Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party,

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Stop the Forces Victimisations!

BY G. NOZEDA

A series of court-martials has commenced at Tel-el-Kebir, in the Middle East. 10 soldiers are under arrest charged in connection with the demonstrations and protest strikes which took place there in November against the decision of the Labour Government to slow down the demob programme.

DEMOB

The arbitrary arrests of a haudful of the militants who took part The soldiers know full well that this attempt to frame a few of their fellows as the "ringleaders" is being made by the officer-caste in order to stifle the justified discon-

military officers investigating. They were threatened, each one separately, that "unless they made a statement on their part in the demonstrations, they would get 10 years imprisonment."

Similar protests against the Labour Government's demob policy has been made by B.A.O.R. troops among the troops there of a mass petition protesting against the demob delay and demanding that the Labour Government reverses its policy and speeds up demob.

Appeal To A.E.U.

Former members of the A.E.U. are responsible for the petition, which is expected to be signed by 10,000 troops. The petition appeals to the A.E.U. to take up these demands of the soldier-conscripts and put pressure on the Labour Government to speed-up demob. "Every conscript" states the petition, "has one ambition, to get out—and get home for good." the troops be These words sum up the feelings of brought home!

the conscripted worker in the

armed forces. Attlee has said that "world committeents" of British imperialist in the protests and demonstrations has further angered the troops.

The soldiers know full well that this Greece, some 350,000 in Germany, 45,000 in Italy, 110,000 in Palestine, 100,000 in Egypt, many thousands in India, Japan and other countries. In all a total of over three quarter of a million tent in the armed forces at the demob slow-down. Their solidarity with the arrested militants is expressed by all the troops overseas and a Defence Fund in their aid is being collected. At one R.A.F. station in India, 400 rupees (£30) station in India, 400 rupees (£30) was collected in half an hour. "The only ones who didn't contribute . . ." said the Sergeant in charge of the collection, "were the lads who were broke."

Allegations have been made, and Allegations have been made, and the constribute to aid them in their demand for speedier demobilisation and return home.

The petition of the troops in the armed forces away from their homes and families. The conscripted worker has no wish or ambition to continue as the oppressive tool of British imperialism. And the conscripted workers look to their comrades in Civry Street to aid them in their demand for speedier demobilisation and return home.

The petition of the troops in the A.E.U. Paul Baudouin, was Minister of the vichy Government in the Vichy

The petition of the troops in Germany addressed to the A.E.U. is a challenge to the class-consciousness of the whole of the British organised workers. Let every trade unionist, every socialist and worker in the Labour movement demonstrate their solidarity with follow-workers in uniform and ment demonstrate their solidarity with fellow-workers in uniform and the intermediary of the Banque de demand that the Labour Govern-ment withdraws the troops serving it is associated, the Bank of Indohas been made by B.A.C.R. troops in Germany. A British soldier is ment withdraws the troops serving overseas. The withdrawal of China is connected with the overseas and India may well precipitate revolutionary struggles on the part arises out of the circulation of the colonial masses against their of the colonial masses against their nationalisation of the Bank of IndoChina is connected with the M.R.P., through Andre Delray. This explains why, in 1945, the M.R.P. refused to agree to the nationalisation of the Bank of IndoChina is connected with the M.R.P. refused to agree to the nationalisation of the Bank of IndoChina is connected with the M.R.P. refused to agree to the nationalisation of the Bank of IndoChina is connected with the M.R.P. refused to agree to the nationalisation of the Bank of IndoChina is connected with the M.R.P. refused to agree to the nationalisation of the Bank of IndoChina is connected with the M.R.P. refused to agree to the nationalisation of the Bank of IndoChina is connected with the M.R.P. refused to agree to the nationalisation of the Bank of IndoChina is connected with the M.R.P. refused to agree to the nationalisation of the Bank of IndoChina is connected with the M.R.P. refused to agree to the nationalisation of the Bank of IndoChina is connected with the M.R.P. refused to agree to the nationalisation. native oppressors once the foreign Indo-China. oppressor has gone. As revolu-tionary communists we stand for the right of the masses in these countries to determine their own destinies struggles

Imperialist oppression. Workers! Protest i Workers! Protest in your trade unions and labour organisations try, rubber, electricity and disagainst the victialization of military conscripts. Demand their its monopoly control, the Bank of tant conscripts. and

Demand that Government ends its reactionary country. policy of upholding British Imperialist interests. Demand that withdrawn and

The Royal Train

On February 1st the King and Queen accompanied by their two daughters, will be sailing to South Africa in H.M.S. "Vanguard". In the Birmingham works of the Metropolitan-Cammell Carriage and Wagon Company, precious labour, steel and timber, which could have been used to greater advantage in building houses for the people who need them so desperately, have gone into the making of eight special railway coaches which have been described as "the last word in elegance and luxury."

There are separate coaches for of a total non-European popula-the King and Queen and the two Princesses. The material and furnishings which have gone into African working class families in

The King's Suite

"It comprises a small study and a spacious stateroom with an adjoining bedroom. The an adjoining bedroom. The stateroom walls are veneered with figured English chestnut, with skirting and mouldings in English walnut. A built-in wardrobe is finished in the same manner. The furniture is in English walnut with handles in sycamore. There is a tub easy chair, and a fitment at the bedside has a drawer, cupboard and space for books, and on top stands a telephone. The floor is covered with a hand-made beige carpet and the windows have art-silk curtains and pelmets, net curtains and silk spring roller blinds. Near at hand is a workroom for the King's valet, bedroom for the conterny and specific transfer and specific transfer and specific transfer transfer and specific transfer transfe equerry, and another for the King's physician."

The rest of the train is furnished

It is illuminating to compare this palace on wheels in which the royal parasites will travel about South Africa with the living conditions of the vast majority of the South African people. In Durban according to a report made to the Union Housing Board in 1935, "30,000 non-Europeans, nearly half of whom were Natives, were living in primitive, insanitary shacks." In East London, "20,000 non-Europeans were living in peculiarly insanitary conditions out

each would provide one or two working class families with more comfort than they have ever dreamt teriorated. To day the Minister of. What working class home can compare with the following description of the King's suite?

are desperately required.
So acute is the housing shortage that the Government has been compelled to train Africans as bricklayers, plasterers, carpenters, and painters in defiance of the notorious Mines and Works Act, which prohibits the employment of coloured labour in skilled take coloured labour in skilled jobs.

In the tribal areas housing con-

ditions are, if anything, even more primitive, a family usually occupy-ing a squalid mud but and a hopelessly inadequate strip of land.

It has been estimated that the

average income of a Native family is about £20 per annum, which works out at about 2½d. per day per head of the population. Out of this he has to pay his taxes, buy food and clothes, and meet all the incidental expenses of daily life.

This They Will Not See

Of all this the royal tourists will see very little. They will be dined, wined and feted by the big The rest of the train is furnished in the same sumptions style. No expense has been spared to create this epitome of elegance.

How The People Live

shots of the white minority and will only be permitted a glimpse of the more "picturesque" aspect of native life. As they turn in their comfortable beds at night, they will give not a thought to the will only be permitted a glimpse of native life. As they turn in their comfortable beds at night, they will give not a thought to the shots of the white minority and It is illuminating to compare millions of black workers whose is palace on wheels in which the toil and suffering help to make

SOCIALIST APPEAL FRENCH WAR ON DEMAND ACTION INDO-CHINA By Charles Van Against Franco

Role of Socialists and Stalinists

ONLY A FEW MONTHS AFTER THE FRENCH MINISTER FOR THE COLONIES, MARIUS MOUTET, CONCLUDED THE AGREEMENT WITH COLONIES, MARIUS MOUTET, CONCLUDED THE AGREEMENT WITH

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH RECOGNISING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE undertaken because of the discontent of the British and world olive oil, bread and eggs that are VIET NAM REPUBLIC, THE FRENCH IMPERIALISTS HAVE LAUNCHED A IET NAM REPUBLIC, THE FRENCH IMPERIALISTS HAVE LAUNCHED A working class at the continued support by Anglo-American Imperialism of the bloody totalitarian regime of Franco in Spain. But in itself, while commercial relations between Prize Strain Spain and other lates and working class at the continued support by Anglo-American Imperialism of the bloody totalitarian regime of Franco in Spain. But in itself, while commercial relations between Prize Strain Spain and other lates and working class at the continued support by Anglo-American Imperialism of the bloody totalitarian regime of Franco in Spain. But BLOODY ATTACK ON THE YOUNG STATE.

demonstrating to the French ruling class that it is as capable of carrying out the traditional policies of colonial conquest and exploitation as any of its predecessors.

in sharp contradiction to the terms of the French-Viet Nam Agreement and would have been a pistol pointing straight at the heart of Viet Nam economy. In actual fact, French imperialism is fighting to maintain its strangle-hold on this, the richest of the French colonies. Behind the demand for customs control lies the deter-mination of the Bank of Indo-China

Economic Monopoly

It completely dominates the and support their economic life of Indo-China. It for freedom from has the monopoly for issuing money and the control of transunconditional Indo-China has been able to put the Labour ment of the productive forces in the

The ostensible excuse for the attack is the refusal of the Viet Nam Government to allow the French to control the customs at Haiphong. This would have been discovered by the squandered in the cause of French Finance Capital. In his pamphlet, "In Defence Of The Colonial Revolution", Ajit Roy gives the following description of some of the measures taken to suppress the mass uprising in Cochin, Annan and Tongking in 1930:

"Men and women arrested in masses and tortures were extensively applied . . . the tortures used included starvation, beating, pins driven under the nails, half-hanging, pincers in the temple (to force the eye out), and a number of others that are not printable. One of these was 'with a razor blade, to cut the skin of the legs in long furrows, to fill the wound with cotton and then to burn the cotton.'"



With such refined and "civilized' methods the rulers of France try to maintain their hold over the

French "Socialists" and " Communists"

In France today there is a "Socialist" Government. Yet thousands of fresh French troops are on their way & indo-China to drown the struggle of the colonial people in blood. They will join the expeditionary army already there, which contains 80% of former Waffen S.S. forces. The A Record Of

Bloody Repression

The record of French imperialism in Indo-China is one of bloody repression and vicious economic exploitation. Since the "liberation" over a year ago, 100,000 Viet a single serious protest or called the serious prot over a year ago, 100,000 Vict a single serious protest or called Namese have been massacred and one demonstration against this hundreds of thousands gaoled and newest imperialist adventure. The interned. 8.500 French soldiers Socialist Party only issued a halfhave lost their lives and over 50 hearted condemnation of the policy milliard francs have been carried out by its own ministers.

NOTES

THE FOOD QUESTION

have very little time for writing to the Press, but from that peculiar type of upper middle class moron who scares herself silly in print about the awful possibility

orroded wiith the national philistinism so carefully inculcated by that creation of the Kemsley Press,

the British Housewives' League!

Most people in England see the ration scale publicised in the same manner. In an effort to show what the Control Commission is This wanton display of ostent-atious luxury in the midst of the direct poverty demands the precisely nothing. What is a in terms of calorific content—a comparison which demonstrates precisely nothing. What is a calory? Or fifteen hundred calories? The figures register in the mind: but the imagination is untouched. Nobody who has not tried to live on it can possibly visualise what the present ration in Germany means, in terms of human want and human suffering.

| tea. But she did know that we used the equivalent of a day's and hours, waiting for the miserable ration of milk in two big cups of tea, and the milk was milk and not the watery fluid she gets. When I opened up a can of corned beef and start's to lash it out I was reminded, and I must confess it German working class house who working class house who has not tried to live on it can possibly visualise what the present ration in Germany means, in terms of human want and human suffering.

Tea With Frau F.

with Frau F-. rations, of course, which made me a criminal in the eyes of the Army. (One can do anything with army food, eat it, throw it away, or feed it to pigs. But you must never, under any circumstances, give it to Germans. Even the giving away of haversack rations at railway stations is forbidden.)

Fran F— prepared tea, and told me what the simple snack we ate together represented in German rations. For purposes of comparison she ignored the difference in quality between the roughest army food and the best foodstuffs the Germans can buy. But no Germans can buy. British housewife, faced with hard black bread, tasteless ersatz tea and coffee, and watery milk, would ignore it.

class action in support of the colonial revolution and against Imperialism. Its organ, "La Verite", calls on the dockers of Marseilles and North Africa to re fuse to allow arms and troops to be shipped against the Viet Nam. It calls on the soldiers of France to refuse to kill and be killed for the profits of the Bankers and big business. "NOT A PENNY business. "NOT A PENNY!
NOT A SOU! for the war in Indo-China !

Only the French Trotskyists, the

As reported in the Mid-December "Socialist Appeal", the Parti Communiste Internationaliste (Trotskyists) called a meeting on December 6th to protest and con-demn the massacre of the Indo-Chinese people by French imperial-ism. The meeting was banned by the police and at the subsequent open air meeting called to protest against the ban, several Colonial and French comrades were arrested and many more were bruised and beaten up by the police. These acts of police terror have not stopped the French Trotskyists from taking the lead in calling on the French the French workers to give full support to the struggles of their fellow-toilers in Indo-China.

All Aid To The Colonial Revolution!

The workers in this country must give every support to the people of Indo-China in their struggle for liberation from the caves and holes in the ground. French yoke. All arms shipments to France must be stopped lest it be used against the Viet Namese. Every Trade Union, Labour Party picture one finds opulent and Co-operative branch must send restaurants and hotels which serve resolutions of protest to the French Embassy against this latest Imperialist outrage. A demand must be made that the World Federation of Trade Unions organise an international embargo of all material to the troops of French imperialism.

The fight of the colonial people

the troops of French imperialism.

The fight of the colonial people is our fight. All aid to the Colonial revolution! Down with is the black market. Everything imperialism!

all relations with Franco Spain should be broken off. now almost the monopoly of the black marketeers. 30s. A Week "The average weekly wage of a skilled worker is 30s. A meal in a moderate restaurant costs 16s., and between Britain, Spain and other countries are continued and even intensified, it cannot help in any way the struggle of the Spanish

in a good restaurant at least £2. A loaf of bread on the black

market costs 4s. 6d., a pint of olive

oil, the people's only fat about 24s.,

living ever been met by a corres ponding rise in wages. .

"Today General Franco is exceptionally unpopular. If it were possible to have a free election and the people could vote for or against him, there would be a 95% ballot except this.

The Budget

"The Army . . . and it must be remembered that Spain has been at peace for more than 7 and a

half years and possesses hardly any

modern equipment—absorbs 22% of the general Budget. The Ministry of the Interior, whose responsibility includes the maintenance of civil order, takes 10.8%. In striking contrast the Ministry of Agriculture, in a predominantly

Agriculture, in a predominantly agrarian country, is allotted a mere 0.9%, while the Ministry of Education, on which one might reasonably suppose the future of Spain depends, receives only 4%.

ballot against him.

Nations Assembly, the British Government has withdrawn

This action follows the demand from the T.U.C. that

oil, the people's only fat about 24s., and rice, another staple food, from 6s. to 7s. a lb. One egg costs 1s. 3d. Flat rents are high, and the cost of clothing ,though unrationed, is exorbitant.

"The only way a Spanish workman can earn enough to keep himself and his family from starving is by having two jobs and Foreign trade between Spain and Britain has increased during the last year thus helping Franco to temporarily prop up his shaky Despite the fact that Spain was not directly involved in the imperialist war and devastated as starving is by having two jobs and continuing to work after his official

were other European countries the conditions of the masses is almost eight-hour day is finished. This is not so easy now, as, despite official figures, there is increasing unemployment. Nor has the tremendous rise in the cost of living any has part by the same as that of a defeated country.

workers and peasants to overthrow the dictatorial regime of Franco.

its Ambassador from Spain.

The position in Spain has been colourfully described in an article in the "Daily Telegraph" of December 5th by John Ridley and we make no apology for extensively quoting him.

Dying Of Starvation

"You see on the fashionable Gran Via in Madrid, among the sleek, well-fed people and luxurious limousines, wretchedly ragged women, boys and girls stretching women, boys and girls stretching out their hands to snafch a biscuit, a piece of sugar, or a few crumbs from the cafe tables. Go into the country areas, and particularly down South in Andalusia, and you find men, women and children literally dying of starvation. Queues of hungry mothers with their half-naked, famished children clinging to their skipts wait for the clinging to their skirts wait for the meagre plate of lentils or beans doled out to them by relief organ-

Opulent Restaurants

"Yet on the other side of the meals of the rarest foods and wines, and magnificent shops where you can buy all the clothes and luxury goods you could possibly require. But all these are and could at a price, and that price is far beyond the means of 9% of the

Hamburg Worker Faints from

Starvation

Officers Well Treated-2s. A Week For Privates

"Franco is first and foremost an army man, and, rightly realising that his precarious power depends on the Army for its life blood, he treats the Army well. An Army officer or n.c.o. eats well and is superbly uniformed and well housed. He gets good pay and, better still, draws unlimited rations—a large proportion of which is sold on the black market—from the Economata Militar, a sort of Spenish conviculant to sort of Spanish equivalent to N.A.A.F.I.

"On the other hand, the ordinary private soldier is paid 2s. a week, and is badly dressed, badly fed and badly housed in filthy and often verminous

Thus one finds these are often a productive field for the efforts of the underground movement, who flood most barracks with clandestine newspapers, and although the penalty for a soldier being found with a copy is death they are

"Travelling round Spain, as I have done during the past five months, one might quite reasonably imagine that the country was at war. Everything is on a war basis, with mass movements of troops and all the fantastic display of a totalitarian State—gaudy uniforms, brightly polished jack-boots, police armed with automatic rifles revolvers, extreme poverty and extreme riches."

Fear If Franco Goes

It is on this background portrayed by Ridley, that the manoeuvres of the Imperialists in regard to Spain must be considered. They wish to save the Franco regime but are desperately seeking some alternative to substitute for him in the him in the event that the pressure of the masses should threaten to culminate in revolution in Spain. That is why they are holding in reserve the possibility of the restoration of the monarchy at a suitable moment. If they are hesitating at the present time it is because they fear that the removal of Franco from the top would un-leash the pent-up feeling of the masses in revolutionary upheaval from the bottom. So as long as possible, they wish to prop up the tottering Franco regime. Strikes have already broken out

among the heroic workers of Barcelona, who began the revolution in 1936 as a reply to the counter-revolutionary uprising of the Army Generals; and in other towns in Catalonia. In these strikes the workers risk the firing squads and the concentration camps in which hundreds of thousands of the flower of the Spanish workers are still held under incredibly vile conditions.

Workers' Parties For Capitalist Republic

The old workers organisations who were responsible for the disastrous defeat of the working class in the civil war, are coming forward with the demand for the restoration of the status quo as it existed before the Franco regime, in for the capitalist republic i.e. for the capitalist republic.

Some sections of the Socialists

have even been negotiating with the Monarchist reaction in order to win the support of Anglo-American Imperialism for the ousting of Franco. This they hope will reconcile the imperialists to the change, as the Monarchy would

(Continued on Page 4.)

HAMBURG

By a British Soldier

One of the consequences of the ively correspondence that has been taking place in the British Press recently about the German food question has been the publication of one or two letters enlarging on the trials and tribulations of the British housewife.

Most of these, it is obvious, did not emanate from working-class housewives, who, as far as I know, f being starved to death by a windictive Labour Government.

The German food shortage is a myth according to these ignorant people, and the British housewife is going through almost as much as the German.

To what depths of stupidity can the human mind sink when it is

German food situation only through the medium of figures. The ration calories per day; and cuts in the doing, the British ration is compared with the German, but again

The other evening I went to tea ith Frau F—. I took my own

I ate two slices of bread, lightly spread with margarine and cream cheese. To Frau F— this represented a day's ration of bread (the army loaf is bigger than the German one, of course), a month's ration of cheese, and one week's total fat ration. We had tea with sugar and milk, an almost forgotten delicacy in Germany today, and Frau F— told me she couldn't remember when she had to last remember when she had tea last. Nor could she remember the last time she was able to put sugar in tea. But she did know that we tea.

Hamburg factory for air. In a fortnight he had fainted In one day 30 workers collapsed from hunger.

FAINTING MAN had collapsed when he

day whether the food on her ration card will be available or not. Sometimes it is. More often, particularly during the last few weeks, what she has been able to get has been far below what her card entitled her to.

The Queues . . .

And the queues here in Germany! It is impossible to see them without feeling the sense of hopeless desperation that fills the minds of the grey-faced men and women who stand there for hours

Frau F—'s monthly ration of meat.

Frau F— gets about 8 pounds of potatoes a month, but she has to stand in long queues to get them and she never knows from day to day whether the food on her learning to the most, of course. The people with the cash, who are still around in spite of "de-nazification", can live on the black market.

Herr K—, for instance, ex-"de-nazification", can live on the Herr K-, for instance,

officer and pillar of one of the local Military Government detachments, told me that he spends about five thousand marks a month getting food for himself on the black market. He is typical of thousands, who find it good for business to work with Military Government. It is easy to spot them. They walk around arrogantly, smoking English eigarettes. (Only one of these eigarettes would cost a worker a day's pay to buy.) But they have the "connections". And in Germany today, those who have the 'connections" have the