



Workers of All Lands Unite!

No. 57.

APRIL, 1948.

Price 2d.

The world today is characterised by political, diplomatic, and propaganda moves which reflect the growing antagonism between America and Russia.

At the same time practical preparations for war are feverishly going ahead. Budget expenditures on armaments are reaching higher levels than pre-war in Britain and America.

Atom Bomb research is being stepped up. Even more horrifying preparations are being made for biological warfare which will destroy men, beasts and crops and produce famine conditions in the "enemy" ranks.

The political struggle in Italy, France, Greece, Turkey and China is interpreted from the angle of the future great conflict.

The Press of Britain and America is filled with hypocritical denunciations of the totalitarian regimes of Russia and Eastern Europe.

The only hope for humanity lies in the international solidarity of the world working class and the establishment of world socialism.

MOCK ELECTION At University College

In a mock political election recently held among the students of University College, London, candidates stood from all the political tendencies represented in the college.

Italian Socialist Youth Move Left

BY PAUL G. STEVENS

"We are leaving the Saragat Party because it stands irrevocably outside the Socialist Movement and is moving further and further away from the working class to become a left cover for the bourgeoisie."

Refuting reports circulated by the Saragat party leadership, Comrade Maitan categorically stated that this was not a resignation of the Socialist Youth leadership, but a split which takes almost all the Socialist Youth outside the ranks of the Socialist Party of Italian Workers (PSLI) led by Saragat.

In the interview published in the daily "Repubblica" of Feb. 8, Comrade Maitan likewise defined the class position of the new movement and clearly indicated that the split was not the result of a difference of opinion over tactics, but of a principled incompatibility between a reformism bogged down in the mire of collaboration with the bourgeoisie, and a sincerely revolutionary tendency, placing in the forefront the defence of the class interests of the proletariat.

Political Platform

The Revolutionary Left of the Saragat party drew up their political platform before the Congress which led to the split.

STOP THE ANTI-RED PURGE Imperialists Prepare For War on Russia

THE DECISION TO PURGE THE CIVIL SERVICE MINISTRIES CAME AS A BOMB-SHELL TO THE LABOUR MOVEMENT. THIS STEP DEMONSTRATES THAT THE LABOUR LEADERS ARE PREPARED TO THROW OVERBOARD THEIR DEMOCRATIC "PRINCIPLES" AS SOON AS THEY ARE FACED WITH THE VITAL ISSUE OF THE DEFENCE OF THE CAPITALIST STATE.

The inclusion of Fascists as well as Communists serves only as a cover to head off anticipated criticism.

Apparently the Tories in high places in the Civil Service are beyond suspicion in their loyalties to the working class! It is an undeniable fact that a large proportion of high-up civil servants are more than sympathetic to the ideas of fascism and reactionary dictatorship.

Every left winger in the Civil Service is now open to victimisation through tale-bearing, spite, and above all, for "unorthodox" political opinions. Had the Tories introduced such legislation there would have been a storm of protest in the Labour movement.

In debate, Attlee has made use of the police states established by Stalin in Eastern Europe and Russia itself in support of his action. Undemocratic

measures by the Stalinists are no justification for undemocratic measures by the Labour leaders.

Of course, the capitalists are greatly pleased. They see the possibilities before them. Already, in South-West England, Colonel M. Whitwill, President of the fascist Bristol Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of the S.W. Regional Board for Industry, has made an accusation that the Stalinists were responsible for slowing up production and suggested that the purge be extended to industry.

This measure has aroused considerable disquiet in the Labour movement, and even in the ranks of the Parliamentary Labour Party itself. Certain Labour M.P.'s have put a motion signed by S. O. Davies, Harold Hudson, and 41 others, regretting Attlee's statement, and pointing out that the Official Secrets Act should provide adequate protection in peace and war.

There is only one reason for this move. The Government wishes to hold back the technical secrets of the future war from the Soviet Union.

The following item taken from the Johannesburg "Rand Daily Mail" of the 3rd March, is an indictment of the white herren-volk and their treatment of the black and coloured people of South Africa.

Workers in the organised movement must fight for the annulment of these undemocratic measures. Civil Servants, like all other sections of the working class, must have the freedom to hold allegiance to any working class organisation.

£20 FOR A LIFE

The following item taken from the Johannesburg "Rand Daily Mail" of the 3rd March, is an indictment of the white herren-volk and their treatment of the black and coloured people of South Africa.

"FINED £20 IN INSTALMENTS FOR HOMICIDE

KICKED, THRASHED, THREW MAN IN FIRE

SWELLENDAM. Tuesday.—Gert Johannes Swanepoel, aged 60, a cartage contractor of Bonnievale, was found guilty of culpable homicide by Mr. Justice Newton-Thompson in the circuit court here to-day and fined £20, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment.

It was alleged that Swanepoel assaulted a coloured man, Christian Muller, by pulling him off a cart, kicking and jambokking (thrashing) him, and later throwing him into a fire which had been made at the side of the road.

TUC DECISION Hamstrings Unions

Tribunals Given O.K. To Freeze Wages

BY ROY TEARSE

THE T.U.C. AND THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRIES HAVE REACHED SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PEG WAGES.

Commenting on the F.B.I. "plan" on price and dividend limitation, the "Times" commented that "many indeed would probably accept the stabilisation of 1947 dividend rates gladly in exchange for the certainty of being able to earn 1947 profits."

Considering that the profits of some 2,000 companies in 1947 was £435 million, the "Times" shows good horse-sense from the employers' point of view.

The current weekly wage rates for workers are: £4 16s. 6d. for many railwaymen; an average of £3 11s. for women cotton workers; £4 4s. for women in the Yorkshire Woollen Textile Industry; £4 10s. for agricultural workers; £4 16s. to £5 for drivers in the provincial transport services, less for conductors.

In announcing the Government's policy, referring to the possibility of "some exceptional case," where increased wage rates would be "justified" Cripps had the effrontery to state: "it is difficult to imagine one!"

T.U.C. Accepts Conditions

Despite their talk about the cutting of profits and prices, this policy has now been endorsed by the Trade Union Executives.

the Trade Union Executives. By 5,321,000 votes against 2,032,000 they decided to support the recommendations of the T.U.C. General Council. As the "Daily Herald" reports: "in accepting the restraints, the trade unions do not make conditions."

The "critical" speeches of the T.U.C. bureaucrats were necessitated only by the very real fear of the development of a movement among the rank and file.

The dilemma into which the T.U.C. has been brought out sharply in this poll of the Conferences of certain trade unions. The Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union and the Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen, the Executives of which supported the T.U.C. General Council's recommendation, both decided in Conference to press for higher wages.

Threat To Trade Unions

Two vital factors are here involved. One, the contradiction between an attempt to build and strengthen the unions by showing to unorganised workers the need for organisation to fight for better living conditions, and at the same time the declaration to the world at large that the union is against wage increases to-day. This applies with special force to less-organised sectors of industry, such as those catered for by these unions.

The Rank And File

Secondly, there is the pressure of the rank and file. Unlike the union bureaucrats, they do not get fat salaries. They see no reason for pegging their wages while the Government and T.U.C. General Council accept "reasonable profits"—£435 million in 1947!—as "justified", and while government officials receive £5,000 a year salaries.

These are only two unions. The situation in the others, whose leaders voted for the Government policy, will be substantially the same. The bureaucrats will argue that wages must be frozen, but in order to save their faces they will tell their own members that they did not really mean it should apply to them. The Executives are painfully aware that the rank and file will not jump so smartly to attention upon the recommendation of the T.U.C. General Council, as did the Executives themselves.

T.U.s At Arbitration

Tewson, T.U.C. General Secretary, pointed out that "the union Executives are not automatically tied" by the decisions of the T.U.C. or its General Council, but stated that the decisions will have an "influence". This "influence" means that the apparatus of the unions will be lined up with the employers against the working class whenever the latter attempts to force a struggle for better conditions. This is a very real threat.

Moreover, the position of the union representatives will be particularly farcical in front of the Arbitration Tribunals to which they are tied by the Industrial Truce. They will be respectfully reminded of their decision to support the wage-freeze policy when their claims are thrown out.

The Isaacs' Circular

What the policy of the Arbitration Tribunals and other such bodies will be, was shown by the circular sent by Isaacs, Minister of Labour, to the Chairmen of Wages Councils. The circular stated that these bodies, in arriving at their decisions, must be absolutely certain that they have taken the

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VIETNAMESE PRISONER, securely trussed, is interrogated by a French Foreign Legionnaire. The prisoner was captured after fighting recommenced in October at the end of the rainy season. 22 million inhabitants are now at war with France. The area of Viet Nam is one-third greater than that of France. There are 115,000 French soldiers in Indo-China, among them numbers of ex-Nazis recruited from the Foreign Legion. About 600 are killed each month.

(Picture from "Life")

French Imperialists MOVE AGAINST TROTSKYISTS AND COLONIAL WORKERS

PARIS—

The French courts have instituted proceedings against a number of French Trotskyists considered responsible for the editing and distribution of a poster denouncing the colonial war in Indo-China.

The examining magistrate, Padin is careful not to operate the amnesty law of January 1947, passed subsequent to the summoning of the accused. It is necessary for them to prosecute in line with the 3rd Republic's villainous

laws on the press, which the 4th Republic has taken over.

The prosecution takes place together with the reactionary measures against the toiling masses and the colonial peoples.

Viet Nam Workers' Arrested In France

The following is a resume of a statement to the press on the arrest of Viet Nam workers, published by the Association of Viet Nam Workers in France. It speaks for itself:

"On Saturday, Jan. 31, and Sunday, Feb. 1, large police and

mobile guard forces in the whole of France proceeded to encircle the camps of the Viet Nam workers and arrested 150 of them, consisting of old and newly elected delegates and rank and file workers.

"We Viet Nam workers who are still 'free' appeal to the French workers, to all men devoted to the cause of justice and freedom, to join forces with us in order to save the arrested workers from the brutality of the colonialists. Only the international solidarity of all the oppressed can stop the imperialist oppression."

The Central Committee of Viet Nam Workers in France February 8, 1948.