

FREEDOM

'A map of the world that does not include Utopia is not worth glancing at, for it leaves out the one country at which Humanity is always landing.'
OSCAR WILDE.

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GERMAN REARMAMENT

IN a matter of some fifteen years, the Allied politicians' promises to the "civilised world" that Germany would have to be occupied and kept disarmed for at least fifty years have been completely exposed for what they are worth. Last week the West German Defence Ministry announced that its armed forces budget for next year will amount to 18,000 million D.M. (about £1,350 million), which is about what Britain spends every year on "defence".

Just ten years ago FREEDOM (Aug. 23, 1952)* printed the following editorial comment on German Rearmament:

"WE were bitterly exhorted during the war not to trust the Germans again. Journalists wrote angry articles asking us if we were going to allow "the Hun" to get away with it once more. Politicians told us indignantly that we should be tricked a second time if we were not careful. All sorts of public figures got up and lectured us on our incredible folly after the first war, and explained that we must never be so foolish again.

"We", that is the wonderful part of it, the poor long-suffering inarticulate public. As if it made any difference what the public thought! It could agree as much as it liked not to trust the Germans, not to allow "the Hun" to get away with it, it could promise to be more careful and never to be foolish any more, but for all the good such acquiescence does it might just as well have gone for the evening to

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A 10 Year Success Story

the dogs—which it probably did anyway.

Who is it that is rearming Germany? Is it the foolish, generous, hoodwinked public? Who is being deceived a second time? The official line we are exhorted now to follow is to let them be rearmed, a line coming down from above to us below, endorsed by Government and Opposition, and we must reiterate that it is no piece of folly, no "generous" attitude, no magnanimity that causes the Germans to be forgiven so readily. *Nor was it last time.* It was a favourite theme of wartime propaganda that we were too generous last time—a deliberate, calculated lie. Germany was squeezed till the pips squeaked, reduced to beggary and humiliation because of its military defeat, and it was allowed to rearm under the Hitler régime for the same cynical political motives that induce the Western politicians to rearm Western Germany once more.

But even the opposition to the rearmament of Germany is largely insincere, because of the people who compose it. They bring to mind all the reasons why Western Germany should not be rearmed, except the one reason dearest to their hearts—namely, that it is going to serve Western Imperialism instead of Eastern, and against East German rearmament they roar as gently as any sucking dove.

What we, as Anarchists, oppose is rearmament, whether German or French, British or Russian, American or Chinese. We are with those who in Germany are opposing the further sacrifice to the military machine, as with those, who on both sides of the dividing line between Imperialist blocs, stand for a rejection of all these useless tributes to militarism and the State."

In the same issue we were also pointing out that Britain's "anxiety" that Germany should build up a defence force was influenced by Germany's industrial recovery and the threat she represented to British industrial interests in the markets of the world. If Germany could be made to divert some of her consumer goods production to armaments, British exports would benefit. But German industrialists thought otherwise, and arms contracts were placed with American, British and other producers, while German industry went on producing

for the export markets.

From a state of bankruptcy and desolation, Western Germany emerged as the most "prosperous" nation in Europe. But in the capitalist system "prosperity" is a relative term. Like all the prosperous nations of the West, W. Germany is feeling the effects of trade recessions, and obviously a healthy armament industry is an invaluable financial cushion when other outlets for production show signs of slackening! Hence, one is not surprised that the Bonn government is proposing to push the build-up of its armed forces to 500,000 men during the coming year, at a cost of £1,350m. and about a third of this amount will be made available for the purchase of military equipment. The German concerns which hitherto turned up their noses at military contracts are now eagerly offering to accept these orders! According to the *New York Times* Bonn correspondent (Aug. 13), hitherto half

of all orders for the armed forces went abroad. The Defence Ministry welcomes the new domestic interest in contracts for the armed forces, and is proposing to give special preference to those producers who can also develop an export business in the weapons of death! Ministry officials listed engineering equipment, hand weapons, machine guns and vehicles "as the items with the best chance of being bought by other nations". To increase the "incentive" to buy, the ministry is thinking of deducting the materials development costs from export prices. "Arms at cut prices in the cause of world peace and prosperity" it seems to us would be a worthy selling gimmick.

Another step in the war between the world's aircraft producers is to be taken by Germany when the ministry expressed the "hope" that the seven major concerns for the West German aircraft industry would soon pool their research work to curtail costs.

The officials indicated that these concerns, which get 97 per cent of their orders from the armed forces, would be given the alternative of combining and sharing their research and development facilities or facing a reduction in orders.

Where it will all end up is anyone's guess. But it cannot be denied that the German military command has gone a long way in a short time, and along a very dangerous—apart from a prosperous—road!

OBTUSE AND ACUTE ANGLICANS?

(From our correspondent)

LAGOS, NIGERIA.

ONE hundred and fifty pupils for an Anglican Grammar missionary school in Oshun, Western Nigeria, have been sent out of the school for an indefinite period and the school closed down, following acts of "lawlessness" by the pupils.

The principal of the school the Reverend A. N. A. Adewoye stated that the students had submitted a memorandum to him in which they demanded among other things (although he didn't make known what those other things were), the inclusion of eggs and butter in their school meals.

He said he was given a time limit by the students within which to comply with their demands or face the consequences. He stated that before he could "consider" the various points raised in the memorandum, the students decided to enforce their demands.

This, he said, they did by refusing to attend classes and holding meetings to consider how best to meet the situation.

The pupils resisted attempts by the principal and members of the staff to stop their meetings and get the students back to their classrooms.

NOVEMBER 2
Keep this date
clear for the
Anarchist Ball!

AUSTRALIANA

THE resumption of nuclear testing resulted in the following statement being issued by over 100 physicians: "We, the undersigned Physicians throughout Australia fear the consequences of the resumption of atmospheric nuclear testing by our own or any other country. As physicians we believe that: All radiation of potential parents by the radio-active products of nuclear weapons tests is genetically harmful"

Representatives of all the nuclear Powers received a copy of the full statement. Signatories from Melbourne included Professor R. D. Wright and Messrs. Sydney D. Rubbo, Lance Townsend and D. F. Lawson.

The National Health and Medical Research Council is expected to recommend that the pain-killing drug Phenacetin be declared a poison. This follows a survey at Sydney Hospital which showed that 53 died at the hospital in the past 3 years from a kidney disease.

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16 had not been aware of kidney trouble before being admitted to hospital. 22 died within 3 days of admittance. The survey indicated that 37 of the patients who died had taken 5 or more tablets daily for about 6 years for the relief of "Headache, sinus trouble and Arthritis or merely from habit." No such survey has been conducted in other States. One of the most popular headache tablets, which is available at any street corner milk bar, contains Phenacetin.

After a lifetime's toil a worker reaches retiring age. After several years on the pension he becomes vague and unreliable. His wife, unable to provide him with the necessary attention requests that he be admitted to a benevolent home, at least until his condition improves.

There are no vacancies. He is forced to enter a Mental Home. The authorities cancel his old age pension. His wife is unable to pay the fares to visit him. He has nothing for smokes, papers, even a Christmas present for his wife."

This is not from some Dickensian horror story. This could happen to anyone on a pension.

The chairman of the Mental Hygiene Authority, Dr. E. C. Dax, said "the Government was actually making a profit out of mental patients whose old age or invalid pensions were immediately withdrawn if they entered mental hospitals". This is just one case which received publicity because someone wrote to the newspapers protesting.

The usual appeals are now being made to the Parliamentarians who, incidentally are able to retire after 3 years continual service on a pension of £18 per week for life.

In an affluent society, of course, some are always more affluent than others.
A.A.G.



RIGHT OUT of this world went Lt.-Col. Pavel Romanovich Popovich and Major Andrian Grigorievich Nikolaev into outer space, singing lullabies to each other, fuelled, as a Bulgarian newspaper said 'with the socialist order'. Sir Bernard Lovell said that the Russians had space superiority in the military if not in the scientific sense. Col. Popovich replied to a woman of 70 quoting Mayakovsky, that the sky was examined from inside and outside and no gods were found. The Western Command expressed itself as interested in the formulae for rocket fuel used by two 13-year-old schoolboys at Stafford. . . .

OUT OF Ghana went the Anglican Bishop of Accra, Dr. Richard Roseveare and the Archbishop of West Africa, the Most Rev. Cecil Patterson for alleging the godlessness of the Ghana Young Pioneer movement. (This was unfounded, since their god is undoubtedly Dr. Nkrumah who "is our Messiah" and "never dies"). Out of Italy and into Austria went Jacques Soustelle, former French Minister for Algeria. Still in Brixton Prison is Dr. Robert Soblen whose application for a writ of *habeas corpus* challenging a deportation order was a defence subpoena for communications between the British and U.S. Governments on the deportation issue, disclosure of these documents would be contrary to the public interest because it would be injurious to good diplomatic relations. More successful was Pawell Patrzalek, a Polish fisherman who sailed into Grimsby and was granted political asylum. . . .

FAILING to get out of East Berlin alive was Peter Fechter, an 18-year-old building worker and a 19-year-old transport policeman, Hans Dieter Wesa. Fechter

was shot in full view of West Berliners, U.S. military police and within lens shot of Western photographers but died after forty-five minutes. Wesa was shot by his work-mates as he scrambled over a barbed-wire barrier into the French sector. The ambulance which might have helped Peter Fechter was stationed at the crossing point four days later to pacify the feelings of the West Berliners whose indignation forced the Russians visiting their war memorial, conveniently located in the British zone, to take refuge in an armoured car. The Russians also took refuge in the appointment of an East German as commandant, Willie Brandt took refuge in accusing communists for the East provoking West Berliners. *The Daily Worker* took refuge in accusing *The Times* of wishing to use ambulances in a provocative fashion. Only Peter Fechter and Hans Dieter Wesa found no refuge. . . .

FAILURE WAS registered by O.A.S. gunmen ambushing de Gaulle. Bombs exploded near Franco's summer residence, and by the home of a Pentagonville officer. Cuban emigrés in Miami claimed credit for bombardment of buildings in Miramar where they claimed they hit a hostel for East European technicians. Castro held the U.S. Government responsible. . . .

MRS. SHERRI FINKBINE had her abortion and her husband said that the foetus was deformed and (according to the *New York Times*, International Edition), he had rejected offers of illegal operations since "It is better to have a deformed child than an illegal abortion". A doctor gave a kidney to a colleague to save his life. Sir Winston Churchill was discharged from hospital after 54 days. However, his 15-year-old poodle, Rufus, died, he now only has a marmalade cat, since his budgerigar disappeared from Monte Carlo in February 1961. Field-Marshal Montgomery visited Sir Winston on his sick-bed and reported that Sir Winston was "entirely against" the Common Market. Sir Winston issued a denial but Lord Attlee appeared (in space donated by Lord Beaverbrook) to oppose the Common Market and somewhat adjust the balance of statesmanship. Reports that Princess Margaret was to have a baby proved abortive. . . .

ALDERMAN HORACE HIRD, chairman of Bradford Art Galleries Committee made an exhibition of himself by insisting that three nude paintings in an Arts Council

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