

Freedom

THE ANARCHIST WEEKLY

"Liberty is not a means to a political end. It is itself the highest political end."

—LORD ACTON.

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Threepence

40 YEARS OF BOLSHEVISM

THE Communist Parties of the world are this week celebrating the 40th anniversary of the glorious October Revolution.

This revolution was not the one made by the Russian masses to overthrow the corrupt despotism of the Czar; it was the palace revolution made by the Bolsheviks under the leadership of Lenin to establish the Communist Party in power.

From the moment when special detachments of the Red Army—specially brought together for the job by Leon Trotsky—overpowered the guards outside the Winter Palace in Petrograd where the Kerensky Government was sitting, and arrested that Government in the name of the People—from that moment the concern of the leaders of the Communist Party has been the continuance in power of the Communist Party.

Considerations of Power

No other consideration has governed their actions. The motives which drove the people into revolution eight months before were called upon, used, misused and finally strangled in the course of the realisation of Soviet power. The ideas of the founders of the Party have been submerged in expediencies as the founders themselves have been submerged by ruthless elimination. The inspirations of liberty and equality have been replaced by enforced duties to the State, fears of peoples 'outside' and bourgeois opportunism within a social and political structure giving every encouragement to privilege seekers and power-hungry psychopaths.

In four fantastic decades Russia has been hustled from a semi-feudal, economically backward agricultural country to a modern State with a technology so advanced in some sections that its current achievements are taking the world's breath away.

It has emerged as a foremost power in the world and it calls upon the allegiance of millions of people outside its own boundaries (which

are enormous) in a way no State has ever been able to do in the past.

Rejection of Ideals

And it has done this through a complete and cynical rejection in practice of the ideas which gave it birth, while at the same time professing them at home and propagating them abroad. While offering freedom and emancipation of the peoples of other under-developed or colonial countries, the Russian leaders have enslaved their own people. While talking democracy they have practiced autocracy; while talking peace they have built the most massive weapons of war; while denouncing the poverty of the people in the capitalist world they have continually subjugated the wellbeing of their own people to the needs of the State; while posing as the friends of the subjugated peoples of British or French colonies, they have practised an imperialism as ruthless and as exploitative in the countries they dominate.

The list is almost endless. There is hardly any disagreeable aspect of capitalist society which has not been equalled, if not exceeded, in the development of modern Russia. The excuse has always been the security of the State—the same excuse which is used to-day to justify telephone-

tapping in England or was used yesterday to excuse McCarthyism in America. Instead of developing the revolutionary concepts which lay behind the downfall of Czarism, and building the security of Russia upon the spread of revolutionary ideas and realities among the people of other States, thereby undermining the abilities of those States to threaten the Soviet Union, the Bolsheviks had no faith in the peoples of the world—or even in the love and loyalty a free Russia could have won from them.

The Means and the End

They had faith only in State power. This was not so very surprising since, first, they were (still are?) Marxists and thus wedded to Statism, the path of political power, and secondly, the Bolsheviks came to power through no popular election, with no mandate from the people, but simply through a *coup d'état*—a seizure of State power. It was their goal and their means.

Thus from the very beginning the die was cast in the totalitarian direction. A party which seizes power cannot allow popular expression of opinion in case it is opposed to the party. This is not to say that there was no popular support for the Bolsheviks at the beginning of their régime. Even opposition parties—even some anarchists—were prepared to work with them at the beginning for the sake of consolidating the revolution and preventing the re-emergence of Czarism, through united effort.

But Lenin and his comrades were not long in showing their gratitude for this support by packing the jails and the torture-chambers and keeping the firing squads busy with all those who had ideas to present to the Russian people at variance with

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DR. WILHELM REICH

As we go to Press we learn with deep regret of the death of Dr. Wilhelm Reich.

We know nothing of the circumstances of his untimely death, though we assume it occurred in prison where he was serving a two year sentence.

We shall be publishing an appreciation of Dr. Reich in a subsequent issue of FREEDOM.

We join Dr. Reich's family and friends in America in mourning the loss of a man who contributed so much to a better understanding of ourselves.

The Spread of Strontium

Further details of the accumulation of radio-strontium in British soil, milk, and human bones is contained in a report now being published by four members of the Atomic Energy Authority's staff at Harwell. The report gives the results of analyses for radio-strontium carried out on samples gathered in 1956 and, in some cases within the last few months.

The most startling of the information is that the bones of two children (a year and six months old respectively) who died in the summer of this year were found to contain nearly a quarter of the concentration of strontium above which the Medi-

cal Research Council has said "that immediate consideration would be required."

One "strontium unit" is defined to be a concentration of a millionth of a millionth of a radio-active unit of strontium for every gram of calcium. By this standard the Medical Research Council has acknowledged that it would be dangerous if the general level of strontium in the bones of a population exceeded 100 s.u., and that "immediate consideration" would be necessary if strontium exceeded 10 s.u. . . .

Analyses of the concentrations of strontium in milk, rainwater, and grass have made it possible to say something about the mechanism by which strontium gets into human bones. Apparently the concentration of strontium in air is so small that inhalation cannot possibly account for the measurements obtained. Milk is likely to be a more important source of strontium than rainwater, while flour from some localities appears to contain about the same concentration of strontium (relative to calcium) as milk.

Manchester Guardian, 2/11/57.

ROYAL EXEMPTION

Princess Margaret will not have to pay purchase-tax on a valuable diamond brooch which is being sent to her from Tanganyika, Customs and Excise said yesterday.

It was explained that members of the Royal Family do not have to pay duty or tax although they often do so as an act of grace.

A Send-off for Harding

THE replacement of Sir John Harding by Sir Hugh Foot as Governor of Cyprus has been generally regarded as the beginning of another period of Cyprus rule which could create an atmosphere whereupon new policies might be built.

The British Government, in an attempt to forestall any criticism of the change which might be interpreted as weakness, has hastened to point out that Sir John had reached the end of his official appointment and the change in no way implies criticism of his handling of affairs in Cyprus. Indeed, much praise has been given to Harding for the way he dealt with the emergencies.

Reports from Cyprus claimed after the announcement that overnight the atmosphere had changed. Sir Hugh Foot is looked upon as a Liberal and a non-military type whose appointment might bring about policies more in keeping with the demands of the Greek Cypriots. These reports came after the news of the change on October 22nd. By the 28th things had taken a most unexpected turn.

Colonel Grivas, who may have seen in the new appointment, another factor contributing to the weakening of his own influence circulated leaflets to the effect that the fighters of EOKA would continue the struggle and would "not bend before any suppression until our heroic Island is freed".

Sir Hugh Foot's appointment, whatever the Government might say, was probably made public in order to coincide with the anniversary celebrations on October 29th, marking the Greek rejection 17 years ago of Italy's ultimatum which brought them into the war against Germany and Italy.

Demonstrations were planned although forbidden by the Government in Cyprus. On the previous day memorial services were held all over the island for Cypriots executed

under the emergency laws or killed by Security forces.

In spite of the ban young people marched in the streets with banners demanding the withdrawal of the British, and pictures of soldiers batoning the crowd reached this country less than a week after the "new era" in British policy was announced.

If the Government had not been so stupid the demonstrations may well have proceeded fairly quietly. After all here were people who had fought on the side of the British in the last war commemorating their refusal to accept the ultimatum of a fascist dictator, being treated like criminals by their ex-ally now in full military occupation.

It is difficult to say at this stage whether the demonstrators were staging a farewell party for Sir John Harding or heralding the appointment of Sir Hugh Foot.

BEVAN IN AMERICA

REPORTS of Mr. Bevan's tour of America tucked away in the inside pages of our newspapers suggest that he is facing his audiences with smooth diplomacy. Occasional criticism is interlaced with quiet praise.

In language which all politicians will understand he advocated the necessity for compromise if the whole world is going to escape total destruction. This will not be read as a desire on Bevan's part to communise the United States since he has advocated the need for a rival bomb. His performance at Brighton assured him a fairly warm welcome in America.

His emphasis on the advisability of accepting China into the United Nations is not as revolutionary as it might seem, for sections of American diplomatic circles have been considering a change in policy towards China for over a year now.

Reflections on White Paper

The Wise Men and Wire-Tapping

ALL the righteous indignation of one section of the Press, Parliament and the Public last June when it was disclosed that a former Home Secretary (Mr. Lloyd George) at the request of a former Attorney General (Sir Hartley Shawcross) had passed on to a private body (the Bar Council) information about one man (Mr. Marrinan) in the course of tapping another man's (Billy Hill's) telephone . . . was suddenly silenced by the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry.

"Royal Commissions", "White (or Blue) Papers", "Committees of Inquiry", these, one feels, are the answers to every Reformist's prayers, the culminating moment in years of lobbying, appeals, letters to the Press, and to the many organisations that spring up with their impressive lists of sponsors and sympathisers. For governments the appointment of Committees to investigate this, or to report on that, is the perfect let-out for past misdeeds, the method by which at the small cost of exiling a Minister to the House of Lords, everybody in the political game (and the dopes on the touchline) agree to let bygones be bygones.

Where governments appoint Committees on their own initiative, without any outside pressure, then one

can be certain that the purpose of the Report they produce is to give "expert" authority to the unpleasant measures the government is proposing to adopt! In other words no Government, Tory, Liberal or Labour, will set up the machinery of Inquiry unless it hopes to benefit by it either directly or in the negative way we have outlined. It is the government of the day which decides on the composition of the Committees and the "terms of reference" of their Inquiries. And last, but far from least, the vital evidence is in the hands of the government departments whose actions are the subject of the inquiries. Are we really expected to be so naive as to believe that in the circumstances there can be a thorough and impartial investigation of the real issues at stake?

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THE Committee set up by the Government last June to inquire into telephone tapping was composed of Sir Norman Birkett, Lord Monkton and Mr. Patrick Gordon Walker, that is a Lawyer-politician combination, in which the two lawyers had also dabbled in politics, as well as all three having, at some time, occupied high office in the institutions of the State, one as a judge, the others as Ministers in the Tory and Labour governments

respectively. It is not surprising, therefore, that their combined wisdom has produced a pedestrian report concerned with legal niceties and the security of the State but which virtually disregards the basic objection: the deep disgust ordinary people have for those activities which subject the individual to the snooping and the prying eyes of officialdom. You cannot expect these eminent people to see the wood for the trees any more than you can expect dog lovers the world over to recognise "Sputnik II" for the living dog strapped inside it.

Thus while the committee declares that "the interception of communications is regarded with general disfavour" it justifies its continuance on the grounds that "all Home Secretaries since 1939 have thought that the power should continue" and what is more, they believed "there had been no case where the liberty of the subject had been invaded to his detriment". For them "general disfavour" is a minor consideration compared with the demands of the security service and the police. The committee holds that it would be "folly to hamper or hinder the security service by withdrawing essential powers" and "not wise, prudent or necessary to take

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