

P. C. JOSHI'S COUNTRYWIDE TOUR

ELECTION RALLIES UNDER THE RED FLAG



Two of the peasant women who attended Joshi's rally at Ellore (Andhra).



A section of the crowd listening to Joshi's speech in Chittagong town.

★ IN THIS ISSUE

Light On Cabinet Mission's Draft Proposals

—Page 3

★ Special Article On The Mission

—Page 2

★ Stalin's Eve of Election Speech

—Pages 6-7

★ Who Is Planning A Third World War?

—Page 9

★



Another view of the Chittagong meeting.



P. C. Joshi at the mike addressing the Madras rally.



A general view of the 20,000-strong rally at Madras.



OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEM

(1945 Edition)—by P. A. Wadia and K. T. Merchant. Published by the New Book Co., Bombay. —Price Rs. 6-8.

PROFESSORS WADIA and MERCHANT have given us in this book of 557 pages, not only a collection of almost all the available statistics on our natural resources, National income, agricultural and industrial conditions, but also the progressive Nationalist outlook on the much debated and yet so clear a problem—the problem of Indian poverty.

The authors make a strong plea for the abolition of landlordism. They tell us how this "would be a less revolutionary and a healthier change than the introduction of the Permanent Settlement in 1793", for, after all, it would only restore the ryots to their original status.

In the section of industries, they expose the Imperialist policy of throttling Indian industrial development and also unmask the soulless war-profiteering of Indian industrialists and their trend towards monopoly capitalism.

The authors see the hope of a future India only in the "Nationalization of our key industries which include mining, banking, communications, the heavy chemicals and the iron and steel," and, "socialized control of all other industries by legislation limiting the rates of profits to the shareholders and absorbing the residue through taxation."

A separate section is devoted to planning, giving a summary as well as a critical review of the various plans that have been issued recently.

The book provides a useful study and reference for all political workers and others interested in the uplift of our country.

THE BOMBAY PLAN --A CRITICISM

—by Profs. P. A. Wadia and K. T. Merchant

—Price Rs. 1-8. Published by the Popular Book Depot, Bombay.

THE Bombay Plan ever since its publication has been paraded by its authors, and with no minor success, as a National plan for the economic development of India. Professors Wadia and Merchant knock the bottom out of this claim when they show that, in fact, the plan is only "an attempt of capitalism to get a new lease of life", and that it does not envisage at all, "a systematic reconstruction" of our economy.

The plan only reveals a greed for profit and keeps intact the entire economic structure as imposed upon us by the Imperialists for our continued exploitation.

The present three leeches of rural life, the landlord, the usurer and the trader will continue to suck the tiller's blood. The British capital will keep its economic hold on us, this time by appeasing the Indian industrialists by offering them a paltry share in the loot.

It provides neither for the abolition of landlordism nor for the Nationalization of key industries under a free Indian Government (the basic accepted minimums of any planned reconstruction in our country). Nor does it envisage any change in the present distribution of the National dividend. The plan, if adopted as it stands at present, will only mean greater and greater poverty for the mass of our people.

The authors of the 'Criticism' have done well in exposing the real game of Indian industrialists. We know that the latter are already bartering away our industrial development in return for a few crumbs by entering into deals with British capitalists. But the 'Criticism' should be taken only as a warning. The development indicated there is not inevitable and there is no ground for pessimism.

(Continued on Col. 4.)

LIGHT ON CABINET MISSION'S DRAFT PROPOSALS

Inside Story Of Casey's Discussions With Congress Leaders Last December

"I learn from reliable sources that as early as December last, the British Cabinet communicated their draft proposals for Indian settlement to the Congress leaders through Mr. R. G. Casey, then Governor of Bengal, when he met them at Calcutta on the eve of the Working Committee meeting. It will be remembered that Wavell too met Gandhiji at that time.

ACCORDING to my information, these proposals boil down to a Constitutional settlement whose main features are:

(1) An understanding and arrangement between the Congress and the Indian Princes.

(2) Demarcation of a Muslim-majority Zone in British India, which would be separated into a "Muslim State";

(3) A Central Authority controlling Defence, Trade and Foreign Affairs on the basis of Indo-British partnership; retention of British troops in India—all directed towards building up in South Asia a powerful cordon-sanitaire against the Soviet Union.

Subject to these conditions, the British Government seems to have agreed to recognise the "free status" of India and to incorporate that status in the draft Treaty.

Russian Bogey

During the discussions with the Congress leaders, the Government spokesmen played up the Russian bogey. They impressed on them "the menace of Soviet expansion" and stressed the need for centralised joint Indo-British control of Defence to meet this "menace."

In fact, a very high Military expert is reported to have been present during the talks and he explained the problem of India's defence with reference to the Soviet "menace."

It may be noted here that Mr. R. G. Casey himself is known to be openly anti-Soviet and a staunch champion of Churchill's and for Anglo-American line against the Soviet in the post-war period.

It is understood that the Congress leaders on their part assured the Government that provided an amicable settlement was reached, they would not raise the question of the withdrawal of the British troops from India, at least for the period of transition which may be 10 years.

They also made it clear that despite the Congress creed of non-violence, they have always been alive to the necessity of "defence" and would have no objection to co-operating with Britain in warding off Soviet influence provided Britain in turn recognised the Congress case.

Princes And Pakistan

The Government next made clear that no settlement could be effective without some arrangement with the Indian Princes.

With regard to the Muslim League and Pakistan, Gandhiji reiterated the stand he had taken during his talks with Mr. Jinnah in 1944, namely the right of Muslims, in the areas where they are in a majority, to form their own State, provided they free to common matters like Defence and Foreign Trade being brought under a Central Authority.

Demarcation of such a zone "Pakistan" was discussed between the Government and the Congress leaders. The Gov-

ernment agreed that West Bengal could not be included in any scheme of Eastern Pakistan. As for the Punjab and Assam, it was decided to wait for the results of the Provincial elections.

Particular interest centred around the future of Calcutta and it appears that the idea of making it a "free city" was favoured. The "strategic importance" of Karachi (for meeting the Soviet "menace") was also recognised.

The British spokesmen, it is understood, referred to the open talk of "the coming struggle" then being made by some Congress leaders and pointed to the explosive situation in the country.

It was to satisfy the British Government that the Congress was earnest about a settlement that the resolution reiterating non-violence was passed by the Working Committee in Calcutta.

Discussions With Mr. Jinnah

Government spokesmen have discussed terms of the settlement with Mr. Jinnah also.

Mr. Jinnah has been told by the Government to give up Western Bengal in any scheme of Pakistan, but Assam has been left an open question which explains why Gandhiji, Pandit Nehru and Maulana Azad had to visit the Province. As for Western Pakistan, Government has impressed upon Mr. Jinnah that such a state would be weak and poor and therefore particularly 'susceptible' to 'Russian influence.' Accordingly retention of a strong army under a centralised command was pressed on him.

It is also understood that plans for increasing the R.A.F. strength in the North West Frontier are under consideration.

As far as demarcation of the "Pakistan zones" is concerned, Assam and the Punjab have been left open for future decision after the elections are over.

This explains the keen contest between the Congress and the League for these Provinces and the anxiety of both parties to form Ministries there to disprove each other's case before the British Ministers.

All indications suggest that the Cabinet Mission will be bringing with them details of such a Constitutional structure and a Draft Treaty based on it. Anyone can see from the above that all this closely follows the lines of the notorious plan drawn up by Professor COUPLAND, who came out to India with Cripps in 1942 and afterwards wrote a report on India.

FABRICATIONS, DISTORTIONS, SUPPRESSIONS

How Bengal Nationalist Press Fights Communists

One of the main features of the Bengal Congress election campaign against the Communists is the complete degeneration of the Nationalist Press.

THE Communist Party's announced list of candidates was completely blacked out in the Bengal Press, so that the people should not know until the actual filing of the nomination papers; who the Communist candidates are.

P. C. JOSHI'S Bengal tour, which launched the Communist election campaign, was practically ignored and not a single one of his big rallies in East Bengal was even announced by any paper. This, even though Joshi during his tour addressed audiences as big as any mobilised for any National leader during the election campaign.

Defeats Shown As Victories

The Red Flag's clear victory over Humayun Kabir in the Railway Labour Primary election was not only blacked out, but the Associated Press of India splashed the false claim of Kabir that he had won it! When the Red Flag Workers' Union issued a contradiction, nobody, of course, cared to print it.

Similarly, when the Port Trust workers chose by ballot the Red Flag Employees' Association in preference to Kabir's National Union for recognition by the Port Trust, not only was Kabir's false claim that his Union had secured more votes (!) published repeatedly in the Press, but even when the Secretary of the Port Trust sent a contradiction, it too was not published!

Again, the Nationalist Press splashed an announcement that Kabir was going to claim damages from Bankim Mukerji for an article against him in the Communist weekly, *Jana-yuddha*, though the case was not even taken up!

Announcing the Dinajpur Primary election for the Schedul-

ed Caste seat, the United Press of India completely suppressed the fact that the Communist candidate RUPNARAYAN ROY had topped the poll, securing more than the total number of votes cast for the two Congress candidates together; and instead announced, "two Congress nominees for this constituency have topped polls."

The biggest racket, however, is Soli Batliwala's inspired, interview to a *National Herald* reporter, which was splashed by *Ananda Bazar Patrika* and *Hindustan Standard* (mouthpieces of Sjt. Sarat Bose), and *Shyamaprosad's Nationalist*. Only *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, *Jugantar* and *Bharat* did not publish it. *Ananda Bazar Patrika* was so shameless that it did not care even to publish the contradiction sent by three Bengali members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. Instead, it wrote an editorial in which it spread the brazen-faced lie that "Many ordinary members (of the Communist Party) are stunned."

Own Report Belies Headline

In reporting local news, undiluted lies are being broadcast. One example will be enough. On March 9 the Congressite daily *Bharat*, published a newsbit about Aruna Asaf Ali's meeting at Kidderpore on the 8th and reported:

"After Srimati Aruna Asaf Ali's speech, when Dr. Suresh Banerji got up, one dalal of the Communist Party tried to read something from his propaganda paper. Workers grabbed the man and severely beat him."

The real facts are that the man belonged to the Bolshevik Party and those who assaulted him were not workers but Congressite boys! But the most

amazing thing of all was the caption given to this report—"Goondami by Communist Party," while their own report, which followed under it, said that goondaliam was perpetrated on the poor chap by Congress supporters!

An interesting 'printers' devil' appeared in the Nationalist daily *Basumati* on February 19 over the news-item about the formation of the Calcutta Firing Relief and Defence Committee (formed mainly by the League and the Communists with the support of a handful of Congressmen, with the League leader Lal Meah as one of its Secretaries), there appeared a caption, "I see no plausible reason for supporting Lal Meah and the Communists". What actually happened was that the News Editor had probably spiked the report with the above comment, but some sleepy compositor put it in with the News Editor's candid comment!

It is also interesting to note that when Governor Casey, on the eve of his departure, gave a tea party to Calcutta Pressmen on February 18 last, practically all Nationalist newspapermen refused to attend, but Sjt. Sarat Bose's lieutenant Suresh Majumdar, the boss of *Ananda Bazar Patrika* and *Hindustan Standard*, the two leading anti-Communist dailies in Calcutta, attended the function to the shame of the entire world of Recall journalism. And he, with his Subs, was greatly elated when Casey greeted them with *Jai Hind!*

(Continued from Col. 5.)

Unlike the authors, we should have full faith in our people, in their anti-Imperialism and capacity to shape their own destiny, full faith in the democratic and healthy traditions of our National Movement and its commitments to planning for all. As against the industrialists' plans, Indian people have a plan of their own which they will see is implemented.

-Prem Sagar

ANTI-GLANCY-KHIZAR DEMONSTRATION PROVOKED INTO HINDU-MUSLIM CLASH

BEHIND the political intrigues going on in the Punjab for the making and the unmaking of the Ministry, the rumbling voice of Hindu-Muslim suspicion and hate can be heard among the wide masses of the people.

When from Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi rose the anti-Glancy-Khizar agitation, the Punjab was not slow to follow. In Lahore, the Police and the Military but for long time taking out a procession they could not have done better.

After giving the call for martial law, the League leaders were busy with their own affairs, while they pushed themselves with vigour in their own individual capacities.

On the 6th of March the Congress-Unionist Coalition was formed. By this time the Punjab was already split into two. On the 6th the Provincial League called a meeting to discuss the formation of the Coalition.

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There were discussions among the students of the Government College, Lahore. The Communist students, however, remained aloof from the demonstration.

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Only then did the Police advance and take up their positions. The warning propaganda was being spread on both sides.

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CONGRESS LEADERS UNLEASH COMMUNAL RIOT

PREVENT FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Police Open Fire, Clamp Down On Civil Liberties

Cawnpore, March 12. A FRAID that they would lose heavily if the elections were held freely and fairly, Congressmen of Cawnpore have, it seems, decided to go to any lengths to terrorise the workers and disrupt their unity.

On February 11, they broke the workers' general strike against the cut in rations with the help of the Police, muscra and hoodlums. On March 12, during the elections for the General and Scheduled Caste seats, Congressmen engineered a communal riot which resulted in four deaths and injuries to 150.

From the workers and mistresses and their families, such things took place at almost every polling station. I will give only one example.

At the Premnagar polling station, the polling agents of the Congress led from the morning being tearing off workers' ballot papers. At three o'clock, the SCF polling agents objected to this and demanded from the Presiding Officer that those mischief-makers should be turned out of the booth.

While this controversy was going on, a crowd of Congress and Ameer volunteers started throwing stones at the SCF camp, attacked it and destroyed all the papers, voter lists, etc. that were in it.

Almost all the members of the neighbourhood rushed to the help of Congress volunteers. Finding themselves weak and

they, the SCF people packed up their tents and came away from the polling station. While they were doing so, Premnagar Dist. Secretary of the City Congress Committee, ordered his henchmen to attack them. His actual words were, "Dhoke kya ho, mare usko ke. Jene se jaye." Meaning that his followers were beating Dinkar and "Ara, tum kya nikam ho, jo gure ho. Barhe kya nahin ag."

Attacked from Behind: The SCF people had not reached the meeting when they were attacked from behind and all their things were burnt up. Hearing of the attack, more workers gathered on the spot. A few Muslim hoodlums, sympathising with the Congress, also came and there was a pitched battle for more than two hours.

The Police who had been standing as idle spectators till now and had given no protection to the workers, now decided to intervene. They opened fire, killing one on the spot and wounding five.

The polling was stopped, but the Congressmen continued their communal propaganda in the area. One or with a loudspeaker and a Tricolor went round shouting, "Muslims are attacking Hindus. Congressmen are helping them. We will show them after one month when our Ministry comes to power."

Similar things happened at the other polling stations. In the Khilafat Lane, Congress supporters made it impossible for workers to move from their booths and smashed their tent at the polling station.

At the Christ Church School polling station also they completely destroyed the SCF camp. Clashes occurred throughout the area and there were some stray assaults. One Sikh durand and one Musam were set on fire. The Police opened fire twice. In all four persons were killed and 150 wounded.

Winning Seats Through Communal War: Taking advantage of the situation, the District Magistrate has promulgated Section 144 and Curfew and banned all meetings for one week.

By bringing about a communal riot, Congressmen have won the Scheduled Caste seat. They have also succeeded in momentarily dividing the ranks of the workers and in giving the cause to the District Magistrate to clamp down on workers' meetings.

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There were discussions among the students of the Government College, Lahore. The Communist students, however, remained aloof from the demonstration.

Police Open Fire: Suddenly, a Hindu Police Inspector was hit on the eye. He lost his temper and without warning ordered one constable to fire at the college boys.

Only then did the Police advance and take up their positions. The warning propaganda was being spread on both sides.

The whole crowd showed signs of being for the release of the Ahmra. Many of the boys were shouting slogans.

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The ban on workers' meetings would be a heavy handicap against the real flag carrier of the coming election year. It would help the mistries and owners' agents to get away with their terror tactics against all the flag supporters and militants. Thus, Congressmen think, they have made their victory sure in the elections for the Lahore seats on March 25.

Achhot Workers Against Congress

But very soon they will rise their heads. Hindustani and comrades against the people must fall in the end. Today the entire mass of workers must be roused against the Congress. The banner of anti-Communist propaganda of the Congress cannot hide the fact that it was the Congress leadership that planned and provided the strikes. Hindu workers will also see that the Congress leadership have sold their soul to the devil and that they want to bring down the Legislature by selling workers' blood and setting them at each other's throat.

The Communist Party and the Muslim League agents are today about the working class areas propagating the following slogans:

"Maintain the peace and preserve the unity of workers. Riots help only the oppressor and the exploiters want to break you in the elections by dividing your ranks and through goondas on the polling day. Riots, strikes, Hindu-Muslims—all combine to defeat the workers' agents. On March 25, march in thousands to the polling booths, so that the workers' friends may not dare to show their faces on that day."

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Cultural Workers Mobilise Against Famine

CALL FOR UNITED FIGHT FOR BREAD AND FREEDOM

PROMINENT writers, journalists, cultural workers, painters, photo-artists, film-artists, doctors, professors and intellectual workers of Bombay have come together and formed a Cultural Workers Committee for Fighting Famine.

The members of the Committee have formed a working committee on the famine situation in the country. The Manifesto was passed at a representative meeting of the cultural and intellectual workers of Bombay held on March 3, 1946.

The Committee will help and co-operate with all other organisations in the famine situation in the country. The Manifesto was passed at a representative meeting of the cultural and intellectual workers of Bombay held on March 3, 1946.

The Committee will help and co-operate

BRITISH IMPERIALIST POLICY NAILED DOWN

"Times Of India" Howls Under Lash Of Soviet Criticism

THE mother of Anglo-Indian reaction, the *Times of India*, launched a bitter attack on the Soviet last week—following, I suppose, on the heels of its big chief, Winston Churchill.

The cause apparently was the sharp criticism of British policy in the Soviet Press, instanced in a dispatch of the London *Times*.

Yet when the examples of criticism in the Soviet Press, given in this very dispatch, are examined, it becomes clear enough that the Soviet Press in criticising British actions is only expressing that criticism and condemnation of British Imperialist policy that every honest democrat is making today.

Here they are, taken one by one.

Fascism In Greece

• There is strong criticism of British policy in Greece which, the *Times of India* naively writes, has been "vindicated by the Security Council."

Everyone knows this criticism to be just. Only last week the EAM (Greek National Liberation Front), the ELD (Socialist Party) and the Left Liberals, headed by John Sofianopoulos, former Foreign Minister, announced their decision to boycott the Greek elections because they were "nothing more than a coup d'etat intended to perpetuate the tyranny of a political oligarchy and to facilitate the restoration of the monarchy."

Simultaneously, even the Centrist Liberals, headed by Kafandaris, have resigned from the Greek Government on the ground that its decision to hold elections at the end of March, is wrong.

The present Greek Premier, Sophonias, has also announced that the Army detachment sent to suppress the monarchist-terrorist hands that were attacking democratic parties in the south of Greece, had spent its time "banqueting with the rebels" and returned without effecting any arrests.

In fact, "the freedom" in Greece of which Churchill boasted so grandiloquently is only freedom for the Rightist monarchists to terrorise the people—and that too under the shadow and protection of British bayonets.

Polish Anti-Soviet Army

• There are "allegations" about the exile Polish Army of General Anders being supported by Britain. These "allegations," being somewhat inconvenient, have been neatly ignored by the *Times of India*.

That little is known in our country about Anders' Army is due to the unofficial censorship on news that is exercised by Imperialism's Press agency, Reuter.

But even a 'respectable' Tory weekly like the *Spectator* has described the leaders and soldiers of this Army as men whose "hopes centre upon the possibility of war waged from the west against the U.S.S.R." "Many of them," it goes on, "formerly belonged to important Fascist movements, and all of them have an interest in putting back the social clock; they are thus in the true sense of the word reactionary." (February 1, 1946.)

The *Spectator* also reveals that this Army, whose upkeep is paid for by the British Government, terrorises the inhabitants of the area in Italy where it is stationed, attacking democratic meetings and looting houses and villages. On top of all this, it has made itself the collecting-agent for Fascist riff-raff from every country in Europe. There are Ukrainians who fought with Hitler against the Soviet; 50,000 Yugoslavs, some followers of Mihailovitch, many of the Croatian Ustashi, storm-troops of Hitler's Quisling, Anton Pavelic. And lastly, reports the *Spectator*, "there is reason to believe that Hora Sima and other members of the Rumanian Iron Guard, are now concealing themselves in Italy."

Is it surprising that the Soviet Press, seeing the armies all over the world slowly demobilising, should comment unfavourably on the fact that this gang of anti-Soviet Fascist crooks, far from being demobilised, is in fact increasing in numbers as more of Hitler's Quisling rats escape from their new-democratic countries of Central and Eastern Europe and make straight for this refuge?!

Is it surprising that the Soviet Press should suggest that the existence of this virulently anti-Soviet Army in British pay blows up all Bevin's overloud protestations of friendship for the Soviet?!

Colonial Liberation

• The third issue the Soviet Press dealt with are the Indian Naval Mutiny and the events in Egypt, the Levant, and Indonesia—all are dealt with on usual lines" comments the correspondent of the London *Times*, somewhat woefully. But again is it not a fact that these "usual lines" reflect the opinions of every honest progressive anywhere in the world?

Is anyone except a hard-boiled British Imperialist going to quarrel with the Moscow Radio Commentator, Viktorov, when he says that the Egyptian people feel that Britain desires to carry on its old policy of occupation with "no wish to satisfy Egypt's demands for national independence."

Is it not patent that this is Britain's aim when we see that the real representatives of the Egyptian people, the Wafd and the Workers' and Students' Committee have been carefully

excluded from the discussions that are taking place between the British and the Egyptians on Egypt's future status?

Is it not clear and true for everyone to see that today eight months after the end of the war during which the Teheran and Yalta declarations and the Atlantic Charter were made, that:

"Deeds do not live up to words. Promises made during the war are not being kept. Colonial powers are still seeking to keep subject peoples under the old intolerable regime"?

And this is what Viktorov said—to which the *Times* takes vigorous exception.

Support To Royalty

The truth is—however much the London *Times* or the Bombay *Times of India* may dislike it—that Britain is backing the most reactionary forces in every part of the world.

In Spain, for instance, the very democratic "proletarian," Bevin, has become the most ardent supporter of the very-blue blooded aristocrat, Don Juan.

The *Statesman's* special correspondent wrote on February 28, that "Don Juan, claimant to the Spanish throne, was quietly aided by the British Government in his trip from Switzerland to Portugal where he would be able to confer with Spanish monarchist leaders."

The British in fact know that Franco is doomed; what they are trying to do, therefore, is described by The *Statesman's* correspondent thus:

"Diplomatic gossips believe that Mr. Ernest Bevin, quietly although not enthusiastically, regards Don Juan's accession as the best solution to avoid disorder which Britain vigorously opposes for both economic and strategic reasons." (My emphasis.)

Or to put it in simpler language, the British faced with the inevitability of Franco's fall, want to put Don Juan in his place but in everything else preserve the status quo!

Is it surprising that the Soviet should be suspicious of British intentions?

Deceit—Second Nature

And a last example.

Bevin and Churchill are always protesting about the sincerity of their friendship for the U.S.S.R., instancing their offer to increase the period of the Anglo-Soviet Treaty to fifty years.

Yet when it comes to any concrete issue, the British always take a dogmatically anti-Soviet line.

The discussion about Syria and Lebanon, in the Security Council, is only one instance. Here is how Sir Edward Spears, no great lover of the Soviet, described it:

"Throughout the debate on Friday and Saturday, Mr.

Vyshinsky in my view, displayed a far greater knowledge of the United Nations Charter, as well as a better appreciation of the realities than the representatives of any other of the great powers

"Mr. Bevin, on the other hand, seemed more pre-occupied with Anglo-French relations than with the merits of the case.

"When it came to the vote, the Council, after having rejected resolutions by Egypt and Mexico which the Syrians and Lebanese stated would give them complete satisfaction, also refused two of Mr. Vyshinsky's amendments to Mr. Stettinus' motions, but the third and most important, for which the Syrians and Lebanese had pressed, received only one vote fewer (five instead of six) than the necessary majority.

"At this point, Mr. Vyshinsky may well have concluded that there was on the Council a bloc which would refuse any motion for no better reason than that he had proposed it."

(From a letter to the London *Times*, dated Feb. 19, 1946.)

Again, is it surprising that in view of this, of Anders' Army and of Churchill's open call for an anti-Soviet front that Stalin should say:

"It is impossible to treat seriously the false declarations of Mr. Churchill's friends in Britain regarding the extension of the treaty to fifty years and more."

The *Times of India* may wriggle and whimper under the lash of Soviet criticism. But in India, where we have had so much experience of Imperialist hypocrisy and double-dealing, it should be easy enough to understand the Soviet position.

—Mohan Kumaramangalam

At Mulund Camp (Bombay)

RIN RATINGS' LEADERS ON HUNGER-STRIKE

Authorities Issue False Communiques

ON TUESDAY MARCH 12, THREE HUNDRED AND eighty naval ratings who have been confined at the Mulund Camp (near Bombay) for their part in the naval "mutiny", went on hunger-strike.

BY THEIR ACTION THE STRIKERS HAVE SHOWN THAT though the Government won the first round, their spirit is unbroken, their courage and determination as high as before.

The strike began over the maltreatment of a rating by a naval officer. The rating who had gone to fetch food for his block in the camp protested to the officer in charge of the canteen that the food was too little for the fifty ratings among whom it was to be distributed. In answer the officer roundly abused him and kicked him out of his office.

Immediately afterwards the entire batch of ratings with the exception of twelve went on hunger-strike.

Their Demands

The next day the Flag-Officer Commanding, Bombay, Rear-Admiral Ratray, accompanied by an Army Brigadier, visited the strikers and was told that the strike would only be called off if the following two demands were accepted.

*1. The officer concerned should apologise to the men for his action in insulting and maltreating a rating.

*2. The food must be improved so that the ratings inside the Camp get as good and as much food as those outside the Camp.

The Flag-Officer said that he would consider the demands and let the strikers know his decision later.

After his departure, however, the situation quickly worsened. Two Indian Naval Lieutenants tried to break the strike by taking out the hunger-striking in batches and tempting them with sweets and fruits. In this attempt, however, they completely failed.

Late in the evening the officers announced that they would hold

a cinema show; the strikers refused to witness it, but when the authorities persisted and put up the screen, some of the strikers rushed at the screen and tore it down. Immediately Curfew was declared and all were confined to the barracks.

That night the twelve black-legs who had refused to join the strike and thus earned the contempt of all their comrades, grew more and more nervous at the jeers and shouts which were continuously being directed at them. They pleaded with the authorities and were isolated in one special block, out of which they do not come out at all!

Next morning (Thursday), instead of any answer from Admiral Ratray about the strikers' demands, further steps were taken by the authorities to try to crush the strike.

Forty-three strikers, among them Leading Signaller KHAN, former leader of the Strike Committee, were arrested and kept in a separate block. On Friday morning they were taken out of the Camp. Khan was taken to the Colaba Military Barracks, while the others were taken to the Kalyan Military Jail.

British Soldiers Kick

And Abuse

At Kalyan itself after the military trucks carrying the arrested strikers had reached near the jail, the strikers were asked to run to the jail. Many of them, being too weak after three days of fasting, could barely walk, let alone run; but all who did not run, were kicked

and abused by British soldiers who were acting as their escorts.

Meanwhile, inside the main barracks excitement rose high. The strikers at one time on Thursday morning attempted to rush the gate and rescue their arrested comrades but on seeing that the troops surrounding their Camp had been kept ready to open fire, they did not carry out this plan.

Soon after this, a Naval Captain went inside the main Camp to persuade the strikers to give up their hunger-strike. This attempt, however, failed, the officer's shoulder-straps were torn off and he was forced to flee.

The position as it was on Friday night was that the hunger-strike was continuing in spite of many of the most militant strikers having been removed. The condition of twelve of the strikers was serious and they had to be removed to hospital where they were being forcibly given glucose and vitamin injections.

Deceiving The Public

The Naval Authorities at first did not give any information about the strike to the public. The publication of the news in the *Free Press Journal* on Thursday morning, however, forced them to issue a communique in the evening—where they admitted that a strike had taken place but also claimed that as many as 100 ratings were black-legs and that the strike ended on Thursday morning—two facts which are simply not true.

On Friday night, a further communique was issued that everything was back to normal, except for twenty men who were still refusing to eat. This also is not true; clearly enough the authorities were doing their best to deceive the public by giving out a completely false picture of the real situation.

A THIRD WORLD WAR?

(Continued from page 9.)

All Indians first and foremost want India to be free; but India cannot be free through allying herself with the force that even today holds domination over millions and whose future plans are to consolidate its present domination and to attack the forces of democracy the world over.

All Indians want India to play a real part in building world peace; but India cannot do that by lining up in support of the camp of Imperialist warmongers.

No; the task of the Indian people is different.

Not to help to preserve Imperialist rule in India and elsewhere, but to strike hard at its main bulwark, British rule in India.

Not to help to organise the world war front of reaction against democracy, but to stop the drive to war by knocking out of Britain's hands India, one of the major key strategic centres in its hands.

This is the way to Indian freedom and world peace. This is the way India can win her freedom and play her part in defeating Imperialism's conspiracy to launch a Third World War.

WHO IS PLANNING A THIRD WORLD WAR ?

British Conspiracy Against Democratic Upsurge To Save Crumbling Empire

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S SPEECH AT FULTON (U.S.A.), in which he bitterly attacked the Soviet Union, is the climax of the growing propaganda campaign of reaction to launch a Third World War.

IT MARKS THE HIGHPOINT OF THEIR ANGER AND FEAR at the immense increase in the strength of the democratic movement brought about during and after the Second World War.

Contrary to the expectations of the Imperialists who launched the war, the First World War gave birth to the great Russian Revolution and the Soviet Union, and the tremendous national awakening throughout Asia.

The Second World War also, once again contrary to the expectations of the Imperialists, has given rise to a tremendous upsurge throughout Europe, cleaning away old feudal regimes, and a new wave of risings in Asia—typified in the Indonesian and Indo-Chinese revolts, the emergence of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League as Burma's national organisation, and the revolutionary upheavals in our own country.

Revolution Advances

The months that have passed by since the end of the war have shown that this new upsurge in Europe and Asia is no passing phenomenon to which Fascist oppression gave birth. On the contrary, the great democratic achievements of the new Governments in Europe, particularly in the sphere of land and industrial reform, have rendered them all the more solid and lasting.

Thus they have shattered the hopes of British and U.S. reaction that through using their great economic power, they would be able to crush these democratic movements and bring back to power, as in Greece, the old reactionaries; the Quislings of Big Business and landed aristocracy.

It is the sharp realisation that the events of the last nine months have shattered these hopes, that has led to Churchill's speech; this is why he proclaimed bitterly "that this is certainly not the liberated Europe we fought to build up," and gave the open call for unity of "the population of the English-speaking Commonwealth" and the United States to fight back "the challenge and peril to Christian civilisation."

Thus just as after the last war, it was Churchill who inspired the attempt to destroy the young Soviet Republic, so also after this war, it is Churchill again who has given the call to war against European democracy.

Churchill—Warmonger

And it is no accident that Churchill should come forward as the open and most vociferous campaigner for a Third World War; he is the representative of Tory Imperialists in Britain, the men who have suffered and lost most during this war. The once-proud British Empire whose flag flew over every continent and every ocean is today in grave danger of being reduced to nothing.

Its domination of Central and Eastern Europe, secured after the last war, is gone for ever. In the Middle East, the Arab national upsurge particularly in Egypt, threatens its supremacy. In all South-East Asia, new vital revolutionary movements are reaching maturity. In China, British influence is irretrievably finished. Now in our own country too, hatred for Britain has never before reached such a height or affected such vast masses of our people as at present.

The Imperialists are conscious of all this. That is why they are madly dreaming of and organising another World War, the greatest holocaust in world history.

In it they see their last chance to recover their shattered fortunes, to destroy the Soviet Union, firmest foe of

by
**Mohan
Kumaramangalam**

Imperialism and oppression, to reforge more surely and firmly the chains of slavery on the millions of their subjects whose hearts are astir with the hope of a new and free life.

After the last war, Churchill knew that the moment to strike was the immediate postwar period, when the armies were ready and mobilised, the ammunition factories still in operation, and all the great war organisations necessary for large-scale modern warfare were there at hand. This was why though the Armistice was signed in November 1918, British troops fought on in British Imperial interests and against the Soviet right till 1921.

Time To Strike

Again after this war, the Imperialists know that the moment to strike is today—when, as Attlee revealed only a week ago, over two million British soldiers are still under arms, when they are not being demobilised deliberately because of "unsettled" international conditions.

Can Congress Leaders Win India's Freedom Through Alliance With Warmongering Imperialists ?

This is why the tremendous war scare is on today. One day news comes through of Soviet troop movements against Turkey, the next day of a Red march against Teheran; the day after of Bulgarian mobilisation against Turkey and so on. That all these reports are officially and directly contradicted makes no difference, the war scare goes on—and it has reached such an extent that a Washington journal has openly prophesied that World War III is likely to start "in April or May when Russia moves into Turkey and Britain comes to Turkey's defence."

All this has a purpose behind it. It is not that the outbreak of a Third World War is inevitable.

But what is clear is that the same reactionary circle who, disappointed at the results of the First World War, were against the Soviet twenty-six years ago, today, disappointed at the results of the Second World War, are hoping to create some "incident" which will give them a chance to launch another war against the Soviet.

In the words of the London Daily Mail, organ of the most rabid sections of British Imperialism:

"To put it bluntly, there must be a show-down and the sooner it comes the better."

Seeking New Allies

To organise this "showdown," the Imperialists are seeking allies in every section of reaction the world over.

At the end of the First World War, the Imperialists concentrated their attention on building an alliance of reaction in Eastern and Central Europe; out of this emerged the notorious "cordon sanitaire" of semi-Fascist feudal states whose rulers were virulently anti-Soviet—Pilsudski's Poland, Carol's Rumania, Alexander's Yugoslavia, and the linchpin of all, Weimar Germany.

After this war they are trying the same game, though of course as usual their intentions are carefully wrapped up and hidden away from the public gaze. Outwardly, as in Churchill's bellicose speech, their call is for an alliance of "democracy" to fight Russian "expansionist Imperialism"; in reality, it is a call for an alliance of reaction to smash democracy and reestablish Imperial domination.

"Russian expansionism" is their cry; and to effectively prove their case they call the entire belt of new democratic Governments in Eastern Europe "Police Governments"!

To them Horthy's prewar Government of White Terror which literally murdered the leadership of Hungary's working-class movement was no Government of terror, for it was a Government of reactionary landlords; but the new Hungarian Government which has divided over five million acres among its landless peasants, is a "Police Government."

Similarly, to them Pilsudski's Fascist coup of 1926, when he virtually abolished Parliament, was no "Police" act of terror; but the new Polish Government, which has nationalised big industry is a "Terror Government"!

And so on; hundreds of such examples could be given.

Then, of course, is the slander that Russian "expansionism" works through Communist Parties, the Soviet's Fifth Column who have been raised by the Soviet to powerful positions when their real influence is small.

Yet the truth is that it is outside the Soviet zone of oc-

cupation, in Persia, in the words of Phillips Price, Labour MP,

"A dangerous situation has now arisen in which Russia supports an autonomous regime of reforms in Persian Azerbaijan while we and the Americans are in fact supporting the most reactionary elements in the country..." (Manchester Guardian, December, 1945.)

In Transjordan, it is the old Emir Abdulla, their most loyal servant for twenty-five years; in Egypt it is the anti-Wafdist stooges of the British Ambassador and the representatives of the big Pashas and landlords; in Burma it is the old loyal servants like Sin Paw Tun, and so on the world over.

Inside our own country it is the tried old servants of British Imperialism who have begun to echo their master's voice.

The long-silent Aga Khan has suddenly been pulled out of Imperial obscurity to stress the possibility of the Russian menace and to reassure everyone that Britain, the U.S., Turkey and China would resist "any effort by Russia or any power to take over India if the British leave" (Hindu, March 11.)

Danger To India ?

Yet it is not Soviet "expansionism" that menaces India; that is a carefully-worked up British myth. It is the continuance of the British domination that exists in India today.

It is not Soviet control of Karachi as a strategic port that threatens our country's frontiers; that too is only another British myth, first put out by Sir Olaf Caroe during the Simla Conference last year. It is the

continuance of the British control of every key strategic port and area in our country that exists today.

Let us see clearly that today in the name of meeting the Soviet menace, and for the objective of fighting an anti-Soviet war and of preserving its own Imperial rule in South East Asia, Britain hopes to keep its armed forces in India. (See p. 3 our special correspondent's dispatch.)

It is in the name of the Soviet menace that the British "hope to rally the Aga Khan, the Princes and the vested interests inside the Congress and the League for acceptance of a settlement, wherein their real domination and Indian slavery would remain."

This is the outline of the monstrous conspiracy that is being planned and organised by British Imperialism. Throughout the entire world and particularly in the Middle East and Asia, it is rallying to its bankrupt banner every reactionary force in every country—all in the hope that it is through war to destroy democracy and the Soviet that it can retrieve its fallen fortunes, and reestablish the might of its Empire.

Congress Echoes Churchill ?

In this explosive situation, who are India's friends, who its foes ?

Inside our National Movement it has been the leadership of the National Congress that has built up the tradition that India's battle for freedom from British rule is a part of the world progressive battle against reaction.

In the years before the war, the Congress had always stood for the front of peace and freedom, against that of oppression and war.

When Japanese Imperialism attacked China, India stood by China.

When Hitler Fascism invaded Spain, the Congress sent Pandit Nehru as its emissary to express its solidarity with Republican Spain.

When the Munich conspiracy betrayed Czechoslovakia, India stood against it and with the Soviet in its opposition to it.

But today things have changed.

Churchill proclaims the danger of "Soviet expansionism"; the Congress Working Committee, not yet frank enough to state its views openly, warns of the dangers of "new types of Imperialism growing" obviously referring to the Soviet (Resolution of March 15).

Churchill dismisses the new democracies of Eastern Europe as "Police States" under Moscow's control. The Working Committee, again obliquely, condemns the policy of Great Powers in creating "Satellite States."

In fact, in its entire resolution, there is no warm reference to the Soviet Union, no welcome to the democratic advance in Europe, and its achievements; equally there is no criticism of Churchill's warmongering attempts to build an anti-Soviet Imperial front, no condemnation of Britain's plans to preserve its Empire.

And all this is not without a purpose. It is an open secret that the Congress leaders today look upon the international situation not as a battle between Imperialism and progress but as one dominated by conflict between rival Imperialisms—Anglo-American on one side, the Soviet on the other.

They cynically hope to profit out of this conflict; they hope Britain will grant India freedom in return for a promise to help her in her anti-Soviet war.

Believing this, the Congress leaders clearly could neither hail the democratic victory in Europe which they might have to fight, nor could they condemn Churchill's Imperialist intrigue, which they believed will bring them freedom!

Policeman's Offer

But what they did not say clearly, one of their colleagues, Asaf Ali, said plainly enough during the debate on the Budget in the Central Assembly. He warned that we must not be "complacent with regard to external dangers" for "the world was in a ferment and there was danger all round."

He did not stop there; he became even more specific, promising that India "will be the Policeman of the East and the arsenal of the East." (My emphasis.)

Naturally enough, Imperialism's spokesman Mason was quick to respond—going on to define the "dangers" to India as dangers "in the North-East and North-West of India"; and the hard-bolled Imperialist then concluded with the virtuous homily that:

"If India was going to be the Policeman and the arsenal of the East, as Mr. Asaf Ali wanted her to be, then India should take steps consistent with her greatness and her strength in the cause of peace." (My emphasis.)

And here Mason obviously refers to the need for British arms and British soldiers to stay in India in order to "defend" India against the Soviet "danger" and to act the "Policeman" of Britain's Asiatic Empire.

Against Imperial Conspiracy

Thus, in the illusory hope that in return for a promise of support in making war, Britain will grant India freedom, the Congress leadership is taking India straight into the arms of blackest reaction, is lending its aid to the conspiracy against democracy, and to reestablish British Imperialism's fortunes.

(Continued on page 8, col. 1.)

KUOMINTANG REACTION'S GAME TO SABOTAGE DEMOCRATIC UNITY

(From Our Correspondent)

By Air (Delayed) Chungking, March 2.

Recent events in China show a definite increase in the activity of the reactionary Fascist clique in the Kuomintang. It appears that this clique today thinks that by acts of terrorism, it will be able to prevent the implementation of the democratic agreement that was signed by all parties in the Political Consultative Council; this way it expects to save its ruthless dictatorship over the Chinese people from downfall.

THIS became clear when during the Generalissimo's recent tour in the Nanking-Shanghai area, a so-called "The Servicemen's League" was formed in Nanking, which is now claiming to be the sole spokesman of the Chinese soldiers.

In its first declaration, which was given much greater publicity than Chiang's own speech on the importance of Sino-Soviet friendship, the Servicemen's League stated openly its opposition to the solution of internal problems through discussion and democratic decision. In contrast it offered itself eagerly for the job of fighting the Soviet in Manchuria.

Observers in Chungking believe that this organisation is the main outcome of the "Demobilisation Conference," recently held in Nanking under the Chairmanship of Chiang Kai-shek; in this conference only Kuomintang generals were allowed to be present.

The Demobilisation Plan approved of by this Conference is a simple one; all demobilised soldiers will be assured jobs in the Police force, Civil Service, schools and different social organisations—so that they will be placed in important and influential positions in society; control will be kept of all those demobilised through this "Servicemen's League".

The League itself is really the instrument of the notorious army clique, the Whampoa group, headed by General Hu Chung-nan. This League demagogically uses the same slogans of "patriotism," "unity behind one leader," etc., that the old Fascist "Black Dragon Society" of Japan popularised in its own country.

It is further interesting to note that a Fascist organisation

bearing the Japanese Fascist name of "The Great Asia Radical Youth Society" has appeared in Chungking.

All this goes to show that the Kuomintang reactionaries have probably carried forward their old tradition of co-operation with the Japanese-Fascists (who are still available in large numbers at Nanking and elsewhere in Kuomintang China, where the repatriation of the Japanese has been half-hearted and is yet incomplete).

Sample Of Fascist Activities

It is this League that has been clearly behind the terrorist and fascist attacks on the democratic movement in the last month.

1. During the session of the Political Consultative Council, several members of the Council were either insulted by hooligans when addressing public meetings, or searched by secret Policemen.

2. A public meeting organised by the progressives in Chungking was attacked by secret agents and paid rowdies. As a result, two prominent members of the Democratic League and the famous scholar and author, KUO-MO-JOH, were injured.

The significance of this becomes clear when it is understood that the meeting was called to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Political Consultative Council which was sponsored by the Kuomintang itself!

3. A mob of several hundreds of so-called "refugees" rushed to the headquarters of the Military Executive Department (composed of representa-

tives from the Kuomintang, Communists and Americans handling North China situation) seeking to attack the Communist representative, General Yen and his colleagues.

As a result, furniture was destroyed, and some members of the staff were injured by the militant 'patriotic' mob, who, curiously enough, had not been prevented by the Police from moving freely in such an important place.

4. The business office of the Communist organ in Chungking, Sin Jua Jia Pao, was attacked and destroyed by a mob, formed by secret agents and hooligans following a Government-sponsored students' Anti-Soviet procession. Two of the senior staff were seriously wounded, while the whole equipment in the shop was thrown into the street and burnt.

The original intention, as later revealed by one passerby, was, however, much worse. They were actually trying to persuade the students to attack and then themselves kill students with pistols and grenades, in order to hold the Communists responsible for the murder, as they did in the Kunming incident last December in which four students were killed by the Kuomintang Gestapo.

Communist Protest

After the crime was committed, the Communist representatives in Chungking made a very strong protest to the Kuomintang and Chiang Kai-shek personally. They declared:

"This and other organised brutalities were certainly intrigues of the anti-Soviet, anti-Communist and anti-people reactionary clique within your party (Kuomintang), who are acting with the objective of undermining the unity between allied nations, and of furthering the disunity among the people; they want to damage the prestige of the Government, and to upset the decisions of the Political Consultative Council at one stroke.

"In such conditions when there is no freedom and security from the constant attacks of the Gestapo, we can justifiably ask what is the meaning of talking of democracy or unity among allies?"

"In the name of Peace, Democracy, Unity and the unification of the nation we cannot but register our emphatic protest, and request the Government to take immediate action to punish those responsible for these brutalities, to disband the Gestapo organisations, to apologise and to make compensation to the Communist Party and the Democratic League (whose organ in Chungking, 'The Democracy'—a daily—was also damaged by the mob), and to guarantee that such things will not recur in future."

The Kuomintang Government has not yet answered this protest and it yet remains to be seen if it will intervene or will passively stand by and allow the Gestapo secret-servicemen to go ahead freely with their attempts to smash the democratic movement.

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British Train Dutch Troops To Fight Indonesians

--4,000 MEN ALREADY SENT

THE story already published in *People's Age* that British officers were training Dutch troops in Siam to shoot down the Indonesians has been confirmed and amplified by a Dutch Officer recently evacuated from Siam. Here are the details:

When the thousands of Dutch soldiers in Siam were released by the Jap surrender from three and a half years of hell in insanitary jungle prison camps, the first thought of all of them was to get home. A few were lucky. But almost at once came strict orders from the Dutch Government that none were to be allowed to leave; they were needed to put down the Nationalist movement in Indonesia.

In open defiance of Attlee's statement that British troops would not be used to re-establish Dutch Imperialism, but only to disarm the Japs, British officer-instructors were promptly supplied to re-train these weary and debilitated wrecks into fighting soldiers. Still kept in the same insanitary Jap camps, they were put through gruelling training in jungle warfare. Rifles, machine-guns and grenades were supplied by the British.

To date between four and five battalions—about 4,000 men have gone to Indonesia. Many more will follow.

Meanwhile, in order to turn these men's natural dissatisfaction into anti-Indonesian channels, the official Allied organisation, RAPWI (Recovered Allied Prisoners-of-war and Internees) has been publishing a weekly bulletin full of atrocity stories.

The character of this publication can be judged from the fact that the editor proposed by the prisoners, CAPTAIN SLIJMERS, formerly editor of the leading Dutch paper in Bandung, was immediately rejected by the military authorities as 'unreliable,' because he was pro-Indonesian.

On the other hand, many of the ex-prisoner officers are notorious Fascists. It is well known that Dutchmen in Indonesia provided most of the money for the fascist party of ANTON MUSSERT, now on trial as a war criminal at the Hague, in Holland.

Meanwhile in Batavia, till the end of October (1945) Japanese officers and their mistresses were openly lolling about in some of the best houses in the city and even today there is no assurance that they have been arrested or repatriated. The British have been too occupied with killing Indonesians to put them out and intern them.

Jap control in Indonesia still extends so far that all money is still issued by the Japanese Bank. A good slice of this still goes to the Japanese troops, besides the British and Dutch. The currency is being rapidly and seriously inflated, with disastrous effects on the cost of living and general hardship.

Ex-prisoners are extremely critical of the administration of RAPWI, carried on with an irresponsibility amounting to dishonesty. At the beginning no proper accounts were kept.

One British colonel presented a bouquet to the Swiss Consul's wife costing 300 ticals and charged it to RAPWI funds.

Another, before leaving by air for India, presented thousands of ticals to his Siamese friends, and submitted no accounts.

There is a strong demand in Batavia for a public enquiry into this misuse of Red Cross and Government money.

STALIN SPEAKS

(Continued from Page 7.)

The only difference between them is that some belong to the Party while others do not. But this is a formal difference. What is important is that both are working for the same common cause. Therefore, the Bloc of Communist and non-Party people is a natural and vital thing. (Stormy, prolonged applause.)

In conclusion, allow me to thank you for the trust you have extended to me (prolonged, unabating applause. Shout from the audience: "Hurrah for the great captain of all victories, Comrade Stalin!"), by nominating me a candidate to the Supreme Soviet. You need not doubt that I shall try to justify your trust.

(All rise. Prolonged, unabating applause turning into an ovation. From all parts of the hall come cheers: "Long live our great Stalin! Hurrah!" "Hurrah for the great leader of the peoples!" "Glory to the great Stalin!" "Long live Comrade Stalin, the candidate of the entire nation!" "Glory to Comrade Stalin, the creator of all our victories!")

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Govt.-Controlled Chinese News Agency Backs Terrorist Outburst

THE Kuomintang-controlled Central News Agency in China occupies the same position in China which the Reuter does in England; it is afforded special facilities and has a virtual monopoly of all news in China. The outburst of Fascist-terrorist activity, directed to blow up the agreement on unity achieved last month, has also been backed up by the news agency with fabrications which rival even Goebbels' inventions.

Here are some examples:
*1. In December last, the Central News Agency called the peaceful student meetings in Kunming as bandit activity; and tried to put the responsibility for firing on the demonstrators (actually carried out by the Gestapo) on the shoulders of the Communists.
*2. During the civil strife in North China, the Central Agency actually 'created' the news that Communist Generals Ho Lung and Shao ke were killed in action, and went so far as to invent the names of two villagers, in

whose house they were supposed to have breathed their last. But only recently the two generals turned up in Kalgan, shaking hands with the U. S. General Marshall.

*3. The Central News Agency distorted the recent disturbances which took place at the rally to celebrate the success of the Political Consultative Council by hinting that it was those wounded progressives who had started the trouble and assaulted the Gestapo! Forty-four Chungking reporters who were present on the spot have made a public statement, condemning this as a lie.

*4. According to the Central News Agency, the business office of the Communist organ in Chungking was destroyed not by any hooligans but by their own staff, and the big mob that attacked the Peiping Communist quarters was a group of peaceful and distressed refugees, who were angry with Communist policy. Both these stories are absolutely false.

SOVIET IS FIGHTING THE BRITISH, NOT THE PERSIANS

There is plenty of talk today about a Third World War—and the central piece in this entire war-picture is Iran.

SINCE the days of 1920, when every newspaper in London and Washington regaled its readers with cooked-up stories that the Soviet regime was tottering, there has never been such a spate of fabricated rumours and reports—all designed to prove that the Soviet is going to attack and enslave Iran.

Soviet Invasion Scare

The campaign followed close on the heels of the Soviet statement on March 1, that Soviet troops while withdrawing from North-East Persia, were going to remain in North-West Persia, "pending clarification of the situation."

These speculations obviously were not enough. Therefore, on March 12, the U. S. State Department produced the sensational news that "Soviet armed forces and heavy military equipment were moving south towards Teheran and the western border of Persia."

Despite the Persian Prime Minister's immediate disclaimer of any knowledge of such new troop movements, this news was followed up the next day, with the report that "the only certainty is that Soviet troops and heavy military combat equipment, including tanks, have been moving into Persia."

Next day came the report that Persian Embassies in Washington and London had heard nothing of the troop movements. Simultaneously, the Soviet news agency contradicted the State Department's report about Soviet troop movements, which "does not correspond to facts."

Clearly, the story was wearing somewhat thin. Something more convincing had to be cooked-up; so a dramatic Associated Press of America report was put out (March 15) that the Iranian War Minister had declared that Russian troops were 23 miles from Teheran and the Iranian Army would fight "to the last man, and every boy and girl will defend this city."

On March 16, came the inevitable denial by the War Minister, a categorical denial that "no statement had been made by me" (Bombay Chronicle, March 17).

After this the talk about Soviet troop movements died down, though scare reports about Irano-Soviet tension remain and every day the news

comes that the Iranian Government is due to put its case before UNO.

Real Facts

After disentangling all these slanderous fabrications, what does it all boil down to?

FIRST, that there have been no Soviet troop movements beyond what the Soviet has officially stated—that her troops are staying in North-West Iran, "pending further clarification."

SECONDLY, that the British and Americans are very anxious to give the impression to the world that a serious threat to world peace exists in Iran.

In contrast the Iranian Government is resisting the pressure and still emphasising its good relations with the Soviet and its desire to solve differences in a friendly manner (Persian Premier's message to Molotov, March 7.)

But what are these differences, why are Soviet troops staying in North-West Iran?

The first point is that the presence of Soviet troops in Iran is not directed at Iran but directed at those war-mongers who wish to use Iran as a base for an anti-Soviet war.

The Daily Telegraph correspondent wrote on March 13 that the Iranian Premier is "reported to have said that the Soviet Government many times during the talks expressed goodwill to Persia and had declared:

"You should not fear Russia. It is the British, not the Persians that the Russians are fighting in your country." (Free Press Journal, March 14).

British Reaction's Plans

For the Soviet knows well that though British troops have formally evacuated Iran, they have left only after organising "a coalition of Southern tribes trained by military specialists and headed by high-ranking British officers." (An article in the U. S. Press by Reza Shah-shahani, former chief of Persian Bureau of War Information).

These tribal chieftains of the Southern Province of Fars have always been easily bought up by oil Imperialism.

In January 1945, a Teheran paper, Keehan, wrote that "nobody in Fars obeys the orders of Teheran," while General Arfa, then Iranian Chief of Staff, revealed, as long ago as April 1945, that the Union of Southern Tribes had built up an Army of 50,000, equipped with most modern weapons of war.

Only two months ago, the newspaper Mardom reported that any amount of war equipment was being smuggled into Iran via the ports of the Persian Gulf; and this obviously could only be done by the British.

It also remembers the events of the last war when from 1918-1920, the Caspian ports of Iran were used as bases for British military intervention against the Soviet oil-area of Baku.

It remembers how the then Iranian Government planned to

take advantage of this conflict and grab large slices of Soviet territory.

It remembers how even after the formal withdrawal of British troops had taken place in 1921, yet at the end of the year, the British inspired a military revolt against the new Iranian Government of Reza Shah. The revolt was headed by Mohomed Taki Khan, and the troops participating were mainly men of the South Persian Rifles, formed and trained by British officers during the 1914-18 war!

The Soviet knows too how strong is the talk of an Anglo-American war against her (see article on page 9). It knows well that:

"If one wishes to hear open discussion of war with the Soviet Union, the least discreet sources of information are British (my emphasis) Embassies in Warsaw and other Eastern capitals." (New Statesman and Nation, March 15).

Who Rules Iran?

And above all it knows that Iran is still "run by about 2,000 wealthy families."

"These men own the land, they are the Cabinet, they are the Majlis, they control finance and the army. They found their social and political contact with the British... British influence became paramount—particularly after the elimination of the pro-Germans." (Reuter, December 27, 1945).

Thus the Soviet knows that under present conditions, Iran is an ideal base for an anti-Soviet war; and all the numerous anti-Soviet lies and scares over Iran and over other issues only go to prove all the more that British and U. S. reaction is doing his best to organise such a war, a war in which Iran is obviously booked to play an important role.

This is why "pending further clarification"—clarification that Iran will not be used as a key base for an anti-Soviet war, the Soviet troops are staying in North-West Iran.

The Soviet is accused of breaking her pledge of the 1942 treaty to withdraw her troops by March 2, 1942; but as M. Vyshinsky made clear in his letter to the Chairman of the Security Council—last January, Soviet troops were in Iran during the war, under the "right granted to the Soviet Government by the Soviet-Iranian Treaty

of February 28, 1921 and (my emphasis) the Soviet-Iranian Treaty of 1942."

And in the Soviet-Iranian Treaty of 1921, clause 6 states, that:

"Russia shall have the right to advance her troops into the Persian interior for the purpose of military operations necessary for its defence if a third party should attempt to carry out a policy of usurpation by means of armed intervention in Persia or if such power should desire to use Persian territory as a base of operations against Russia." (My emphasis).

And who can deny today that there is not a third party who "desires to use Persian territory as a base of operations against Russia?"

In fact, the entire stage-managed scare over Soviet aggression in Iran is only a part of similar scares about Soviet expansionism in the world.

The British Imperialists know that Europe has gone democratic; they have no further hopes there.

Remember Finland!

They know that if Iran too goes democratic, if the 2,000 families are overthrown and the 14 millions of Iranian people come to power, their hopes of dominating the Middle East too will be shattered. For a democratic Iran will affect all the Middle-East, today groaning under the old Arab - feudal-cum - British - Imperial yoke.

That it is not the Persian people who are against the Soviet was shown by the successive mass demonstrations in Teheran last week, demanding elections and settlement with the Soviet—while there were no anti-Soviet demonstrations.

On the other hand, there can be no doubt that the reactionaries in Iran are once again—as in 1920—dreaming of a major war against the Soviet out of which they hope to grab Soviet territory and Soviet wealth.

Everyone remembers the howl of the world Press when "little Finland" was "attacked" by the Soviet in 1939.

Everyone will remember too how in 1941, it was definitely established that Finnish reaction had placed itself at Hitler's disposal in his anti-Soviet crusade in order to grab Soviet territory, and that the Soviet's precaution in 1939 in effecting the change of frontier near Leningrad, saved that city from German slavery.

Over Finland, many, like Pandit Nehru, tripped and condemned "Russian aggression." Two years later, life itself taught them that they were wrong.

Today over Iran once more many, including Pandit Nehru, condemn "Russian aggression." Let them learn quickly the real facts and not wait for future history to teach them their mistake.

From Bombay Railway Labour Seat

SHIV BISHAL - FIRST WORKER - MLA IN INDIA

The Communist representative for the Railway labour seat in the Bombay Legislative Assembly, SHIV BISHAL, has the honour to be India's first worker-M.L.A.

IN the Primary election held recently, which was contested by three parties, the Congress, the Royists, and the Communists, the Communists got almost as many representatives in the electoral college as the Congress and the Royists put together. This, despite the fact that the entire strength and prestige of the Congress was concentrated on fighting the Communists.

The victory in the Primary election ensured one of the two Railway seats for the Communist Party—even if the Congress and the Royists combined against it.

The final election has been uncontested since the Congress candidate Khedgikar's nomination paper was declared invalid. The other Railway seat, therefore, went to a Royist.

Shiv Bishal has been in politics since the early twenties, and in trade union work since 1929. A rebel against social injustice, he struggled his way to Communism through his own experience. Today on the BCCI Railway (his constituency) there is none who can rival him in popularity, none who has contributed so much to the building up of the union against rival reformist leadership, owners' callousness, and Governmental repression.

Early Life

Born in a peasant family in 1909 in a village in Lucknow dist. (U.P.), Shiv Bishal could hardly complete three standards in Urdu. The death of his father forced him at the age of 12 to till the soil himself. When 15, he thought of joining the Army. But the mercenary life

there repulsed him within a week. Employment with a bania also ended the same way.

In 1919, Shiv Bishal started work on the GIP Railway as a coolie in the Matunga workshop. After two years here, he took up the job of a gateman on the BCCI Railway. When he was finally dismissed from service on account of his trade union activities, he had become a cabin-man.

In these early years, Shiv Bishal joined the Arya Samaj and propagandised on its behalf. He also joined the Congress, and in 1921-22 worked actively for it. But the lull that set in after the failure of the struggle drew him away from it, and towards the terrorists. He collected funds for the release of Bhagat Singh, Dutt and others. But he had no organisational links with them.

Into TU Activity

The GIP Railway strike in 1930 finally drew him to trade union work. He joined Vallabhbhai's BCCI Rly. Employees' Assn., and enrolled 500 members single-handed. But the leaders' reformism led him away from it in three months. He then joined Jannadas Mehta's BCCI Rly. Employees' Union, expecting it to be more militant.

By now Arya Samaj had ceased to have any hold over him. In the union his work earned him the office of Asst. Secretary. But it was a militant Secretary that fought against Jannadas's reformism. And when Jannadas organised a joint meeting of the BCCI and GIP workers to explain the Murphy Court Recommendations (on retrenchment), he ruthlessly exposed

them. Sardesai and Bhardwaj, Communist leaders, 'discovered' him here, and Shiv Bishal joined the Communist Party.

Popularity Among Workers

Such was his popularity that single-handed he used to sell 100 copies of the Hindi 'Railway Mazdoor', the journal of the militant trade union movement.

At Madras he fought for the All-India Railwaymen's Federation issuing a call for an all-India Railway General strike. Naturally Jannadas was furious and threw out all Communists from the union.

Next year, with his Communist colleagues he won back the union from the hands of the reformist leadership. For two years they fought against Jannadas who had started a rival show under the same name. In 1935, they brought into being the BCCI Rly. men's Union. The bosses continued to recognise only Jannadas's union. But that could not in any way deter Shiv Bishal and his colleagues.

Shiv Bishal's trade union work was so good that the management was nervous and started transferring him from place to place. This, however, gave this worker-leader his chance to organise workers in all places. The bosses were helpless.

And so when in 1939 they got an excuse he had signed a handbill in support of Subhas Bose who had been then thrown out of the Congress) he was summarily dismissed by a telegram from none other than the General Manager himself. No charge-sheet was framed against him.

Shiv Bishal now worked whole-time for the union. His wife, Subhadra, stood by him and worked for the Union despite Police terror. Conferences

of Railway workers were called. Shiv Bishal led them, thousands attended them.

Against the ruthless Police terror of 1940-42, he was sent by the Communist Party to the U.P. He returned to Bombay in 1943 and built up his Rly. union. The great strength of the union (over 10,000 members) is the work of Shiv Bishal to a great extent. There is hardly any place on the Railway where workers do not know him personally. For even while in service he led their battle in person. And his not knowing English was just no barrier for him.

He is a first-rate agitator, a fearless fighter, a tireless organiser. From a body of hardly 700 in 1935, and despite years of Police terror and illegality, the union today has thousands under its banner. And the credit goes to Shiv Bishal above anyone else. His services have secured him membership of the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress and Vice-Presidency of his own union.

It is this worker-leader whom the Railwaymen have returned to the Bombay Legislative Assembly to carry forward the fight he was waging outside.

HINDU - MUSLIM CLASH IN LAHORE

(Continued from Page 4.)

Inside the League there are two distinct trends today. One wants to direct the whole League in such a way as to win over the Congress so that it unites with the League instead of with the reactionary Unionists. The other, afraid of annoying the British, disapproves of the anti-Glancy demonstrations and is anxious to single out the Congress, the Hindus and the Sikhs, for their attack, while winning over Khizar and other Glancy-agents by sweet overtures.

At a public meeting of the League held on the 10th, and attended by forty thousand citizens, Mian Iftikharuddin was cheered vociferously when he declared:

"Khizar's Ministry is a calamity not only for the Muslims but also the Hindus and the Sikhs. We are not merely AGAINST the present unholy coalition but we are also FOR a noble coalition of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, of the Congress and the League. We shall forge that unity and together we shall face Imperialist in this and bullets and throw Glancy and his kind out of our country."

FOR BREAD AND FREEDOM

(Continued from Page 5.)

These are not to be taken as palliatives or substitutes for our basic demand for national freedom, but rather, to supply the immediate human needs of the vast majority of our people.

By thus focussing attention on the inseparable problems of FREEDOM AND BREAD, we not only serve notice to Imperialism, which has cheated us of BOTH, to quit, but also point out a path of united common endeavour to all Indian patriots.

The threat of famine, which we sense so deeply, is at once a challenge to our patriotism and an opportunity to unite our people in the struggle for freedom and social justice.