief funds, demand inquiry into the brutal firing at Golden Rock on September 5, which killed four and wounded many more, demand release of arrested leaders, appeal to the A.I.R.F. to take up the fight for the complete satisfaction of all the demands for which this great and glorious strike was fought.

These leaders and the 40,000 workers who stood by them for almost a month despite unprecedented terror have responded to Asaf Ali's assurance. It is now upto Asaf Ali to stand by his word, stand by those workers against British vested interests, that is, the Railway Board. It is the Interim Government's first big battle against imperialism and they must win it for their people.

CALLING OFF THE STRIKE

THIS meeting of such of the members of the Strike Committee of the S. I. Railway Labour Union and of the S.I. Railway Station Masters' Association as are out and of the representatives of the various branches of the above two organisations met and reviewed the strike situation and the communication between Mr. Asaf Ali and Mr. S. Guruswami, General Secretary of the All India Railwaymen's Federation.

In reconsidering the entire situation and coming to the decision hereinafter stated, this meeting reminds the public and the workers that the strike of the S.I. Railway had its origin in the imperialist policy and the attitude of the Railway Board and the administration who together started the offensive by modifying the D. A. Rules to suit their policy of victimisation and attack on normal trade union rights thus precipitating the strike even before the formation of the Interim Government.

This meeting is further of opinion that even after the formation of the

Trade Union, itself thus prolonging the strike and helping the administration to evade a settlement.

Since, however, the Hon'ble Railway Member has repeatedly told the General Secretary of the A.I.R.F. that once the strike is called off he would gladly meet the representatives of the Federation and sympathetically consider all legitimate grievances, and has referred the President of the S.I. Railway Labour Union to his replies to the General Secretary of the A.I.R.F., the representatives of the Labour Union and the Station Master's Association are prepared to take into consideration these assurance from a Member of the Interim Government formed by the Congress.

While the workers have fought heroically in the face of police terror and a campaign of lies and the almost unanimous hostility of the Press, knowing full well how strong and determined the fight of the workers even on their own strength has been, the representatives assembled here consider that to continue the strike today

will only help the administration to cause further public inconvenience—an inconvenience which the administration has callously inflicted on the public.

In view, therefore, of the assurance of Mr. Asaf Ali and in the fervent hope that the Interim Government and Mr. Asaf Ali in particular, will take immediate steps to implement the assurances he has given in consonance with the true traditions of the Congress, with a confident belief in the justice and righteousness of our case that a change will be brought about in the character of the administration of the Railway Board and the hope that the A.I.R.F. and all other working-class organisations will take up the matter further alongside of the S.I.R. Labour Union and the Station Masters' Association, this meeting hereby resolves to call off the strike forthwith and calls upon the workers to resume work.

This meeting requests the administration to give the Union representatives adequate facilities to go round and explain the decision to the workers and get them to resume duty. It further requests that at least a week's time be given to enable all the workers including those who have gone away from place of work to report themselves to work.

ON WORKERS' HEROISM

THIS meeting congratulates the thousands of workers, their wives, mothers and sisters, sons and daughters who have written history by their historic fight for the last two months.

The workers of the Golden Rock and their families who have carried the struggle from the 23rd of July with the police breaking into their houses and terrorising the families of the workers have been in the forefront of the struggle.

They faced a reign of terror, braved the lathis, faced bullets and shed their blood. For over fifty days they stood with unshakable determination and in the annals of trade union struggles it is the most heroic of all.

When the workers on the line, gangmen, pointsmen, booking-clerks, Station-Masters, Loco and Traffic Staff joined with them on the 24th August

to fight for elementary trade union rights of enquiry before discharge or dismissal, they opened up a new chapter in the trade union struggle showing that the struggle of the workers is not for bread alone, but for security of service as well.

In Golden Rock, in Erode, in Madura, and several other centres they stood together without distinction of caste, creed or community. Hindus, Muslims and Christians and Anglo-Indians stood together for the first time.

This meeting greets and congratulates these brave men who with their leaders arrested, those brave mothers and sisters who with their sons and brothers arrested, stood with heroic determination to hold on till their cause was won.

This meeting expresses its gratitude to all who showed and have shown their unparalleled faith in the

On Martyrs

THIS meeting pays its homage to Comrades Raju, Thangavelu, Ramachandran, Thyagarajan and Krishnamurthy who heroically faced police repression and gave their lives so that the working-class might live.

We pledge that we will not let down the cause for which they died and will be prepared to make any sacrifice till the working-class is free from exploitation and tyranny. This meeting further expresses its deep sense of sympathy to the families of the martyrs and assures them that the entire working-class will be behind them.

On Victimisation

THIS meeting having considered the report of Com. S. Guruswami on the talks he had with the General Manager of the S.I. Railway yesterday and earlier and the assurance of the Railway Board that victimisation will not be countenanced, demands that every worker who had been on strike or had been arrested or convicted should be taken back to work and no impediments placed in the way of the normal and complete resumption of work by all workers at the call of their respective organisations.

On Release Of Those Arrested

AS the strike is called off based on the assurances given by representatives of the Central Government, this meeting demands that the Provincial Government should enable the speedy restoration of normal condition and industrial peace on the railway by immediately ordering the unconditional release of all persons arrested in connection with the railway strike and withdrawal of all cases.

VYAS REPORT ON TEHRI--A DOCUMENT OF DISGRACE

Three weeks ago, *People's Age* received from its Garhwal correspondent a copy of a document which is bound to have a vital bearing on the all-India States peoples' movement. This document is a report submitted by Sjt. Jai Narain Vyas, General Secretary of the All-India States Peoples' Conference, on his visit to Tehri State.

SJT. Vyas had gone to Tehri at the height of the Tehri people's movement. Readers of *People's Age* know well of the glorious heroism of the Tehri people, of the immense power of the movement. They know also of the violent and brutal repression launched by the Maharaja.

When we received Sjt. Vyas' report, we found it difficult to believe that ANY patriot, let alone such a veteran leader of the States peoples as Sjt. Vyas, could have written such a document.

We wrote back to our Garhwal Correspondent and asked him to verify if the document was genuine. We have now confirmation both from him and from other leaders of the Tehri Praja Mandal that this is a true copy of Sjt. Vyas' report.

It is a tragedy for the States peoples that their leaders should take the humiliating path of compromise and appeasement of the Princes.

But it is necessary also that militant States peoples should know the way their leaders are attempting to direct their heroic actions for freedom. And it is in order to arm the States peoples with this knowledge, that we are publishing a summary of Sjt. Vyas' report.

Main Conclusions

Sjt. Vyas' main conclusions are:

(1) Because the Praja Mandal is not allowed to function and there are no civil liberties—there is "bitterness" among the people.

(2) The Tehri police is untrained and has by tactlessly handling the situation helped in the creation of bad blood. Those who take part in demonstrations are not accustomed to such public life and misbehave, giving a handle to the police to let loose repression.

It is the "tactlessness" of the police, not their butchery—and all provoked by the misbehaviour of the people. Is this Sjt. Vyas talking or the Maharaja?

Sjt. Vyas then builds up the theory that the "officials who behave like this are doing so deliberately to keep the administration in hot water and are antagonising militant elements like the INA, students and political workers against the administration... these officials are enemies of the administration in disguise."

The Maharaja is NOT responsible at all. Nor the British Political Department. But certain officials who want to overthrow the administration! This is what Sjt. Vyas thinks. The people are not fighting for freedom, but are being PROVOKED by certain officials.

(3) As for the organisers of the movement, they "are firebrands, novices, inexperienced and unaccustomed to public life who can easily fall prey to provocation... The masses are IMPULSIVE. They succumb to the highly promising hot speeches

Stop All Militant Action

(4) "Meetings, processions and such other things" create suspicion in the minds of the officials and they feel that the noise that is being heard should

ed. And he lays down that "all the local Committees should send their grievances and demands to this Committee which should make thorough enquiries and sift the stuff for being forwarded to the authorities in proper form."

Apart from this check on the popular upsurge, Sjt. Vyas rules that:

"In the initial stages the AISPC office would directly deal with Tehri in order to see that no mischief is created."

In this way the "officials' suspicions" of "the present cadre" of the Praja Mandal will be removed!

At The Raja's Orders

Sjt. Vyas also submitted the draft of a Constitution of the Praja Mandal to the Ruler for his approval.

The basic features of the proposed Constitution are:

(a) No changes will be made in the Constitution without the sanction of the State Government.

(b) Dismissed servants of the State will not be allowed to join the Praja Mandal.

(c) The Praja Mandal will

stand for adult franchise, but the State will have the right to impose "such restrictions as may be considered necessary in initial stages."

(d) The fundamental goal of the Praja Mandal will be the "establishment under the aegis of the Maharaja of a system of popular Government without impairing the loyalty to the throne of His Highness."

Anti-Communism

Apart from these "conclusions," Sjt. Vyas also stressed in a long paragraph that it was the Communists, in pursuance of their policy to prevent a compromise between the people and the Princes, who were fomenting trouble in Tehri.

Of course, Sjt. Vyas conveniently omits mentioning the facts that not one of the jailed leaders is a Communist, that of the entire Executive of the Praja Mandal only one was a Communist and not even he has been excluded, that the leader of the present movement, Sjt. Daulat Ram, is NOT a Communist.

But these are inconvenient facts and would be difficult to explain. So Sjt. Vyas ignores them.

This is the report which Sjt. Vyas made to the Ruler of Tehri. It was kept strictly secret. It was not issued to the Press. Not even to the Tehri Praja Mandal's Executive was the report shown.

The summary given above tells us why. Because it was so stinking and shameful a document that Sjt. Vyas did not want to risk its publication.

People Reject It

Of course, the Tehri people have rejected the report outright. They are continuing the battle.

But such reports, such efforts at ignominious surrender and compromise, will come again. They will all take exactly the same pattern: curb the "impulsive masses," stop militant demonstrations, label all mass actions as the work of agent provocateurs, Communists and the like, compromise with the rulers.

The State peoples must watch out for such attempts and be prepared to resist them.

—by Ramesh Sinha

be stopped at any cost."

And so:

"Resolutions and representations should take the place of slogans and marches."

In this one sentence, there is vividly revealed the policy of compromise, of surrender, which Sjt. Vyas advocates. Stop all your popular demonstrations, take to petitioning, this is his advice.

Curb Praja Mandal

(5) "The officials suspect a lot of evil if the present cadre in the Praja Mandal is allowed to have free play."

And so Sjt. Vyas appoints a Committee, in which NONE of the leaders of the present movement—such as Dinesh Saklani, Ram Chandra, Parashram Baidoni, Daulat Ram—are includ-

A PATRIOT'S NOTEBOOK

Business Is Business

AUGUST 14.....Deshpriya Park, Calcutta. Big-Businessman Nalini Ranjan Sarkar (notorious for joining the Viceroy's "Expanded" Executive Council despite the Congress ban) is back on the Congress platform, pouring venom at the Muslim League for its "Direct Action".

At exactly the same time, Big Businessman Ispahani was busy rallying the League masses for "Direct Action", vomiting hate against the Hindus and the Congress.

Two days later, the Calcutta carnage began. Among the thousands killed, there were no Big Businessmen.

Exactly one month later, a full page advertisement appeared in the Calcutta Clive Street journal—CAPITAL—announcing the floating of a new one-crore business venture: Ispahani Chemicals Ltd.

Its chief Directors are: Nalini Ranjan Sarkar and Ispahani. Among the other Directors are: the arch-communal Leaguer, the Raja of Mahmudabad, and one of the great House of Birla's whose chain of newspapers day in and day out, pour out columns and columns of anti-League vituperation.

Riots for the common people. Unity is the prerogative of Big Business.

Ispahani and Co. TALK two nations but it is two nations for US. For them, it's one joint class of Hindu and Muslim exploiters.

Birla, Sarkar and Co. TALK of the "treachery" and the "anti-national" character of the League. But that's all for US. For them, Leaguer or Congressman makes no difference, if the fellow has enough cash to be their partner.

Calcutta's workers know their Birlas and their Ispahanis. They kept their part of Calcutta free of the murder-madness of those terrible days. The rest of the common-people must also learn.

Zemindari On Its

Death Bed

BHAR'S zemindars are preparing for "action." Zemindari is on its death bed and the lice who have lived on it so long are in a panic.

Read through the report of the great battle of the Bihar kisans which appears in the middle pages of this

issue, and you will know why. Bihar's kisan is winning back what is his own, and his age-long oppressors, for all their terror, are on the run.

And so the landlords are organising themselves to resist "the annihilation of their class." At Patna on September 15, Bihar's zemindars met in conference. The Maharajahdhiraj of Darbhanga presided. A Council of Action was formed.

One chieftain shouted: "Be prepared for all sacrifice."

Another declared: "Why should we give up our land to the kisan when the real tiller of the soil is the bullock?" This brilliant "theory" was, of course, loudly cheered.

Sir C.P.N. Singh, ace-zemindar, asked quite innocently:

"Just as people own houses in cities, so we own land in the villages. Just as it would be absurd for the tenants of the city houses to claim the houses they live in, so is it absurd for our tenants to want to deprive us of our land."

Yes, it was an amusing session. But it cannot be dismissed lightly.

The keynote of the Maharaja of Darbhanga's speech was:

"I have not lost my faith in the sense of justice and fairness of the great savant of Sevagram, who guides the destiny of our country today, nor have I any doubt about the broadmindedness of those who are at the helm of affairs in the premier political organisation of the country."

Congress And Zemindari

All these compliments are directed towards winning Congress aid for the zemindars against the present kisan upsurge and towards securing huge sums of money as "compensation."

The Congress Working Committee has directed that all Provincial schemes for the abolition of zemindari should be completed within two months.

This is a welcome, though belated call. But the crux of any proposal today for the abolition of zemindari is the question of compensation. A number of Congress leaders are reported to have assured the landlords of "adequate compensation."

Compensation for what? For blood-sucking all their lives? For inhuman terror against their tenants? For land, which in the vast majority of cases has been literally

PLUNDERED from its rightful owners?

The kisan wants full rights over the land he tills and is not prepared to continue to pay rent to the landlords in the shape of increased taxation to cover 'compensation'.

The kisan wants a categorical statement of policy on the subject from the Congress leadership.

Today he sees everywhere that instead of backing the new kisan resistance to landlordism, the Congress Ministries, while TALKING of the abolition of landlordism, are throwing the entire weight of their repressive machinery against the kisans in the name of 'law and order'.

Last week we gave reports of what is happening in the United Provinces. This week we give the story of Bihar.

Where exactly do the Congress leaders stand?

History And A Socialist

THE Congress Socialist leader Ashoka Mehta, writes a regular column in the Bombay weekly BLITZ: He calls the column "The World and India". It is interesting to see of what stuff Ashoka Mehta's "Socialism" is made.

In the Blitz of September 14, he saw the "S.L.R. strikers betrayed by Kremlin's Quislings" that is to say, by the Communists. "The news of firing and lathi-charges causes a pang"...but that's all—NOT a word of condemnation or criticism from this "Socialist" for those who launched such cruel repression against the working-class.

All that Mr. Mehta does is to repeat parrot-like the lies of the White General Manager Reynolds that it was all a Communist conspiracy.

In the Blitz of September 21, Ashoka Mehta has turned his pen to the Amalner firing. Here again it is the "Kremlin Quislings" who are to blame. Not one word of condemnation for the brutes who deliberately fired and killed Shripat Patil and his comrades.

Of course, Ashoka Mehta is in good company.

In Kashmir too, the Maharaja and Premier Kak said it was the Communists who were at the root of the present movement, who were responsible for the terrible terror.

The Free Press Journal has put out this week the news that the Portuguese authorities have also begun to talk of the "infiltration of the Communists" into Goa, and their responsibility for the present movement.

I need not mention the whole long trail of Red-baiters in every country in the world, leading right up to the indefatigable Churchill.

But Ashoka Mehta is not the Maharaja of Kashmir or Dictator Salazar or Mr. Churchill. He claims to be a Socialist. One expects a Socialist to back the working-class.

Ban The Reds

Mr. Mehta is NOT satisfied with all this. He demands the "disbanding" of the Communist Party of India as the "sine qua non of Russo-Indian collaboration in world affairs" (Blitz, September 14).

I remember Ashoka Mehta's Congress Socialist colleague—that odorous columnist who goes by the name of Birbal—also called a little while ago for the illegalisation of the Communist Party, though in his latest yell he takes back what he said earlier.

But the fact remains that this is one of the major demands of the Congress Socialist leaders.

Here again they are in good company:

● The British Imperialist Caretaker Government had decided on banning the Communist Party and only stayed its hand, because it knew the Interim Government was coming in. But in practice, wherever it could, where it had direct control, as in Delhi, it banned all work of the Communist Party by arresting every single known Communist.

● The millowner-profiters of Cawnpore have been demanding the same thing for a long time. And their latest offensive resulted in the U.P. Congress Cabinet actually discussing the question very recently. Of course, the mill-owners did succeed for a time in making the Communist Party illegal in fact, in Cawnpore, by having all Communist Party members and sympathisers arrested or driven underground.

● In Travancore, the notorious Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer has also arrested or issued warrants against nearly every Communist—thus also banning the Party in practice.

It is a pretty dirty gang, this, with which Mr. Mehta has thrown in his voice. And all in the name of "Socialism".

Mr. Mehta is obviously NOT a student of history. Or he would know that in other countries also other men like him have lined up with reaction to fight the Communists by getting them banned, arrested and murdered. But despite them the Communist Parties, basing themselves firmly on the working peoples, grew...grew into giants, banned, hunted terrorised.

Mr. Mehta should read his history.

Ramesh Chandra

PUNJAB MUSLIM PEASANTS RAISE BANNER OF REVOLT

For generations the Punjab's Muslim tenants have been kept ground under landlord oppression, away from the organised kisan movement. When the Muslim League broke with the toady Unionist Party, the hope rapidly grew that at last the tenants would begin to free themselves from their shackles.

The League leaders talked of the rights of the common people. But throughout they carefully avoided committing themselves in any way on the question of landlordism. They spoke of better conditions for the tenants, but did nothing to bring in tenant legislation in the Assembly.

IN fact, the Punjab League's leadership, while compelled to talk of the common people, to issue a really progressive manifesto, remained in practice true to the feudal class from which it came.

But by the campaigning it had to do for the elections, by the organisation it had to build in order to win power for itself, it unleashed a new force in the already smouldering dark Punjab.

Today the fire is lit. From district after district comes news of struggles against landlordism by Muslim tenants. In many cases, the landlords themselves enrolled their tenants into the League and made themselves Presidents and office bearers of the local branches. Their tenants' first actions today are to remove

by
Our Correspondent

their oppressors from their offices. Here are reports of a few of the struggles which have already begun.

JULLUNDUR

IN Jullundur, a battle is raging in Rahon and 20 other villages. The landlords—the local leaders of the League and the Majlis-i-Ahlar—deprived the tenants of their grazing land. The tenants organised. There was a ban on processions. But the tenants did not care about bans.

And a mighty procession marched through the whole area

—a procession in which the chief participants were cattle, carrying placards and posters, voicing the kisans' grievances. The oldest Muslim kisan of the district led the procession carrying a huge green Muslim League flag.

One of the posters carried a famous quotation of Iqbal:

"Those who till the land own it. Arise, oh kisans! The world is taking a new shape. In the East and the West, a new era is coming."

Other posters declared: "We want fodder", "Kisans are the backbone of the nation."

The authorities, of course, have jumped in to protect the landlords. Proceedings have been launched against 58 kisans. The battle continues unabated.

HOSHIARPUR

ANOTHER heroic struggle is being fought by the Muslim peasants at Urmartanda in Hoshiarpur district. Here Shahbaz Khan, the local League President, owns 2,800 acres of land and true to his feudal tribe, he has been committing all sorts of excesses for years.

Extortion, illegal taxes, begar, evictions—nothing is outside Shahbaz Khan's bag of tricks. No tenant can even cut a branch of a single tree on his acres.

At last his kisans decided that they would no longer submit to the tyrant. Ten thousand of them organised themselves in a Tenant Committee.

They held a meeting under the Muslim League flag and passed a resolution removing Shahbaz Khan from the Presidency of the League.

"The man who exploits us and makes our life miserable has no right to be at the head of our organisation," they decided.

A copy of the resolution has been sent to the Provincial Muslim League Headquarters. But as a local Muslim kisan said:

"We know the landlord League leadership will support Shahbaz Khan against us. That will not be able to deter us from the path we have chosen. We shall fight to the end."

On 'Direct Action' Day Shahbaz Khan played a trick. He hired some goondas and started preaching: "This is a day of Jihad. The Muslim peasants are being misguided by the enemies of Islam to fight their own men."

The peasants gave him a fitting reply on 'Id' Day by organising a joint Hindu-Muslim-Sikh procession. They marched through the area raising unity slogans, directed only against imperialism and the landlords.

Shahbaz Khan knows now that his communal preaching will no longer save him from the might of his tenants.

"I" "L" "A"

IN Multan district also, the landlords are all League leaders. Here the Muslim, Hindu and Sikh tenants have begun a united fight against the landlords.

Mian Muntaz Daultana (Secretary of the Punjab Muslim League), Budhan Shah, MLA, and other stalwarts of the local Muslim League are facing the united wrath of the peasants. Daultana has evicted a number of his tenants without the slightest excuse.

Extortion is rampant. The landlords insist on getting between two and eight seers per maund of the crop separated as an illegal "reserve" before the crop is sheared. The tenants held a meeting recently and decided that they would pay nothing over and above the legal share. They have organised themselves and a big fight has begun.

Public Will Not Be Hoodwinked

I understand that the originators of this plan are confident of its being successful, first, because they hope that the national character of the Government will be able to overcome the patriotic abhorrence of the armed forces for blacklegging; secondly, because they hope that under the plea that these are services essential to the community, public sympathy could be won for their strike-breaking activities.

But there is little doubt that the public will refuse to stomach strike breaking, even if it comes under the mask of "national duty". They will justifiably demand of the National Government:

"Implement your promises. If these services are essential to the community, it is your duty to give the workers a living wage so essential to existence. That is the way to protect the people—not the continuation of imperialist plans to drown in blood the strongest limb of the nation—the working-class movement."

—by A. S. R. Chari

THE WAZIRISTAN BOMBINGS

Govt. Communique Shows Imperialist Bureaucracy Still On Top

On September 19, over a fortnight after the Interim Government took office, the External Affairs Department issued a communique on the recent Waziristan bombings. It was the first communique issued to the public since Panditji took charge of this Department. Was this communique the sharp reversal of imperialist bombing policy which one expected it to be?

THE Waziristan bombings taking place with a National Govt. at New Delhi had horrified India. Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan accused the British officials of trying to discredit the Nehru Government among the Pathans.

The startling reality was that Olaf Caroe, Governor of the NWFP (notorious for his statement in the Central Assembly in 1944 that the British would carry out the bombing of tribal areas whenever it thought it fit to do so), had bombed Waziristan without the knowledge either of the NWFP Congress Ministry or of Pandit Nehru.

With the Interim Government in power, one expected a complete change in this policy. The External Affairs Department communique of September 19 was nothing of the sort.

No Regret

There was not one word of regret or condemnation of the entire bombing policy. In fact, it was the usual bureaucratic nonsense of how the bombing was "forced" upon Government because the Bromi Khel tribesmen had kidnapped a British Major and his two assistants!

Altogether it was a scandalous communique. And when one realised that it had the seal of a Department of which Pandit Nehru is the head, it was difficult not to conclude that the imperialist bureaucracy was still on top, that imperialist policy continued.

Soon after the news of the bombing appeared in the Press, every newspaper began to report that Pandit Nehru had called off the bombing and that was why the bombing had stopped.

Horrible Terms

The External Affairs Department communique brazenly gives the lie to this. It says that the bombing continued till September 10—a week after Panditji took charge—and was stopped NOT because of Panditji's intervention, but because the tribesmen complied with the horrible terms demanded by the Government, and surrendered: Rs. 1,10,000 ransom money; Rs. 20,000 for the property said to be looted; 250 rifles, and 20 tribesmen as hostages.

The important thing to see is that despite Panditji's announcement at the AIOC and at his Press conference that he wanted "friendly" relations with the tribal people, these shameful terms were insisted upon in the name of the Interim Government.

The smug air with which the communique talks of the complete destruction of tribal villages—and then has the audacity to say that only four persons were killed and one wounded—reveals even more strikingly that the butcher-bureaucrats of the External Affairs Department continue to rule the roost.

Punjab Kisan Morcha Won But Ministry Refuses To Release 700 Prisoners

(By Our Correspondent)

After two months of heroic battle, the kisan struggle at Harsha Chhina (District Amritsar) has ended in victory. The corrupt Irrigation Department has suffered a severe defeat and has been compelled to give the fighting kisans, fifty per cent more water than they would have got had they not demolished the canal outlets and acquiesced in the new official scheme of water distribution.

IN fact, they have won twenty-five per cent more water than they had previous to the introduction of the new scheme.

For this victory, one thousand kisans and their leaders went to jail. They lost 9½ lakh rupees—the total income of one crop, which they had to forego in order to bend the callous Ministry.

Determined to harass the kisans, the Ministry is refusing to release the seven hundred prisoners who are still in jail.

The Akali Party through its Minister insists on keeping the prisoners in jail, at least until the coming elections for the

Committees of Management of the Gurdwaras (Sikh places of worship).

In these elections the Akali Party knows that the main effective opposition to its opportunistic communal politics will come from the Communist and Kisan Sabha workers. Keep them in jail, weaken them and romp back to control the Gurdwaras and their immense funds—these are the tactics, in plain words, of the Akali Party in refusing to release the 700 heroes of the Kisan Morcha.

Congress Ministers Weak

As for the Congress Ministers, they are weak and helpless, too tied up in their own factional struggles inside the Congress Assembly Party, to assert themselves and insist on release.

The Kisan Sabha has launched a Province-wide release campaign. Dr. Lehna Singh, General Secretary of the Provincial Congress, is definitely opposed to the Punjab Government's refusal to release the prisoners. The Secretary of the Amritsar District Congress Committee has issued a statement to the Press demanding their immediate release.

ATTOCK

ANOTHER League landlord, the Khan of Makhad, is facing a crisis in Attock district. Besides marriage tax, begar, etc., he has invented a special tax called "Darwaza tax". If a tenant wants to make a new door in his own house, he is made to pay a tax of Rs. 2-8 or more. The tenants, the majority of whom are Muslims, are organising themselves for mass refusal to pay illegal taxes.

SPECIAL MILITARY UNITS TO BE USED AS BLACKLEGS Interim Govt. Continues Imperialist Plans To Crush Workers' Struggles

I reliably understand that the Interim Government is giving first priority to a secret plan to train military units as blacklegs who will take over and run what are called "essential services"—electric power-stations, railways, transport, water-works—in case of strikes.

THE plan produced by the imperialist bureaucrats, is being improved upon and continued by Sardar Patel, Home Member, Government of India, and is an attempt to run these services while the police gets time to isolate and crush the workers' struggle for better living conditions. It is now occupying the attention of the Labour Department.

Under the scheme, every big city is to have reserve military units of trained strike-breakers. They will be trained as electrical operators, railwaymen, water-works operators, and tram and bus drivers, etc.

As soon as there is a strike in any of these industries, for better wages, human conditions of work or for democratic trade union rights against victimisation, these units will rush in and take charge. They are to have both the technical skill and military weapons.

What is planned is thus a pincer attack on workers' struggles. While these military units run the industries, the police will have enough time to use Section 144, arrests, lathi-charges and shooting to crush the workers' struggle.

Shades Of Benthall And Conran Smith

While Benthall and Conran Smith, the White bosses of the Railway and Postal Departments, were preparing to break the strike by planning 'skeleton' services with military aid, Congress leaders expressed sympathy with the conditions of life of the workers and said that the basic economic causes of the strikes should be tackled.

When the new National Government was formed everyone expected that it would rush through measures of special le-

★ Wavell-Jinnah Talks Drag On ★ Imperialist Move Behind The Scenes ★ Dilemma Before The Congress

The Wavell-Jinnah talks which are dragging on at New Delhi and the moves behind the curtain that seem to be taking place in that connection, once again throw a lurid light on the vicious logic of the Cabinet Mission Plan.

THE double-dealing diplomacy which the imperialists employed in the initial stages, in their efforts to get the Plan accepted by both the parties, is not ended, but is being continued in the present talks. Congressmen seem to think that their leaders have played their cards very well; that they have outwitted both the imperialist statesmen and the League leader and have obtained a settlement on the basis of the Mission's Plan, through which the Indian people would be able to achieve their main objective, viz. Independence and a United India.

This optimism is based on the illusion that freedom can be got by adroit constitutional moves and by skilled legalist interpretation of the paras of that document of May 16!

Vicious Logic Of Imperialist Plan

We have again and again emphasised that the machinery of constitution-making, prescribed in this remarkable document, moves only in one direction, if it moves at all. And it moves only when certain compromises and restrictions are accepted, and then it moves to produce, not a constitution of Indian freedom, but one of British domination, based on virtual partition and permanent Hindu-Muslim conflict and the perpetuation of Princely autocracy.

Congressmen must realise that when their leaders accepted the so-called long-term Plan "in its entirety" they also accepted this vicious logic of its working. The temporary strategic advantage which the Congress leaders have got in the Interim Government, has not ended it.

In fact, the vicious logic of the Plan is working itself out in the ghastly harvest of country-wide communal riots that have come in the wake of the League's non-cooperation and threat of "direct action." It is working itself out in the imperialist move behind the Wavell-Jinnah talks.

The imperialists deliberately made certain concessions to the Congress in order to draw it into the Interim Government, concessions which they did not offer to the League when it had accepted both the long and short-term plans while the Congress had not yet accepted either.

The imperialists are faced with a mounting revolutionary popular upsurge which is shaking the whole country. They could hope to crush or split it only by drawing the Congress leaders into the Central Government. A government manned by the Muslim League alone could obviously not serve the purpose.

London Times On 'India's Hope'

But having drawn the Congress leaders into the trap, the imperialists are now proceeding to bring pressure upon it to make concessions to the demands of the League and the Princes so that the machinery for producing the 'Slave Constitution' gets ready to work. This alone is the meaning of the moves behind the talks initiated by the Wavell-Jinnah negotiations.

This move was clearly foreshadowed in the London Times (23-9-46) in a prominently displayed despatch from its Delhi Correspondent.

The London Times correctly reflects British imperialist policy vis-a-vis India which is today being carried out by the Labour Government. In this despatch it sums up the 'outlook in India' in the following words:

"The measure of agreement which the Cabinet Mission brought about has already been dissipated by extreme attitudes and extravagant claims. India's hope today is that office will sober the Congress and make it realize the need for compromise and equally that the Muslim League, seeing the consequences

with the Princes on this point also.

The despatch clearly suggests that unless the Congress is prepared to make these compromises with the Muslim League and the Princes, "the great obstacles in the way of constitutional reforms will not be overcome" and "the Constituent Assembly cannot hope to get far". It is clearly a veiled threat.

Triangular Pressure Politics

We have every reason to believe that this is the line which the Viceroy is pursuing in his talks with Mr. Jinnah on the one hand, and with Pandit Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi, on the other.

What is going on behind the

by G. Adhikari

of fanaticism in Calcutta and Bombay, will come to its senses and decide to cooperate for common good."

What is the nature of "compromise" which this arrogant advocate of imperialism prescribes for 'India's hope' and "common good"?

The points of "compromise" skillfully suggested in this interesting despatch shed a flood of light on the imperialist moves taking place in New Delhi in connection with these talks.

'Compromise For Common Good'

These points are as follows:

● The despatch says that Muslim League should join the Interim Government by accepting the five seats offered to it. It should not raise the question of Hindu-Muslim parity which the despatch labels as untenable. The League's objection to the inclusion of a Nationalist Muslim in the Congress quota is "on irrational grounds."

But the Congress should "waive its right to nominate a Muslim without derogating from its claim to represent all communities".... "in the wider interest of National Unity."

● The position taken by the Congress regarding Groups, as defined by Pandit Nehru in his broadcast of September 8, is strictly speaking correct in terms of the document of May 16. The Congress has agreed "to fit in Sections which will consider the question of formation of Groups."

But it rightly claims, as Pandit Nehru pointed out in a later statement, that the Provinces must be autonomous and must not be forced into Groups against the declared will of their elected representatives.

The League, on the other hand, demands that the groupings of Muslim majority Provinces must be compulsory and is "not prepared to reverse its decision to boycott the Constituent Assembly unless and until Congress accepts the grouping principle as compulsory."

The despatch blatantly suggests that the Congress should compromise on this point by accepting the League view.

● Thirdly, the Congress correctly demands the surrender of sovereignty by the States to the proposed Indian Union. But the Princes, intent on keeping up their autocratic regimes and denying democracy to the people, are not prepared to surrender their sovereignty to the Indian Union.

The despatch suggests that the Congress should compromise

scenes of the talks is triangular pressure politics in which the Viceroy is trying to achieve a compromise most suited to put into operation the Imperialist Plan in the manner it was designed by its shrewd authors.

The Muslim League is not prepared to come into the Interim Government or the Constituent Assembly until its demands are conceded. The Dawn, premier League daily, demands "a tripartite alliance" between the Congress, the League and the British, if "widespread bloodshed and continued unrest is to be avoided."

In other words, the League wants the Viceroy to force the Congress to accept its arbitrary demands and bring about the alliance by force, if it wants to save the Imperialist Plan and avert a civil war.

The Muslim League hopes that its intransigence and threat of civil war will ultimately force the British to bring pressure on the Congress to save its own Plan.

The Viceroy it is clear, is holding out the threat that in case there is no settlement between the Congress and the League, the Constituent Assembly would not be able to meet, and if it does meet, it would not be able to go very far, as the London Times has indicated.

In this connection the inspired moves of the Princes are significant.

On the one hand, the Nawab of Bhopal is taking a hand in these talks and is reported to have met both the Congress and League leaders. On the other hand, there was a statement from Sir Sultan Ahmed—a member of the States Negotiating Committee—that the Princes would not come into the Constituent Assembly until the League came in.

This statement was later denied on behalf of the Chamber of Princes, but in such a way as only to confirm it in essence.

The Deadly Dilemma

The dilemma with which the imperialists are facing the Congress in power is this: Accept the undemocratic demands of the Muslim League leadership and of the Princes or in the alternative face communal riots on the one hand and the perspective of the Constituent Assembly not meeting or not going ahead at all, on the other.

Congressmen must realise that the victory their leaders appear to have won by joining the Interim Government is a bogus one. No constitutional jugglery within the four corners of the Imperialist Plan would enable them to win independ-

IN THE NAME OF AMALNER AND GOLDEN ROCK MARTYRS

THE strike on the S.I.R. is over. The workers have returned to work in obedience to the call of the Union which withdrew the strike relying on the assurance of the Hon. Mr. Asaf Ali that all legitimate grievances would be looked into.

But the police repression continues as before and Premier Prakasam seems to have given a licence to the bureaucracy to crush the workers. The police continue to arrest Union workers and leaders even after the withdrawal of the strike?

They are launching prosecutions against employed workers and Union officials, like K. T. Raju, Secretary of the Erode Branch, under Section 107—for having no ostensible means of livelihood. False and trumped-up charges are brought against the workers in this game of intimidation and terrorisation practised by the police.

During the course of the strike, nearly 1,500 workers were arrested. Two hundred and seventy-three were arrested from Golden Rock alone.

They include leaders of the Union like Nambiar, Ismail and others. They include P. Ramamurthy and B. Srinivas Rao—leaders of the Tamilnad Committee of the Communist Party and well-known working-class and kisan leaders. They include innumerable textile and other workers whose only crime was that they demonstrated their solidarity with the S.I.R. workers.

No Check To Repression

Mr. Prakasam has not yet withdrawn the cases against any of these leaders and workers. Prominent leaders like P. Ramamurthy and Nambiar, who is a member of the Madras Legislative Assembly, are not even granted bail.

The bureaucracy naturally wants to go ahead with the prosecutions, jail all important trade unionists and intimidate and crush the trade union movement of the Province. That is why under one pretext or another it has put under arrest prominent trade union leaders and workers who were not directly connected with the S.I.R. strike.

While the workers are thus persecuted and intimidated, the real perpetrators of the crime—the police officials—are allowed to go scot-free. Sjt. Prakasam refused to have an inquiry into the misdeeds and brutalities committed by them, and gave them every encouragement to go on with their excesses.

They fully exploited the opportunity and did not miss a single opportunity of assault and terrorisation and, if reports are to be believed, even of stealing of property.

In Golden Rock the police officials assaulted the mother of the General Secretary of the Union, Nambiar, and fractured her arm. They entered Nambiar's house and tore every piece of cloth including the clothes of his wife, mother and infant child.

When they found that the people were indignant over the arrest of Ismail, they brought him back from the police station, to the Union Office, tied him to the flagpost and beat him.

They smashed the press, the Union Office and beat everyone they could lay their hands on; they smashed the Union car, bike and cycles.

On the wayside stations they would visit workers' quarters and beat the menial staff to compel them to go back to work. Several hundred gang-men had to leave their villages to escape the police zoom.

In Vikramasingapuram, where the textile workers struck for a day in sympathy with the S.I.R. strikers, the police arrested scores of workers and once again smashed the Union office.

Yet the officials who assault women and contemptuously beat Indian workers are blessed by Prakasam while their victims are prosecuted in the name of 'law and order'. The European D.S.P. Harrison, who should have been indicted for murder is defended by Prakasam, the Congress Premier.

The same tale comes from Amalner from the Province of Bombay where again the Congress Ministry defends the European D.S.P. who killed nine workers. He is further allowed to launch prosecutions against the Union leaders and charge them along with two women leaders with conspiracy to murder the D.S.P.!

Where Are The Ministries Going?

Can there be a bigger caricature of democracy, freedom and swarajya? Can there be anything more dishonourable and treacherous than this open justification of wanton repression against the very Indian people who returned the Congress to power.

The questions has to be answered not only by the Ministers, not only by the Congress M.L.A.s, but by every Congressman and by the people as a whole. Where are the Ministries going—whom are they justifying, whose interests are they defending?

Up till now, it is the bureaucracy that has scored and fooled the Ministers into justifying the most indefensible acts of tyranny which even past bureaucratic regimes would have shuddered to defend. Till now it is the bureaucracy that has used the Congress Ministers for its nefarious game of hunting down the rising forces of the working-class.

To keep silent before this tale of dishonour is to be a coward. When the name of the Congress is exploited to suppress a whole movement, it is sheer cowardice not to protest against it and fight it.

We appeal to all Congressmen to protest in time and save the honour of the Congress before it is too late.

We appeal to them to protest against the present policy and demand with one voice the withdrawal of prosecutions against the S.I.R. and Amalner workers—and an impartial inquiry into the misdeeds of the officials.

We appeal to them to join their voice with us in demanding punishment for these officials who dared to shoot down innocent people under a popular regime.

We ask all trade unions and kisan sabhas to rally for the defence of S.I.R. and Amalner workers and demand the release of all those arrested and punishment of the officials who fired on the workers. We ask them to carry on a ceaseless campaign and send resolutions and deputations to the Congress Ministers. We ask them to collect as much relief as possible for victims of police repression and demonstrate their solidarity with them.

Let the trade union and workers rouse the people in their locality and teach the bureaucrats that the people can still strike back; that they still have power to bring to book those who shed innocent blood.

ence for the country, complete freedom and democracy for the States peoples, and to avert the danger of virtual partition of the country into Hindu and Muslim Groups, which is implicit in the Plan.

Independence and Indian unity and democracy cannot be wrung out of this Plan just as oil cannot be squeezed out of sand.

The path to Indian freedom and Indian unity lies straight through a complete break with the Imperialist Plan and League leaders are posing before our country.

struggle of all Indians against it. Congressmen must make a bold bid to win the Muslim masses who follow the League by writing on their banner of struggle the slogan of all power to a real Constituent Assembly, elected by adult suffrage and based on self-determination of every linguistic national unit.

There is no other way out of the grim dilemma which imperialism and the compromising policies of the Congress and League leaders are posing before our country.

RAJEN BABU REVEALS GRIM FAMINE -- BUT DITTOES WAVELL-SRIVASTAVA

- Secure Imports By Exposing American Profiteer-Blackmail
- Mobilise Indian Resources By Relentless War On Hoarders

The Interim Government has inherited a severe food crisis, brought into being by the criminal and studied policy of British imperialism and its agents in India. On the day it took office, the overall stocks held by the deficit Provinces and States were enough for only just six weeks' consumption.

Year	Consumption (in lakh tons)
Pre-war 1943-44	180
1944-45	150
Current period.	105

ONE of the major tasks which Pandit Nehru outlined for his Government in his inaugural broadcast was that of stemming the imperialist-created famine, saving Indian lives.

The Indian people, therefore, listened carefully and eagerly to every single word uttered by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Minister for Food and Agriculture, in his recent broadcast on his food policy. On what he said, on the new measures, which it was expected he would indicate, depended the fate of lakhs of Indians.

What did Rajen Babu tell us? He described the situation as "grave within the next two or three months", and went on to discuss how the calamity of famine could be fought—through foreign imports, increased production and equitable distribution.

On each of these subjects, did Rajen Babu's policy strike a sharply different note from the Wavell-Srivastava gang of famine-makers, a note which would give the people confidence that the old criminal policy of imperialism and its I.C.S. bureaucrats was at an end?

Food Imports

Let us start with the question of imports. On February 16, Lord Wavell in a broadcast declared:

"World shortage is a reality. We are by no means the only country threatened with famine, and there is a limit to the amount of help that will be forthcoming."

This lame apology for the Machavellian American policy of denying food to India was made throughout by the previous toady Government of India. We have looked forward to having a Government strong and popular enough to see through the hoax and tell the United States Government point blank:

"Give us food; you have enough to spare for us. Stop your prevarication and delay."

Inevitable?

What has Rajen Babu to say about imports? He reveals the startling fact that we have received up to date only 12½ lakh tons against our demand of 40 lakh tons. Why? Because in this field we had to meet a "series of disappointments", and after all this is "inevitable in a world desperately short of food."

Rajen Babu speaks on the basis of facts supplied to him by the same Secretariat which is responsible for the deaths of the lakhs of Bengal. And because he does so, he echoes the Wavell broadcast quoted above, and provides an excuse for those in the United States who are holding back food from India, for their material and political profit.

Indian starvation is NOT inevitable. The failure of the United States Government to make good the promises forced out of it is NOT "INEVITABLE."

Facts

We would like the Interim Government to examine these facts hidden behind the files and red tape at New Delhi—and call in the guilty men of Big Business in the food surplus countries to account for them:

• 1,140 lakh tons of grain are fed to ANIMALS in the United States alone, out of which as much as 90 lakh tons are wheat. This is as much as 325 LAKH TONS MORE than the pre-war consumption, and the reason for this is, in the words of even as reactionary a journal as Fortune, organ of the Republicans in America:

"The Government officials continued their policy of ENCOURAGING farmers by price differentials to feed grain to livestock."

from the Wavell-Srivastava policy which was expected of him. This old policy only strengthens Anglo-American Big Business to resist giving food for India.

What is wanted is the complete smashing of that policy and its replacement by a really Indian policy which brings food to India—and double quick.

Equitable Distribution

Dr. Rajendra Prasad has rightly emphasised that "we have to depend mainly on ourselves to prevent a breakdown." But in what way?

The Wavell-Srivastava WAY was always very simple. Wavell in his broadcast of February 16 also said: "We have got to do our utmost to help ourselves." His way was: "Share our SURPLUS as equally as we can." He announced a ration-cut.

The imperialist bureaucratic machinery, nurturing the profiteer and blackmarketeer, could only offer an equal share in starvation, while simply making prettily-worded appeals to the food thieves not to hoard.

Pandit Nehru voiced the sentiments of the vast mass of Indians when on his release last year he declared, again and again that the profiteers must be hanged.

One expected from Rajen Babu also a stirring call for relentless war on the food hoarder and profiteer as the essential sine qua non of equitable distribution.

Instead we have the same old Wavell-Srivastava pious appeals to the traders and producers to "realise the seriousness of the situation and produce it (their stock) for being pooled for the common cause."

Black-Marketeers Ignored

As for the people, Rajen Babu asks them to grow more vegetables or roots and to bake food-grain on the hot sand and face the calamities with their special "knack", their "courage, discipline and fellow feeling." And finally, we are asked to be prepared "for a further reduction in the ration cereals."

Rajen Babu's speech does not take even a formal cognisance of the stark reality—the denuding grip of hoarders and black-marketeers on the entire food economy of the country. Not once does Rajen Babu refer to either hoarding or black-marketing. One would, perhaps, imagine from his speech that perhaps the hoarder has been eliminated from the food market.

Procurement Failure

The fact, however, is that the procurement policies of all the Provincial Ministries have utterly failed and this year too, the grain has passed into the hands of these vultures with their insatiable lust for profit.

• In Bengal, with a League Ministry in power, hardly one-tenth of the marketable surplus has been procured by the Government.

• The Congress-Coalition Government of the Punjab, a Province surplus to the extent of seven lakh tons, has directly helped the big landlords and dealers (who form the majority of the Punjab Legislative Assembly) to corner the entire grain by giving the latter an opportunity to buy up all the stocks and refusing to make an appeal to the former for voluntarily surrendering their stocks to the Government.

• In Bihar, the Congress Ministry through relying upon the old bureaucratic Paddy Levy Order, based on the trader-profiteers themselves, was able to secure only about three lakh maunds of paddy and rice till June 20.

• In Travancore, a deficit Indian State, only eight per cent of the marketable surplus has been purchased by the Government, even less than the 12 per cent in 1943.

• In the U.P., the Congress Ministry was able to secure only 3,20,000 tons, merely sixty-four per cent of its target.

In Hands Of Hoarders

The result has been that the entire grain stocks have gone over into the hands of the hoarders and the poor peasants have immediately been left to face starvation and destitution.

Mr. Senapati, Food Commissioner of Bihar, has openly admitted that the stocks have "found their way into the blackmarket through the operation of the unscrupulous merchants." (Indian Nation, June 30).

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer too confessed in May that stocks had gone into the blackmarket. Even in the Punjab, the Food Secretary admitted on July 13, that the blackmarket "had already come into existence."

In Bengal, according to Mr. P. C. Ghosh, ex-member of the Congress Working Committee, famine had started as early as July; the price of rice has been continually rising, in some places having reached a peak of Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 per maund.

These are the real facts of the internal food situation today. To ignore them, to think in terms merely of further ration-cuts and more sacrifices by the people is to continue the bankrupt policy of the imperialist toadies. It can only mean disaster, increasing control of stocks by the profiteers, more ration cuts leading to the wholesale starvation of our entire people.

The crux of "equitable dis-

(Continued on last column)

India's Food A Seamen?

M R. George Merrel is the United States Seaman's Union leader. He talks big about his sympathy and has made a number of important statements.

It is Merrel's task also to explain to the seamen the reasons for the United States' policy to play up the old, old story of so many that it is very difficult to

But the recent seamen's strike in tolerable conditions, gave Merrel a

"Two lakh and twenty-five thousand tons of rice for the India"—Merrel and his bosses in the United States. "But the seamen's strike re-

It is a pity that both Pandit Nehru and Mr. Merrel believe Mr. Merrel's lies and blame the Indian famine.

Two lakh and twenty-four thousand tons of rice especially when we remember

• In the first five months of the year, the United States exported 33,35,000 tons of rice to India. The allotments for June, July and August are 10,000, 10,000 and 10,000 tons respectively.

It certainly requires more than a talk of this sudden bountiful gift of rice to explain the famine.

All these months—with no relief in sight—our attention from its own policy of American Big Business (the Paddy Levy Order) on the American worker's fight.

His hopes are in vain. The Indian people know that the United States workers and citizens—who are too busy to compel their Government to stop the Paddy Levy Order, Hoovers and the Trumans—who are

by Prem Sagar Gupta

• Argentina still prefers to use wheat as fuel instead of food. During the last four years 20 lakh tons of wheat and maize were burnt in this way.

• Argentina is holding up an agreement with the Chamamel Delegation, although India agreed to pay them FIVE TIMES the pre-war price for maize.

• The Siam Government has NOT sent a single grain of rice, despite the five crore loan, which the British made us give them, and the supply of trucks, etc.

• Seven lakh tons of paddy are ready waiting for us in Indonesia, but there are no trucks which British and Dutch imperialism can send them to enable them to bring food to the ports for India.

• Under the leadership of Ex-President Hoover, American reaction is making use of its food surplus to bolster up puppet reactionary regimes wherever it can, and starve countries with popular anti-imperialist governments: The straight terms of Hoover-America are: Become the camp-followers of American imperialism and you can have food; refuse to do so and you can starve, "the world is desperately short of food."

• Japan (America's new colony) is being fed fat, and Greece (with its American-British propped Government) is kept well stocked. Yugoslavia and the other peoples' States of Eastern Europe are starved.

Indeed, as the statement made in the United States by the Food for Freedom Committee headed by Mrs. Dwight Morrow, says:

"While public opinion polls reflect widespread popular support for all-out aid to the hungry, these influential blocs have been throwing their weight the other way.... So both political and profit motives have imperilled the programme. These are mingled with international complications."

Intensive food drives are being organised all over the world for India. On September 23, at a meeting in Australia, a sum of Rs. 2,500 was collected as help for the Indian famine stricken, and a Committee set-up to launch a campaign to send food to India.

In Britain and the United States also, of course, Gallup polls have shown that the common man places food for India as priority number one.

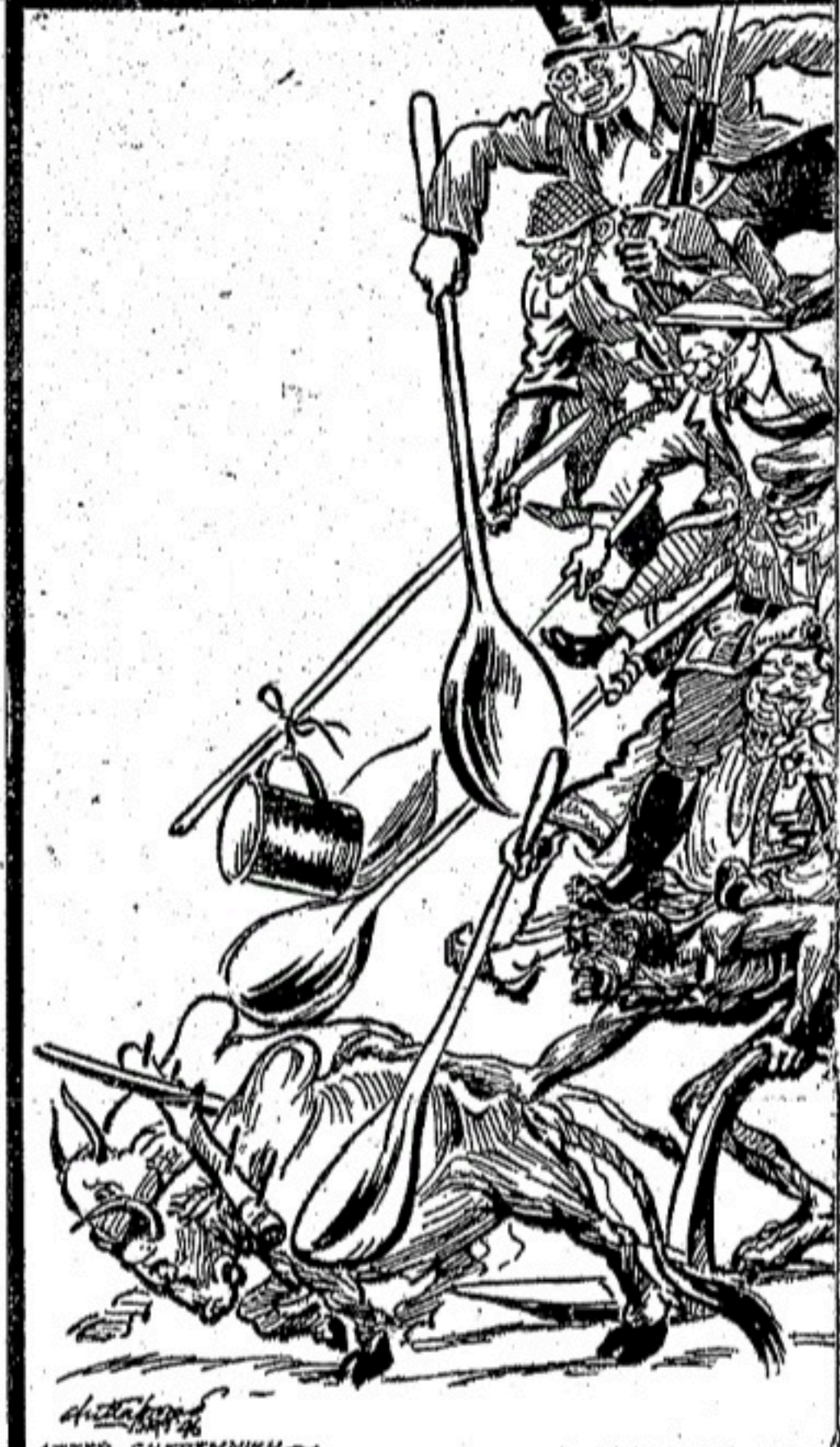
Choice Before Us

And yet the food is NOT coming. The choice before us is:

EITHER we acquiesce in this deliberate planned murder of our people by keeping mum and echoing the excuse of the "world food shortage,"

OR our representatives expose before the world the profiteering and the political blackmail of the imperialist Governments and their satellites and thus draw in for our cause worldwide support with which to wring out supplies for our famine stricken.

From Rajen Babu's broadcast, he seems to have chosen the first path and not to have made the bold and striking departure



India's kisans

THREAT BIHAR KISANS IN REVOLT

LINE 4,000 Acres Of Stolen Land Won Back

ers

And American s Strike

ed States' representative in India, why with the Indian national cause important Indian contacts in New Delhi.

to the Indian leaders, why India United States. Normally he is con- the demands on the U.S.A. being feed every one.

the United States, provoked by in- new opportunity to bluff the Indian

and- ons were ready waiting for America put out the story simultane- sulted in their not being delivered."

ru and Dr. Rajendra Prasad should the American strikers for contri-

sand tons, says Mr. Merrel? Sur- ver the United States' past record.

year, out of a total American ship- ved only 99,000 tons or 2½ per cent d August were as low as 85,000, ty.

pinch of salt to swallow Mr. Merrel's 2,24,000 tons. Of course, it would strike on!

seamen's strike—the United States ments. Today it strives to divert ical and profiteering policy to the make India forget the real criminals covers and the Trumans) and pounce g for a living wage.

is the common people of America— ay campaigning up and down the to send food to India while it is the denying food to India.

All over Bihar and in particular in Monghyr, Gaya and Shahabad, the kisans are in revolt, claiming back their ancestral lands, wrongfully plundered from them by looter landlords. There are twenty lakh acres of such stolen land in Bihar. The kisans, the rightful owners, continue to occupy and till the land but on a contract or crop-sharing basis.

The Tenancy Law provides for the return of such stolen land (known as *Bakasht*) to the kisan, provided he can prove continued occupancy. But of course, in practice, this seldom happens, for the landlords make certain of the destruction of all documentary evidence proving such occupancy.

DURING the last three months, Bihar's kisans have started reasserting their rights to the *Bakasht* land. In this short period, they have won back over four thousand acres of *Bakasht*.

Bihar's landlords led by the Maharaja of Darbhanga and Sir C. P. N. Singh, are up in arms against all proposals to abolish *zemindari*, and are making plans to perpetuate their exploitation. To back up all measures to abolish *zemindari*, the kisans have launched a counter-offensive against the intrigues of the landlords.

MONGHYR IN THE LEAD

IN South Monghyr (the constituency which Premier Sri Krishna Sinha represents) *Bakasht* actions were fought in the three villages of Mahirat, Jangalbigha and Deura—and the kisans won back their rightful claim to 150 bighas of land.

But the Premier ordered that all land, which was being tilled by the landlords themselves should be returned to them. And, of course, with the aid of forged documents, the landlords were able to get back 65 bighas

by
Indradip Sinha

of the land they had plundered.

Elephant And All

In village Baruna, the kisans fought under the leadership of the Communist kisan workers Ramdhari and Prakash Anand-puri. Here they planted the Red flag on 80 bighas of *Bakasht* land. The landlord collected a host of goonda toughs and sent the village patwari with them to take possession of the land.

But the whole gang took to their heels as soon as they saw the kisans marching towards them. The patwari was forced to hide in a 'khatoli' (improvised palanquin) in which he could be carried home.

The kisans sowed their paddy.

The next day the landlord's manager came to "investigate", riding on an elephant. He caught a glimpse of the Red flag and saw that his "tenants" meant business. He scampered off—elephant and all!

"The Land Is Ours"

In village Bhadauli when the local landlord found that all his

terrorism would not make the kisans give up their land, he struck on a new device. One of his toughs was made to "disappear" and the ever-obliging police arrested all the leading kisans of the village in connection with his "disappearance."

Quickly the landlord sent his men to the fields to till the land in the absence of the kisans in jail. The wretch miscalculated. His toughs were met by a resolute band of all the village women and the few men who had not been arrested and were literally chased away.

"The land is OURS—WE shall till it," said the kisans and began to sow maize in the fields.

On August 25, when the crop was ready the landlord sent a force of lathials to harvest it. But the kisans had their own plan. Five hundred of them gathered with Red flags. From the neighbouring villages, a steady stream of reinforcements rushed in. The women tied their saris in martial style, ready for the fight, should it come.

The harvesting began. In three hours the whole harvest, standing on 20 bighas of land had been gathered in, and stocked safely in the kisans' homes.

The landlords' goondas did not dare to come near the field.

GAYA'S LANDLORD MURDERERS

IN Gaya, the kisan upsurge is a direct outcome of the terrible repression launched by the landlords.

Rashtravani (Patna Congress daily) in its issue of July 4 reported that in Majra (Aurangabad Sub-division) armed goondas employed by the landlords attacked and injured severely a dozen kisans.

In village Amavan (Thana Rajauli) the landlord's goondas attacked and killed one kisan and severely wounded 25 others.

In village Kuryihar (Thana Wazirganj) the leading kisan, Brijeshwar Singh was murdered near the landlord's kitchen.

Women's Lal Fauj

Fighting back for their very existence the kisans have recovered two thousand bighas of *Bakasht* in five thanas of the district.

The biggest struggle that has so far been fought is in village Sindhari (Newada Sub-division). The struggle here was led by the well-known Congress kisan leader Pandit Yadunandan Sharma. There are about 60 families in this village, and together united they won back 300 to 350 bighas of *Bakasht* land.

The young girls of the village formed a Lal Fauj (Red Volunteer Corps) of their own. They donned red shirts and shorts and began daily military exercise. Bhumihar women broke through their purdah and came out in the open for the battle.

Sindhari was really in revolt. The *Bakasht* was back with its rightful owners.

Vacillating Leaders

Unfortunately, however, some of the leaders of these militant kisans hesitated and delayed. Pandit Yadunandan Sharma himself was afraid of disciplinary action by the Congress and was constantly wavering. When he was accused by the Provincial Congress Committee of starting the whole "trouble," he categorically denied having a hand in the whole affair.

And thus when the struggle was at its highest pitch Swami Sahajanand Saraswati, the Congress kisan leader, sent a petition to the Deputy Commissioner to intervene. The Deputy Commissioner was accepted as arbitrator, the struggle called off.

Of course, the bureaucrat's award was heavily weighted in favour of the landlords. The kisans rejected it outright and got ready for a new round of struggle—this time without any leaders who may get cold feet.

SHAHABAD'S BATTLE FOR BAKASHT

IN Shahabad, the battle for *Bakasht* started in the Bhabua Sub-division, Tamarhi, Anarhi, Baghani, Kirkalla, Mahuar and half a dozen other villages were the storm centres.

The landlords reinforced their private armies with lathials hired from the neighbouring districts of Mirzapur and Ballia.

On July 11, Musafir Singh, a veteran kisan worker of village Baghani, was murdered.

On the same day, Ram Surat Singh, landlord of Tamarhi, along with a gang of his criminal associates armed with guns, spears and lathis, attacked a group of kisans while they were tilling their fields. A kisan named Shivanath Pasi was shot dead, and several others were seriously injured.

When the police came, the landlord and his gang disappeared. The police arrested a few of the landlord's men and at the same time several kisans.

Indignant at the murders and the arrests, the kisans all over the Bhabua Sub-division and in the neighbouring Sub-division of Buxer rose in protest.

"Socialist Experiment"

In one village, Rajapur, the kisans and landless labourers divided the land in the village equally among themselves, till the police nipped in the bud what the Amrita Bazar Patrika called this "socialist experiment."

Bakasht land was occupied all over the area. But unfortunately here too the leadership let down the kisans.

The movement in Shahabad was being guided by the Radical Democrats and they were so overwhelmed by the sweep and power of the struggle that they were very soon in a panic and accepted the White Collector as an arbitrator. The Sahib's award was, as expected, a complete negation of the kisans' rights for it stipulated that the kisans could take *Bakasht* land only on payment of *nazarana* to the landlord!

Shahabad's kisans are now organising afresh for new battles to win back their right to the stolen *Bakasht* land.

RAJEN BABU'S FOOD POLICY

(Continued from col. 4.)

tribution" is to, paralyse the profiteers and secure popular control over food stocks.

Rajen Babu has had little time to study the full facts of the situation. He must categorically reject the old and stinking Secretariat-cooked theories which will be served out to him. Unless he does so, he will more and more echo the bankrupt, famine-breeding policy of the past.

The Indian people must rally to demand a complete break with the Srivastava policy—both with the cringing attitude in regard to our demand for imports and with the weak-kneed acquiescence in internal hoarding and profiteering.

Without such a decisive break, we are marching straight towards the famine the Srivastava regime left behind as its legacy to the Interim Government.



throw their oppressors, one and all, off their backs.

N. M. JOSHI OPPOSES BOMBAY INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL

'Will Weaken Trade Union Organisation Permanently'

(We publish below extracts from a statement issued by Sjt. N. M. Joshi, General Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress, on the Industrial Relations Bill of the Government of Bombay).

THE prevailing unrest among the industrial workers and also among other wage-earning classes has naturally attracted the attention of the Government, the employers and the public.

To remedy the unrest, we must go to the root cause. The wages must be immediately increased not only to restore the pre-war standard of life but to raise it considerably. The end of war has raised hopes of a better world. Not only adequate but better housing must be provided, measures for social security must be taken protecting the workers against sickness, unemployment and unprovided for old age.

Cart Before The Horse

The adoption of these measures should have first priority. The proposal of the Bombay Government first to take in hand the passing of legislation creating machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes is putting the cart before the horse.

This machinery will not give the workers what the workers want urgently....

The Bombay Government seem to consider that compulsory arbitration accompanied by provision for making strikes illegal is a fair measure for maintaining peace.

Ordinarily if really impartial arbitration can be secured, it has its limited use.

But in the first place, under the present circumstances really impartial arbitrators are not available. It is not the result of the individuals who are appointed arbitrators

DANGE'S HISTORIC SPEECH

The Bombay Government's Industrial Relations Bill is still being discussed in the Legislative Assembly at Poona. S. A. Dange, Communist Labour M.L.A., made what was recognised generally even by the Bombay nationalist Press, as a historic speech, smashing to smithereens the anti-working-class provisions of the proposed legislation. Dange spoke for six and a quarter hours. We shall be giving next week a detailed report of his magnificent speech.

but the class bias of the individuals who are generally appointed arbitrators is so deep rooted though unconscious that even Sydney Webb categorically declared himself against the system as being incapable of providing fair and just awards.

Not Free From Class Bias

Moreover, the Governments which are ultimately to appoint the arbitrators are not workers' Governments and are not, therefore, themselves free from class bias.

Secondly, the use of the machinery of arbitration is limited in usefulness as the arbitrators have to give their awards within the limitations of the capitalist system.

In Ahmedabad where the system has been voluntarily adopted by the Mazdoor Mahajan (Textile Labour Association), real wages have not only not gone up but they

have deteriorated since the war.

Under the present circumstances, therefore, the Indian workers cannot be expected to accept a system of compulsory arbitration involving provision to make strikes illegal.

Even the provisions of the existing Bombay Industrial Disputes Act of 1938 are not acceptable to the workers, as it postpones strikes for a long period by making them illegal during the period of conciliation.

Tantamount To Slavery

The Bombay Government, and along with them many others, think that there is nothing wrong in making strikes without notice illegal, hardly realising that what is a civil wrong in law is thereby treated as a criminal offence and workers are made to work against their wishes during that period. This compulsion is not different from slavery.

The workers accept the contractual obligation of giving notice before leaving work. But they cannot accept that breach of contract of notice can be a criminal offence which in effect makes the breach of contract of service itself an offence.

This system is an indenture system and is recognised as a form of slavery. Workers, therefore, are against such legislation.

The Bombay Government claims that their proposals for classifying unions as 'Representative', 'Qualified', 'Primary', and 'Approved' are likely to facilitate trade union organisation—presumably on proper lines. One of the weaknesses of the present trade union organisations in India is that they are based upon small local areas.

The strength of a trade union depends upon the wideness of the area it covers. A nationwide industrial union is the ideal. The present proposals of the Bombay Government will encourage its present defective structure in spite of its proposal permitting registration of unions covering more than one local area.

Varying privileges conferred upon the 'Representative', 'Qualified', 'Primary', and 'Approved' unions will militate against their future amalgamations or even against their forming well-knit federations.

This defect of the Bill will weaken the trade union organisation in the country permanently.

The three main features of the Bombay Government's new legislation, viz., (1) making strikes illegal, (2) compulsory arbitration and (3) recognition of four varying grades of unions, make it unacceptable, at least, highly controversial.

Under these circumstances, it is difficult to understand the hurry in which the Bombay Government proposes to pass it.

Let Workers Decide

Let the Bill be at least circulated widely amongst the workers in the vernaculars of the Province; let the workers read, think over and come to deliberate and cool judgment on it and express it fully, before the Bombay Legislature is asked to pass it.

It is unpleasant but necessary to point out that a very small proportion of the workers affected by the legislation has a vote in the election for the Legislature and that the elections were held more on the political programme than on the economic proposals of the Government.

The least, therefore, the Government can do is to give the persons affected an opportunity and time to consider these proposals and express their considered judgment on them.

COMMUNIST--LED DUTCH WORKERS DEMAND FREEDOM FOR INDONESIA

By Cable from Ramesh Sanghvi London, Sept. 28.

Widespread workers' strikes have broken out in Holland against the Government's decision to send further troops to Indonesia.

THIS is the culmination of the four months' all-out campaign led by the Communist Party. In recent elections to the Amsterdam Council, it had won 30 per cent of the seats and is the biggest single party in the Council. It is the only Party in the country which has categorically demanded complete independence for the 70,000,000 people of Indonesia.

News Black-Out

There has been a complete news black-out about the Communist Party's campaign. But there is great sympathy among the Dutch people for the Indonesians. On August 17 Indonesian Independence Day was celebrated. Women from all parties from Friesland took part in demonstrations. The Government stopped soldiers from attending the celebrations and banned the Communist anti-recruitment rally.

There is, however, great popular opposition to the presence of Dutch troops in Indonesia. The Government's decision to despatch 1,500 more troops whipped the people into action in many places. Over 40 persons have been injured and 20 staged a spontaneous strike on

August 21. The Government attempted to disperse the demonstrators by firing upon them. One soldier was fatally wounded.

One-Day General Strike

The entire Dutch working-class led by the Communist Party replied by a one-day general strike on August 24. All the workers from factories, workshops, ship-yards and gas-works and electricity, transport and Municipal workers, came together in a mammoth demonstration, 10,000 strong.

The Government started ruthless repression. With naked swords the mounted police charged at the workers but failed to disperse them.

At a mass meeting the Communist M.P., GORTZAK, indicted the Government and demanded an immediate agreement with the Indonesian Republic.

Clashes between the people and the police have broken out in many places. Over 40 persons have been injured and 20 arrested.

BOMBAY TUC DEMANDS PUBLIC ENQUIRY INTO AMALNER FIRING

On September 27, Sjt. N. M. Joshi moved a resolution in the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Council (BPTUC) expressing grave concern at the firing on workers at Amalner, fighting for their legitimate demands. The resolution characterised the firing as unjustifiable and contrary to the declared policy of the Congress. It demanded an enquiry into the conduct of those responsible for the firing and decided to send the General Secretary of the BPTUC to Amalner to enquire into the whole affair.

Sjt. N. M. Joshi in the course of his speech said: "A Government which has to resort to firing on citizens stands self-condemned. The least it can do when there is firing is to be ready to force an impartial enquiry. The Congress has all along supported such a demand.

"When those in authority talk of 'dealing firmly' with the movement of the people, instead of dealing with their legitimate demands, I consider it direct encouragement to its officers to resort to methods of repression."

Kolhatkar supporting the resolution severely criticised the shameful defence of the firing put up in the Assembly by the Home Minister.

It was obvious that there was tremendous indignation at the Amalner firing in all sections of the House.

Strange Amendments

And it came as a shock to most, when Messrs. Khadilkar and G. G. Mehta (a member of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee) struck a different note and called for the deletion from the resolution both of the characterisation of the firing as unjustifiable and also of the reference to it being "against Congress policy."

It was strange that Messrs. Khadilkar and G. G. Mehta, who claimed to represent the Congress point of view, should be so keen to see that the resolution did not state that firing was against Congress policy!

This weak-kneed stand was severely criticised by other

members including Patkar, Sane, Dinkar Mehta, Zulmiram Choudhury, Manek Gandhi and Baijnath.

But both amendments were accepted by Sjt. N. M. Joshi after B. T. Ranadive had pointed out how essential it was to pass a unanimous resolution on so important a subject.

But despite these amendments the resolution remained strong and insistent on the question of a public enquiry and in its obvious condemnation of the Ministry in refusing to institute such an enquiry.

PEOPLE'S AGE

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GIRIDIH MINERS' STRIKE POSTPONED

Ry. Board's Dirty Strike-Breaking Tactics

The Giridih coal workers' strike, which was to have begun on September 24 (see last week's People's Age), has been postponed till after the Puja holidays.

THE coal workers had themselves postponed their strike from September 2 to September 24 to give the new Interim Government and the new Railway Member, Mr. Asaf Ali, time to consider their demands.

Mr. Asaf Ali's reply came in the form of vindictive repression and disruption launched by the officers of his Railway Board, who, it seems, felt they could resort to the dirtiest strike-breaking tactics without being called to question by the new head of the Railway Department.

Congressmen Side With Officials

What was worse was that in all strike-breaking activities, local Congressmen actually sided with the officials.

* Section 144 was promulgated in the colliery to prevent the Union from holding any meeting to prepare for the strike. The excuse was the communal tension in the town—three miles away from the collieries!

* Armed police was brought to the colliery area from Hazaribagh. They openly threatened they would fire on the workers.

* Goondas were employed and kept ready at different centres for any emergency.

* Two days before the strike was to begin, liquor was freely distributed among the backward sections of the workers to entice

them to break the strike.

* The authorities promised that they would issue two weeks' rations in advance on September 25, the day AFTER the strike was to begin.

No Press Would Print Union Handbills

* Local Congressmen brought pressure to bear upon the press-owners and made each one of them refuse to print the handbills of the Union.

* The Chief Mining Engineer of the Railway Board arrived at Giridih on the night of the 23rd to direct the strike-breaking activities personally.

Thus the Union could not bring out a single handbill nor could it hold any meeting before the strike was to begin. On the 24th—the strike day—peaceful picketing at the pit-heads was made impossible by the presence of large numbers of military and police.

Together with the police and the officers of the colliery, local Congressmen were busy inducing the workers to get into the pits.

Even then more than 50 per cent of the workers stayed out.

At a rally held in the afternoon, the workers decided to postpone the general strike till after the Puja and Dussehra holidays, when they will be better prepared to fight the ugly tactics which are being employed today—all in the name of the Interim Government.

Viet Nam's First Anniversary Of Independence

Impressive Celebration In Paris

Paris, September 13 (Delayed).

The Republic of Viet Nam recently celebrated the first anniversary of its foundation in Paris. In a huge hall in Etoile, under the French Tricolour and their five-pointed decorated Red flag, spoke men who have written a glorious chapter in the struggles of the enslaved peoples of the world.

POLITE, precise, gentle but uncompromising, Ho Chi Minh was there. By the side of this old and undisputed leader and President of the new Republic was M. Dong, the leader of the deputation that had come to Paris to settle the dispute between the French and the peoples of Viet Nam. Also present was the leader of the trade unions of the Republic.

Three thousand and odd Viet Nameses were there in gay clothes and with firm determination.

The French progressive opinion was well represented by members of the French Communist Party, the C.G.T. (the French TUC), the National Union of Women and the World Federation of Democratic Youth. The new democracies of the Balkans were also represented.

Algerians, Indians, Negroes, Chinese, French—all stood up together when the orchestra struck up the national anthem of the newest, the youngest and the most democratic Republic of the Far East. The

by
Ramesh Sanghvi

actionaries made common cause to crush the rising State of Viet Nam. The people took up arms against them. With arms they had won their liberty and with arms they were determined to guard it. The imperialists took the help of the defeated Japanese Fascists.

The country again became a battle-ground. Suffering great losses, the French managed to occupy the rich "rice-bowl" in the South, Cochinchina, but they could not proceed any further. They then decided to use their possession of Cochinchina to starve out the North.

Famine took its toll. But no price was high enough for liberty and the brave people of Viet Nam stuck out. The people of France came to know about the doings of their Government. The French Communists led the



President Ho Chi Minh

pointed a Provisional Government of Cochinchina, headed by the naturalised French citizen Dr. Thinh.

This man has strong links with the French Big Business that control the rice fields of Cochinchina. He himself owns some. He has been appointed as an "independent" man and the referendum is to be carried out under his authority. Of course, the doctor believes that Cochinchina must not unite with Viet Nam.

The Viet Nam Government protested. The people of Cochinchina declared a general strike. But nothing came of these protests. The President came to France on a goodwill mission with a delegation to settle the points of dispute. The talks ended in a partial agreement.

The French insisted on the continuation of the puppet rule of Dr. Thinh. The Viet Nam delegation refused to accept referendum under this administration.

The French Game

The French game is clear. The big trusts which control the French colonial Empire are anxious to turn Viet Nam into their colony again or at least make certain that the rich Cochinchina remains under their stranglehold.

They are associated with the M.R.P., and M. Bidault, their leader, is seeing to it that the interests of the most important section of his party do not suffer.

The Socialists are not taking any concrete line and in practice side with the M.R.P. Only the Communists have taken the definite stand of supporting the just claim of the people of Viet Nam.

The Government continues to marshal military forces in Cochinchina. Out of 120,000 men they have there, 16,000 belong to the French Foreign Legion, the hot-bed of all the crooks of all nations.

Once again the colonial bureaucracy is playing its old game of trying to torpedo the French Government's efforts at compromise forced on them by the Communist Ministers and French progressive opinion.

To the ever-calm and self-possessed members of the delegation, I put the question:

"What will you do in the event of a show-down of arms?"

They smiled and with immense self-confidence said:

"We will try all methods to avoid it. But if it comes the will and the strength of the people of Viet Nam will be able to defend their freedom from all enemies."

This is no empty boast. For, in the last six months that they have been in power they have seen what this can do. They



March past of the Viet Nam People's Army in Hanoi.

have fought back a ghastly facade of the Propaganda mine. Here is the full story of Committee's own paper went on this marvellous achievement as frank discussions on all the problems revealed to me by the Viet Nameses and the French.

The President was the leading spirit of the whole campaign and in response to his appeal thousands went to the villages to work with the peasants. With new songs written especially for the campaign the country celebrated their victory against famine, when the peasants started reaping the harvest. The target was reached. Production had increased threefold. A new life has come to the rural areas. The people have decided that they will never allow famine to ravage their land.

Yes, they have come to know that they can do it and the threats of the French imperialists cannot frighten them any longer. That was the cool confidence I saw reflected in the President, the members of the delegation and in all the Viet Nameses I talked to.

When the anniversary celebrations ended the President told me with a smile, "This is not an arm to remain idle. It is the spirit of Viet Nam. It is the will and the strength of the people."

His reply was drowned in the village, a net work of People's Committees sprang up. In the cratic Republic of the Far East."

All through the land the slogan rang out. Not an inch, told me with a smile, "This is not an arm to remain idle. It is the spirit of Viet Nam. It is the will and the strength of the people."

Under his guidance the people of Viet Nam adopted the modern weapon of mass struggle, first in 1925. The revolt was crushed, but the people rose again. Once again they were crushed. But the people were not dispirited, and Ho Chi Minh remained firm.

Today he is known as Ho Chi Minh. Under his guidance the people of Viet Nam adopted the modern weapon of mass struggle, first in 1925. The revolt was crushed, but the people rose again. Once again they were crushed. But the people were not dispirited, and Ho Chi Minh remained firm.

LAND OF UNCOMPROMISING STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

VIET Nam is the name of the land that comprises the coastal strip of the country called by the French their Empire of Indo-China. Popularly known as the Annamites the people resent the name as a badge of slavery. "Annam" was the name given to the country by the Chinese imperialists of the ancient days and it means "south pacified." Today they call themselves "Viet Nameses." The history of the people of Viet Nam is as old as that of our own and we have ancient cultural contacts with them. There is a story of continuous and uncompromising struggle against the enemies of freedom.

First came the marauding hordes of imperial China in the ancient days. For two thousand years they tried to break the spirit of the indomitable people. Then came the French towards the end of the 18th century.

After continuous fighting for the next hundred years they finally gained control over the whole of what is now known as Indo-China. Viet Nam was divided into three parts—Tonkin, Annam and Cochinchina. The last, the richest part of the country together with Laos and Cambodia, remained under a sort of feudal rule under the control of the French.

Period Of Oppression

Then followed a period of ruthless oppression. The people became impoverished. Their culture was destroyed. Opium and wine drugged them to inertia. A darkness seemed to have descended over the land.

But it was not for long. The flame of patriotism was kept alive by the sacrifice of countless men and women. The colonial rulers tried their hardest to extinguish it, but in spite of their butchery the freedom struggle went ahead.

The first mass revolt took place in 1890. The national movement had its birth in 1907 against the poll tax. When the first imperialist war broke out the people were already advanced in their political struggles.

They heard with interest the story of a great revolution that took place in a distant land, north of China, in Russia.

Among the Viet Nameses national leaders was a man who decided to

Against Fascism

Then came the Second World War. In 1940 France fell. The colonial bureaucracy of Viet Nam joined hands with the Japanese. In 1941 the war engulfed the whole world with the attack on the land of the Soviets. Ho Chi Minh came out of his thirty years of hiding and gave a clarion call to his people, to resist the Japs for the final struggle for liberation.

A new political organisation of the entire people came into being—the Viet Minh. This was the people's Anti-Fascist League, led by the Communist Party. The Viet Minh declared its policy:

"Against international Fascism and for the liberty of all nations the Viet Minh ranges itself on the side of the democratic forces in its struggle for survival."

Admiral Decoux, the French Fascist governor of Viet Nam, joined hands with Japanese to crush the resistance movement. But the Viet Nameses were undaunted. The people knew that they were fighting for their freedom and so they fought against the Japs and the Vichyites with courage and fortitude which can only come from the patriotism of the masses.

When the real story of this anti-Fascist war is written quite a few chapters will have to be reserved for the great part played by the scantily armed guerillas of the land of Viet Nam, who, because they took part in the great world-wide battle against Fascism, have today gained the strength to over-throw colonial rule and win their freedom.

The Legacy Of French Rule On Eve Of Collapse

Year	School students	Opium grown	Revenue From It	Prisoners
1939	408,777	57,592 kil.	\$11,453,554	14,350
1941	422,407	71,736 kil.	\$19,005,230	20,852

- Thus there was:
- * One school for every 3,245 students.
 - * One kil. of opium grown for 274 persons.
 - * 100 litres of rice wine for 45 persons.
 - * One prison for thousand persons.
 - * 85 per cent illiteracy.



Guerilla forces return to Hanoi after liberation

atmosphere breathed a new hope, a new life.

Not a word about this appeared in any French paper, except the Communist—L'Humanite.

The French had occupied the land of Viet Nam in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Then came the Japs in 1940. They had over-run the land and fought the Viet Nameses with the help of the local French but had failed to defeat them. Then they tried their last gamble.

In March 1945, they declared Viet Nam "independent" and handed the country over to a feudal monarch. The people treated this offer with the contempt it deserved and continued to prepare for armed insurrection.

Armed Revolt

On August 18, to the astonishment of the Japs, the entire people rose in armed revolt. The Fascists looked on impotently while the mighty upsurge of the people proclaimed the State of Viet Nam a Republic.

With great hopes in the new France, born after the liberation of Paris, the leaders of the new Republic thought in terms of a France-Viet Nam alliance. They requested the French Government to help them join the United Nations.

In response to this appeal of friendship and alliance De Gaulle sent British and Indian troops to Viet Nam. French troops under General Leclerc followed soon.

The French and British re-

campaign for the cessation of this murderous war. The French die-hards had no other way left and they agreed to bow down.

Accord Signed

After a six-month old struggle between the Viet Nam Republic and the soldiers of France, Britain and the Japs, an accord was signed on March 6, 1946.

There were three main clauses in the accord:

FIRST: The French recognised the new Republic as a free State with its own Parliament, own army and its own finances. The new State was to be part of the Federation of Indo-China and the French Union.

It was agreed that the main question about the unification of Viet Nam (whether French-occupied Cochinchina should be a part of Viet Nam or not) would be decided by a referendum.

SECOND: The hostilities must cease.

THIRD: A further conference must be called for the solution of the following points:

- * (a) The diplomatic relations of Viet Nam with other foreign powers.
- * (b) The future status of Indo-China.
- * (c) The cultural and economic interests of both the countries.

The French had no intention of keeping to its terms. By April more troops poured into the country and a campaign of vengeance started. But the real game was revealed later.

On June 1, the French ap-

TRAVANCORE DIWAN'S NEW WAVE OF REPRESSION

Move To Silence Opposition To His Bogus "American Constitution"

One hundred leaders of the Travancore people are in jail today.

Nearly sixty Trade Unionists from every working-class centre in the State, including R. Sugathen, Secretary of the All Travancore Trade Union Congress, were arrested in the first week of this month, following the biggest mass action the State has ever seen, a 70,000 strong general strike, on September 5, in sympathy with the S.I.R. strike.

All meetings connected with strikes are banned for three months. Military and police are posted in all working-class areas.

Travancore is in the midst of a new wave of repression.

HUGE demonstrations are being held all over Travancore against this repression demanding an immediate end to the Diwan's autocratic rule, the solution of the grim famine crisis and the establishment of full responsible government.

Behind The Terror

Behind all these events—behind the rapid sharpening of the conflict between the State and its people—stands the ogre-like figure of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer, ace-strategist of the Princes' world, Diwan of Travancore.

Sir C. P. is determined that he can and will give the lead to all other States in curbing the present mass upsurge for freedom among the States' peoples. He proposes to do this by introducing what he calls his "American Constitution". The only "American" thing about this is that it provides for an irremovable executive, with Sir C. P. as lord of all he surveys, for life! In two months' time the wizard Diwan plans to proclaim and launch his "American Constitution". For then will come the Maharaja's birthday—and that is the most "suitable occasion" to present the people with a finsel gift and pass it off for gold.

And so Sir C. P. is in a hurry—a desperate hurry. Somehow his "American Constitution" has not been welcomed, despite all his propoganda, by the people of the State. And Sir C. P. must get it accepted.

Two Views

But Sir C. P.'s path is not an easy one.

In the State Congress there are two distinct views: the one constituting the vast majority is totally opposed to the Diwan's Constitution and wants to launch a straight struggle; the other led by Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai, President of the State Congress, wants to join and work Sir C.P.'s hoax.

The All Travancore Trade Union Congress, the Travancore Communist Party, and the peasant organisations are leading an all-out campaign against the Diwan's Rule against its food policy which has brought famine to Travancore and for the immediate establishment of full responsible government.

Hunger Marches

Since July, hunger marches of peasants and citizens have roused the entire State and have shaken the very foundations of autocracy.

Trivandrum saw the biggest hunger march to the Secretariat, demanding that fixed rations should be supplied.

In July, 2,000 Travancoreans marched to the Tehsildar's office in Vykom and extracted promises of more regular and adequate food supply.

In the third week of August at Alleppey, a jatha of 2,000 women and children marched to the Tehsildar's office despite the ban on processions, and demanded food. They compelled the officer to come out and enforce immediate distribution of the stocks he was hoarding.

BOOKSHOP SEARCHED

Sir C. P.'s police searched the People's Book House (branch of the People's Publishing House) twice this week. They took away 245 copies of a Malayalam publication by E. M. S. Namboodiripad exposing the "United Kerala of the Cochin Maharaja."

Similar hunger marches are taking place all over Travancore.

70,000 On Strike

The working-class—led by the thousands of coir factory workers and organised in the All Travancore Trade Union Congress—has built up an irresistible unity.

Its latest action, when 70,000 workers in Alleppey, Quilon, Trivandrum, Kottayam, Punaloor, Vykom, Sherthally, Alwaye and other towns struck work, in sympathy with the S.I.R. strikers, terrified the Diwan.

He saw his dreams of the "American Constitution" beginning to be washed away by the titanic ocean of the popular upsurge.

Sir C. P. immediately began to quote and misquote Gandhiji and Pandit Nehru to persuade the public that "strikes are anti-national". He successfully persuaded Mr. Pattom Thanu Pillai, President of the State Congress (and consistent supporter of Sir C.P.'s American Constitution) to condemn all strikes as fomented by Communists.

Mr. and Mrs. Huthie Singh (Pandit Nehru's brother-in-law and sister) were coaxed by Sir C. P. into condemning the strike at a public meeting, but the hooting which greeted them showed that they failed to do Sir C.P.'s job for him.

Repression—Full-Scale

Sir C. P. knew of only one other weapon. He struck. He banned all meetings connected with strikes, thus illegalising in fact all trade union activity. He arrested militant trade unionists all over the State. The total in jail is now well over 100.

He threw his police and military on the streets to strike terror in the hearts of the workers.

Sir C. P. thinks he has cleared the way to go ahead with his "American Constitution" by beheading the fighting opposition to his plans to perpetuate autocracy in Travancore. Sir C. P. plans to continue his attacks, to arrest more and more militant workers, to take away, if necessary, more and more of even the meagre civil liberties which exist.

And on the top of a silenced corpse, he intends to hoist his "American Constitution" to the applause of the small minority of timid, compromising leaders of the State Congress.

Sir C. P. is building his castle in the air. Travancore is preparing for an all-out battle which will blow up not only the castle but Sir C. P. and the Princely autocracy with it.



JAM SAHAB OF NAWANAGAR

He is so trusted by the British to do their dirty work that in 1942 he was nominated a representative of India on the Imperial War Cabinet and the Pacific War Council. Now he is itching to establish a port in his State to serve his masters as he himself has expressed "in times of emergency, which God forbid, may not arise, but which he jolly well sees is very soon going to arise!"



NAWAB OF BHOPAL

One of the most "enlightened" watchdogs of the British Empire. Has served his masters consistently from the days of his boyhood even before he became the Nawab of the State.

During the war made his oppressed people contribute over a million and a quarter pounds in the "form of gifts and subscriptions" to the British coffers; Reaped £70,000 from them to rear up a Bhopal Squadron of fighters!

In 1945, 40 per cent of the State budget was marked off for the army.

Runs with the Congress, runs with the League—and hunts with the British all the time!



MAHARAJA OF PATIALA

"Farzand-i-Khas Daulat-i-Inglishia" (i.e., own son of the British Empire!), keeper of two Regiments of Cavalry, four battalions of Infantry and one battery of Horse Artillery for his British masters whom he serves through thick and thin.



SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI IYER

Was one time Secretary of the Indian National Congress (1917-18); is now one of the most shameless boot-lickers of the British.

In 1919 he began his career of service to the Crown when he was called to give evidence in London before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Reforms!

Since then he has been summoned to act as Britain's agent on almost every Commission to cheat the Indians. Was sent to the Round Table Conference; was made a member of the Federal Structure Committee of the R.T.C.; twice he was called to work in the Viceroy's Council for short duration.

GANGSTERS' GALLERY

Here is a picture gallery. These are eight out of the many men who constitute the States' Negotiating Committee. They are to decide the future of the States sitting side by side with the leaders of the Indian National Congress. Not one of them represents the people of the States. All of them have the worst possible records of fighting against the national movement and serving British imperialism.

In fact, if one were to try to choose a gang of the biggest enemies of Indian freedom, one would perhaps find it difficult to replace any of the gentlemen on this Committee.

Why have the British and their Princes dared to appoint such a Committee in the teeth of the opposition of the growing States peoples' movement?

Because, first they count on the leaders of the Indian National Congress, who have swallowed the British slave plan to accept this gang; and, secondly, only a gang as reactionary as this can do the job it is meant to do—keep the States permanently safe for the British.

It is up to the Indian people to call on the Interim Government to refuse to "negotiate" with this gang. Only the representatives of the States Peoples' movement should be recognised as entitled to speak for the States.



SIR RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR

He has served his masters in all posts and in all climes. When even his friend, Sir H.P. Mody, resigned from the Viceroy's Executive Council at the time of Gandhiji's fast, this man continued to carry out Linlithgow's and Maxwell's behests.

He was rewarded by being made a member of the Imperial War Cabinet and the Pacific War Council in 1942-43.

Later, in the recent past, he was sent to the San Francisco Conference. And now that the balance of imperial conspiracies has shifted to Princely India, he has been perched on his present post as the Dewan of Mysore State to carry on his dirty work.



SIR MIRZA ISMAIL

He has replaced the notorious Nawab of Chhatari as the Dewan of Hyderabad for completing his work of turning that "premier State" into the biggest prop of the British in a Free India.

Has been mouthing the slogans of his masters on behalf of the Princes since 1930, when he was picked up for the first Round Table Conference to represent the Princes.

So well did he acquit himself that he was sent to the Second and Third Round Table Conferences also, and in 1933 was made a member of the Joint Select Committee to frame the Constitution of slavery for India!



SIR SULTAN AHMED

He has a record of three decades of service to the British. First served the Provincial Governor of Bihar in various capacities, then promoted to serve the Governor-General. Acting Member, Executive Council in 1937, its Law Member in 1941, Member for Information and Broadcasting in 1943, now made the Chief Adviser to the Chamber of Princes!



SARDAR K. M. PANIKKAR

Prime Minister of Bikaner. One-time editor of Hindustan Times he is now the jailor and murderer of the Bikaner people and one of the evil geniuses of the States' politics. Another one of Governmental spies, parading as a patriot.

He too has been rewarded by his British masters with membership of several delegations, was Secretary to the Indian States Delegation to the Round Table Conference, official witness before the Joint Select Committee, etc.