

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
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**I. B. TABATA
ON
SOUTHERN
RHODESIA
and
SOUTH
AFRICA**

412
Bd.

LEE MUST GO!

Sponsors: Frank Allaun, M.P. - Perry Anderson - Chris Arthur - Julian Atkinson - Michael Barratt Brown - Malcolm Caldwell - Neil Carmichael, M.P. - Raymond Challinor - Henry Collins - Lawrence Daly - John Daniels - Peggy Duff - Ray Gosling - Richard Fletcher - Trevor Griffiths - Eric Heffer, M.P. - Ellis Hillman - Dave Lambert - Ralph Miliband - Stan Mills - Jim Mortimer - Tom Nairn - Dick Nettleton - Stan Newens, M.P. - John Rex - Ernie Roberts - Alan Rooney - David Steele - Professor E. A. Thompson - E. P. Thompson - Tony Topham - William Warbey, M.P. - Raymond Williams - Bert Wynn - Konni Zilliacus, M.P. - Robin Blackburn - Ken Coates - Chris Farley - Ralph Schoenman - Earl Russell, O.M. - Tom Swain, M.P. - Tony Brewer - Alan Sillitoe - Sydney Silverman, M.P. - Anne Kerr, M.P.

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LEE MUST GO! BUILD A UNITED FRONT OF RAILMEN AND MINERS!

The miners, about ^{the} introduction ^{of} an integrated fuel policy, have been brazenly shelved. Until, belatedly, Mr. Fraser was sacked, the same thing ^{has} been happening to the railwaymen. Since Barbara Castle was given the chance, it ^{now} become possible that some of the worst damage to the prospect of an integrated transport system can be undone, if she backed by a fierce campaign to give powers to attack the vested interests which stand in the way. But the matter has been left dangerously late, and could prove beyond rescue. Urgently, then the miners must secure the same reversal of policy which is implied in transport. Mr. Lee, who, we understand, is profoundly miserable at the role he has been manoeuvred into playing, obviously is not capable of withstanding treasury and departmental pressures. He must join Mr. Fraser, and a new man must be found to represent the promises which Labour made to Britain's mineworkers. Let every miners' branch and lodge be able to travel by agreement with the N.U.R., so that the only trains on the lines will be full of protesting coal-miners. This would be a powerful reminder to the Government of what is possible once its often neglected, and now shamefully misused, supporters can do when their passions are aroused.

Certainly the miners and the railmen must link together in the fight against the attempt to control wages to stabilise capitalism. This is the fight of all workers. All workers, too, must take heed of the Callaghan-Jay axis and its apparent determination to induce enough unemployment to impose wage-restraint by simple market pressure. For the miners, these two general dangers are augmented by a third especial one: that of the complete subordination of coal to oil, and the dismemberment of the mining industry which is being remorselessly pushed through by Fred Lee.

"....and arising from our determination to main in our members' standard of living, we feel we are left with no alternative but to instruct our members to withdraw their labour from 00.01 hours on Monday, 14th February, 1966, and decide accordingly." With these words the N.U.R. began a new phase in the history of the labour movement: a phase in which the trade union movement, which founded the Labour Party, is compelled to come into conflict with a Labour Government. On the same day, news reaches us, another sorely mistreated group of workers will be in action. The Scottish N.U.M. has called for a lobby of Parliament, and has invited other areas to join in. It is to be hoped that many will do so. The Scots are chartering aeroplanes, perhaps others, nearer, might join in, and let all voices be raised with the slogan: "Fred Lee must Go!". A combined demonstration by railmen and miners might yet help to reverse some of the worst anti-working class measures and help those who are struggling for the re-assertion of socialist priorities.

The Croydon National Union of Railwaymen No. 1 branch has issued a bulletin to its members and other trade unionists setting out the reasons for the forthcoming rail strike. The most relevant extracts read:

"...Most of you will recall the very lengthy enquiry into the pay in our industry by the Guillebaud Pay Inquiry Committee, which reported in 1960 after sixteen month's work. Amongst others, the Guillebaud Report established two important points:

"1. That pay in the railway industry should be based on comparability with other industries.

"2. That the basis of comparability should be basic wages with other payments, i.e., overtime and other enhancements, not being taken into consideration.

"Your union has managed to retain these principles, to a large extent, in pay negotiations since 1960, and it is the retention of these principles that has been responsible for the improved increases in rates of pay over the period since Guillebaud, compared with those obtained in the pre-Guillebaud era. Another important principle extracted from an independent inquiry body was the famous declaration in the Cameron Report:

"That the Nation, having determined the ends, must will the means."

"These principles taken together meant that railwaymen had protection against the plea by management that they could not afford wage increases because of their financial difficulties, and provided a comparison with rates of pay in other industries. In response to claims made last year for improved rates of pay and conditions of service, the B.R.B. offered their infamous package deal, which after pressure from your union was, $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ increase in wages from October, 1965. Even on the B.R.B. figures the Guillebaud Principle would have given 9.7%, with a further $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ from October, 1966. The 40-hour week to operate from April, 1966, with an extra two days leave for staff with ten or more years' service in 1966.

"Your branch, having been against the acceptance of the package deal throughout, urged the National Executive Committee to reject it and go forward on a policy containing the following points:

(1) Secure a wage increase more in line with Guillebaud Principles and one taking into account the increased cost of living.

(2) Secure implementation of the 40-hour week from January, 1966.

(3) Secure for all staff with 12 month's service an extra week's holiday.

The Executive Committee decided to take our claims to the arbitration machinery for our industry, the Railways' Staffs' National Tribunal. However, the Minister for Economic Affairs, George Brown, decided his pet animal, the National Prices and Incomes Board, headed by a former Tory Minister, Aubrey Jones, should examine the issues.

"...The evil day arrived and the P.I.B. issued its 8th Report. To the amazement of those who thought the railwaymen would receive a fair deal from a body headed by an ex-Tory Minister...the report was so biased towards management as to be unbelievable. It is indeed real 'Rail' Alice in Wonderland stuff! It took this bunch twelve weeks to investigate and submit their report. In this short time they produced conclusions which seek to destroy the findings of both the Cameron and Guillebaud Reports, the latter was the result of sixteen months careful and painstaking investigation. The P.I.B. report also seeks to re-establish the principle that rates of pay and conditions of service of railway workers must be dependent on the ability of the B.R.B. to pay...this infamous document seeks to lay down the principle that earnings and not basic rates shall be the yardstick to apply in the future. In other words, because the railway industry is short of staff...men are working long hours and foregoing Rest Days to keep the job, they must be penalised, according to the P.I.B., for earning too much..."

INVESTORS' CHRONICLE LAVISH PRAISE ON "MORE UNEMPLOYMENT" PAPER

A very clear indication of the attitude of big investors -- despite all their protestations -- towards unemployment was revealed in the latest issue of Investors' Chronicle, a journal which caters for stock exchange gamblers but which reflects the opinions of the bigger boys. The occasion for the expression of opinion was a review of the latest Hobart Paper, which was written by an anonymous economist who calls himself Spartacus. Written for the Institute of Economic Affairs, the paper is entitled: "Growth through competition".

The Investors' Chronicle notes that ^{the} author is described as writing with "an authority derived from practical experience." The pamphlet does a debunking job on George Brown's National Plan, but the enthusiasm of the reviewer is raised by the second part of the paper: "Spartacus goes on from his slating of the Plan to produce his own ideas. They are none of them new, but neither have any of them actually been tried. They are, unhappily, the ideas of academics rather than of practical politicians who rarely have the courage to pursue them once in office. Point one is the freeing of the pound.....Secondly, the Spartacus plan calls for freedom" (sic) "from the fear of unemployment and for better insurance payments. The third proposal is to raise unemployment to 21% from the present 12%. These two are linked; only by creating new attitudes to changing or waiting between jobs can the Government induce in the U.K. a floating reserve of employees (an economic advantage) without social outcry.

"Achieving this highly desirable state of affairs, however, is easier said than done. We shall certainly have to wait either for another and stronger Government, or a period of stiff recession, before any of his measures could even seriously be suggested by a politician..."
(my emphasis throughout)

One is struck not only by such frank expression of opinion (even if in places it is couched in almost marxian terms!) but by the similarity of this argument to that put forward by Ray Gunter a few weeks ago.

Dave Windsor

SIX GAOLED FOR MAKING DRUGS CHEAPER

from Ernie Tate

The following report which appeared in the January 21st issue of New York Times is a striking illustration of the madness and anti-social nature of modern monopoly capitalism: "New York, Jan. 20 - A Federal judge imposed gaol sentences on six defendants in a major case of industrial espionage. It involved a multi-million dollar conspiracy to steal and sell American "wonder drug" secrets abroad. The case is believed to be the first in which industrial espionage has been successfully prosecuted. The sentencing by Judge Charles M. Metzner of the Southern District of New York brought to an end, at least temporarily, years of court wrangling set off by the theft of antibiotic secrets from Lederle Laboratories at Pearl River, a division of the American Cynamid Co.....

"The secrets the group spirited to pharmaceutical manufacturers in Italy, where there are no drug patents laws enabled the foreign producers to undersell American Cynamid throughout the world, including the United States. Even United States Government agencies bought their products because of their low bids." The six men received 2 year and 6 month sentences for the vicious crime of cheapening the cost of life-saving drugs.

It is tempting to describe the Hull North by-election as a farce or a pantomime; so many people seem bent on leaving their mark on history. But the situation is getting serious, not because of factionalism, or even the intervention of Richard Gott, but because of the incompetence, the intolerance, the monumental stupidity of the local parties' "hard case" elements. This segment of the local establishment is a tiny but influential clique of councillors and would-be dignitaries, vindictive and fearful of ideas. Their prejudice and stupidity has repeatedly brought the Labour Party into disrepute, as the party of intolerance.

On Sunday 16th January, Richard Gott was ejected from a by then chaotic meeting for trying to ask a question after the chairman had refused him permission to speak. This incident dominated the press reports of what was clearly a major meeting. On the following night, Gott was listened to with respect at a Tory meeting, and Tories congratulated themselves on maintaining free speech. At Labour meetings now, Gott is taboo and all beads are highly suspect.

On the Tuesday night, a far more alarming incident occurred, when a prominent and respected local left winger, Mr. Tony Topham, was deliberately and insolently ignored, throughout question-time, by the chairman, a local councillor. For 10 minutes before the meeting broke up, the audience of 500 Labour supporters, jeered and shouted and demanded that the chairman allow the question (which was based on Clause Four). Candidate McNamara, Press Agent Paul Rose, and election agent Fred Hall are known to be disturbed by the appalling chairmanship. Mr. Topham feels that Kevin MacNamara would have been able to give a fair answer to the question.

It is too early to assess the full electoral implications of this appalling situation. Make no mistake, whereas free speech and lively debate stimulate interest and enthusiasm, the present trend will do only harm by arousing the anger of the very many Labour supporters who just happen to believe in democracy and free speech.

We have only to think of Islington and Scarborough, of Ken Coates and John Palmer, to realise the damage that these petty tyrants are doing to the Labour movement throughout the country. Only when these people are cut down to size will the whole party move confidently forward as a democratic organisation. We have suffered them for too long.

N.B. Mr. Topham's question: to Kevin MacNamara: "Would you support pressure on the Minister of Transport, to note that the British Transport Docks Board is composed of one trade unionist, the chairman of the Port Employers' Association, a merchant banker, and five directors of companies with interests in shipping, and would you support their dismissal, and replacement with an elected workers council?"

HUMBERSIDE VOICE IN THE HULL BY-ELECTION

from a Hull reader

In addition to devoting the major part of its January issue to an explanation as to why it was supporting Labour (without giving up in any way the right of criticising the Labour Government), Humberside Voice has been very active in the by-election. There have been many election rallies organised by the Labour Party at which Cabinet Ministers have spoken. At each one of these a leaflet has been distributed by Humberside Voice supporters (usually in association with Hull Youth Forum) addressed to Cabinet member, and asking them to implement socialist policies.

The Railway Review of January 7th contained the following extremely interesting and useful item:

"How has the cost of living gone during the last four years? In 1962 the index of retail prices was set at 100. The index stood at 113.6 on November 16, 1965, a rise of 13.6% in four years. But that figure does not tell the full story. It merely reflects the general rise in prices. A closer examination will show that many people can be very much worse off, depending how they spend their money, and on what. Housing, for instance. The rise in the cost of housing has been 22.8%

"What about food? Generally, food prices have risen above the 1962 base of 100 by 12.2 or less than the average rise in prices. Again it depends what kind of food you buy. Meat and bacon have gone up by 17 whereas vegetables, fresh, dried and canned have only risen by 1, and fruit, fresh, dried and canned has actually fallen by 9 points. Fish costs 14 points more and milk, cheese and eggs 19 points more. Bread, flour, cereals, biscuits and cakes have risen by 13, about the average. So if you have been buying more of the higher-priced foods - as reflected in the increase in index points - your food cost of living will have gone up more than the average.

"Fuel and light prices have risen more than the average - coal and coke by 20 points and other fuel and light by 19 points. The price of durable household goods have risen only by 5.4 points and radios and televisions have actually dropped in price by two points. Generally, clothing and footwear have risen in price by 7.7 points but men's outer clothing has gone up by 11 points. Children's clothing went up by six points in the four years.

"Biggest increase in prices after housing - which was next to the highest was in fares - 22 points higher. Top increase in prices was in books, newspapers and periodicals. But what do they matter compared with the very serious increase in rents and other costs of housing?"

A careful study of these figures reveals that the housewife's cost of shopping (as she knows very well!) has been very much higher than the general increase would indicate.

LEEDS C.S.E. COMMITTEE AT WORK

from a Yorkshire reader

A committee is now working out plans for the public launching of the Centre for Socialist Education in Leeds. The secretary, Tony Uden, will be pleased to hear from people in the Leeds area who are interested in joining, or helping the work forward. An impressive list of sponsors is being prepared, which includes housewives, professors, industrial workers, councillors and aldermen, etc. A panel of 15 speakers has been assembled to provide services in the Leeds area. The Hull busmen's pamphlet on workers' control is to be examined by the Leeds C.S.E. to see whether it can be applied in their town.

All enquiries to Tony Uden, 24, Hartwell Rd., Leeds 6.

President Johnson asked Congress on January 19th for a supplementary appropriation of more than \$12,500,000,000 for the war in Vietnam. This figure is over 125 times the total programme of aid to 61 nations approved the same day by the U.N. Development Programme (the largest programme of assistance to developing states ever agreed by the U.N.) Johnson's demand follows a supplementary appropriation of \$1,700 million for the war, last August.

About \$4,000 million is now needed for items such as ammunition; over \$3,000 million for 900 aircraft and 2,000 helicopters, and about \$180 million for 5,000 missiles. A further \$2,000 million for military assistance for the puppet army in South Vietnam and other foreign troops; and \$415 million for non military assistance - mainly buying friends for the fascist junta in Saigon, (the same day came reports that another 20 odd military officers had been arrested for plotting against the present "government.") Another U.S. division and several other smaller military formations are being raised for Vietnam. \$152 million is requested for "special weapons, research and development."

An indication that the peace offensive will continue is given by the news that over double the cost of the war this year has been requested for the fiscal year beginning next July 1st. The Times Washington correspondent thinks it 'unlikely' that the U.S. would welcome a settlement (other than the defeat of the National Liberation Front) until the new aid programme had 'had time to create what could possibly pass for a South Vietnamese State.'

Meanwhile the Pentagon is reported to have allocated about \$1,000 m. to a crash programme for the construction and development of land, sea and air bases in South Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, and Formosa. Three new airfields are to be built in South Vietnam, each of which, it is reliably reported, will be large enough to house a conference table.

Whitehall Footnote None of the money mentioned above covers the cost of material for Mr. Michael Stewarts' speech writers.

U.S. OFFICIAL CALLS N.A.T.O. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM

Addressing the Anglo-American Press Association Luncheon in Paris on January 20th, the U.S. representative to N.A.T.O., Harlan Cleveland, said: "The United States feels a little lonely in those foreign parts" (South Vietnam) There is an increasing feeling of wonder in the United States...How it is that Europe, which is very strong and prosperous these days, is not engaged in what is a major hot front in a major global confrontation with the communists." He went on to urge the European allies of the U.S. to show a clear stand on the Vietnam question. "We hope the Europeans will come to believe that drawing a line beyond which it is not possible for the communists to practice their new strategy of indirect infiltration is very important for all of us," he declared.

Though he found it necessary to say that it was up to each allied Government to decide on "the form and extent of commitment", he stressed that the United States would welcome any aid, military or otherwise. Cleveland further called for the development of N.A.T.O. from a "credible military deterrent into a credible political detente with the Soviet Union."

SOUTH EAST LONDON GROUP OF C.S.E. TO BE FORMED

from Julian Atkinson

It is proposed to form a South East London group of the Centre for Socialist Education. An inaugural meeting of this group will be held on

Thursday January 27th

at 8.00 p.m.

at: 7, The Glebe, Blackheath, London S.E. 3

near Blackheath Station

The meeting will be introduced by

Chris Farley

(Secretary, Centre for Socialist Education)

All readers in London are invited to attend. Please address any enquiries to:

Inge Westergaard,
(Acting Secretary, S.E. London group),
62, Tarnwood Park,
Court Road,
London S.E. 9.
ELT 1833

FORMATION OF CROYDON C.S.E.

By a Croydon reader,

Seventeen people attended the formation meeting of the Croydon and District C.S.E. at Ruskin House, Croydon on Friday, 21st January. Owing to a meeting being held the same evening protesting against proposed increases in Council Rents, a number of interested people were unable to attend the C.S.E. meeting.

Terry Mandrell was in the chair. John Palmer and Stan Mills gave an outline of the aims and objects Of C.S.E. as well as explaining the necessity of such an organisation. A number of questions were asked from the floor and a lively discussion took place. One question that was raised was about the £1 membership minimum fee. The questioner thought that it was too high. It was agreed that John Palmer and Stan Mills should raise the question with the National Steering Committee.

A provisional Steering Committee of five were elected, including Pat Fortune as Convenor and Hazel Mandrell as Treasurer, with Derek Russel, David Percival, and George Wallis as committee members. It was agreed that another meeting be held on the 18th February.

FORMATION OF OXFORD C.S.E.

by an Oxford Reader.

The Oxford Branch of the C.S.E. is to hold its first meeting on 5th February at 2.45.p.m. in the Newman Rooms, St. Aldates. It will take the form of a conference on 'The British Working Class Today.' A provisional steering committee has been set up consisting of Peter Sedgwick, Richard Kirkwood, Harry Goole and Peter Daly. All enquiries and offers of help should be addressed to Peter Sedgwick, 34 Swinbourne Rd., Oxford.

COMMITTEE OF AFRICAN ORGANISATIONS TO SPONSOR VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

The Executive of the Committee of African organisations discussed the campaign for Solidarity with the People of Vietnam, which is being organised by the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, at its last meeting. It decided to sponsor the campaign as part of its general opposition to all forms of imperialism. Among the organisations which the C.A.O. unites are:

The Angola Committee, the UNEA of Algeria, the London Basutoland Congress Party, the Basutoland Students Union, the Ethiopian Students Association, the London Ghana Union, the Gambia Students Association, the Dynamic C.P.P., the Kenya Students Association, the Liberian Students Union, the Liberian Students Union, the Malawi Students Union, the Cameroon Students Union, the London Nigeria Union, the Sierra Leone Students Union, the South African Students Association, the Pan African Congress, the South African Coloured Peoples Congress, the African National Congress, the South West African National Union, the Sudanese Students Union, the Tanzania Students Union, the United Arab Republic Students Society, the Uganda Students Union, the Zambia Students Union, Zimbabwe Students Union, Bechuanaland Students Union, West African Students Union, Africa Students Circle, the Pan African World Pioneers, the Pan African National Council, and the Pan African Players.

VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS MEETINGS

by Pat Jordan

After a small but very useful meeting of supporters of the Campaign for Solidarity with the People of Vietnam, Thursday last week, it has been decided to make these a regular feature of the campaign. The meetings are to take the form of briefing sessions where speakers will concentrate on one aspect of the Vietnam war and thoroughly go over the ground. It is aimed in this way to make every supporter of the campaign a potential speaker and general propagandist for the campaign. The next session has been fixed for Thursday 10th of February, at 8.00 p.m. at the Africa Unity House, 3, Collingham Gardens, London S.W. 5. (on 30 and 74 bus route - ask for Bolton Gardens - or near the Earl's Court tube station) Anyone interested should write to Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, 3 & 4, Shavers Place, London S.W. 1.

VIETNAM CAMPAIGN DIARY

January 29th - (Saturday)	Benefit Performance, at the Prince of Wales Theatre (Saturday Night & Sunday Morning)
February 2nd (Wednesday)	Supporters meeting in Hampstead to prepare for Hampstead meeting and establish local committee (ring GUL 3609 for details.)
February 10th (Thursday)	Supporters briefing meeting at Africa Unity House, 3, Collingham Gardens, London S.W. 5. (ring FRO 3138)
February 18th (Friday)	Rally in Nottingham, commencing at 7.30, People's Hall, Speakers: Farley, Coates & Schoenman.
February 20th (Sunday)	Rally in Hull, commencing at 7.30, A.E.U. Rooms, Speakers: Coates, Farley & Schoenman.
March 1st (Tuesday)	Provisional date for rally in Birmingham. Details to be announced later.

In the January 13th issue of New Society, Mr. Richard Gilbert had an article entitled the "The Left's Dilemma" which was by-lined: "The Radical Alliance's intervention in the Hull by-election is the strongest sign yet of left wing disillusionment with the Government. It is only one of several stirrings, in America as well as Britain." After dealing with the general position of the left wing he had this to say:

"More important than this society" (the so-called Left of Centre Society) "and far more influential is the Centre for Socialist Education (CSE). The CSE originated among left wing socialists who saw the need for a well informed and ideological challenge to the rightwards drift of the Government. In particular the idea of the CSE owed much to Ken Coates, formerly president of Nottingham Labour Party and editor of the socialist newspaper, The Week. Coates was expelled from the Labour Party after the Blackpool Conference. Transport House was especially upset by a daily bulletin issued at the conference, Briefing, which was produced by a coalition of active left wingers in which the writers of The Week were prominent.

"For many socialists the party conference marked the end of the trance into which Wilson had put the left. Out of the reappraisal came the idea and establishment of CSE. On its steering committee are representatives of a wide spectrum of socialist journals - Voice of the Unions, New Left Review, and Views among them. Like The Week itself, CSE has strong union connections and its support tends to be stronger in the midlands and the north than in the London area. Its aims read like the early manifestoes of the New Left. The main difference is that whereas the New Left was hoping to influence the thought of a party in opposition, the CSE has to oppose the whole trend of the Labour Party in power. ".....Socialists need to insist that they are concerned not with the shoring up of capitalism, but with its abolition and replacement by a socialist society based on common ownership and industrial as well as political democracy."

"As its title indicates CSE is concentrating on education. Among its plans are the preparation of a "read in " on incomes policy in time for this year's Trade Union Congress and a teach in on the Government and the trade unions. It is also preparing a "counter plan" to oppose the DEAs with a strategy of anti-capitalist reforms. Local branches of the CSE have been set up in a dozen towns and 15 more are in the process of being established. A panel of lecturers is being drawn up and every edition of The Week bring news of new branches and activities.

"The CSE is loyal to the Labour movement although extremely critical of the Government's performance. This explains why it shows little enthusiasm for Radical Alliance. Its principal aim is to provide the left with a detailed programme, a strategy and some sort of unity. Its contacts with trade union activists may give the CSE eventually an importance comparable to that of the New Left in late fifties."

I.B. TABATA SPEAKS:

Sunday, 30th January at 3.00 p.m. at the Assembly Hall, Johns Mews, Holborn.

Thursday 3rd. February at 1.00 p.m. at the London School of Economics.

Sunday 6th February at Africa Unity House, at 3.00 p.m.

See page twelve for biographical details of this champion of the national liberation struggle in South Africa.

HONG KONG SAILORS BOYCOTT SOUTH VIETNAM WAR MATERIALS.

According to a report in the Hong Kong paper, Wen Wei Pao, since March of last year, more than 700 Hong Kong sailors have refused to ship war materials to South Vietnam. Some of them refused to sign on in Hong Kong and some left ships when they arrived at the harbours of Hong Kong or Singapore, others left the ships in Japan, Australia, central and South America. Many of these seamen have been victimised and blacklisted by American firms - others had their wages cut. The paper reported that there was widespread sympathy with the seamen in Hong Kong.

YUGOSLAV TRADE UNIONS CRITICISE ICFTU OVER VIETNAM from Tony Topham

The latest issue of Yugoslav Trade Unions, the official newspaper of the Yugoslav trade union movement contained an article attacking the ICFTU for its attitude to the Vietnam war. It read:

"The International Day of Workers' Solidarity with the Struggle of the People of Vietnam, December 20, which coincided with the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, provided an opportunity for qualms and for fresh manifestations of the traditional support by the world proletariat to the struggle of peoples for freedom, peace and a better life. We said qualms because, frankly, the world's trade union organisations could not be said to have fully discharged their duty when it comes to Vietnam. Solidarity Day was where they ought to have laid aside their petty worries and direct local and national concerns and interests for a moment to scrutinise the big dangers menacing the far more important all-humanity interests of peace, freedom and the survival of mankind.

"The forces of reaction and imperialism, acting under the leadership of the U.S. ruling circles, are going all out to prevent the heroic people of Vietnam from ^{winning} its rights and decid^{ing} its destiny itself. In resisting that aggression, an aggression gravely imperilling not only their own freedom and independence, but the peace of the whole world, the Vietnamese are rendering a huge service to all the people which, tomorrow, might themselves come to face the same peril....Hence the representatives of every trade union movement in the world should ask themselves whether they have really perceived the gravity and potential danger of what is today going on in Vietnam and what they ought to do in order to check the menace looming over Vietnam and the world.

"There are significant contrasts in the attitude of different trade union movements on the subject of the Vietnam war. Some of the movements in the West have been shutting their eyes to the dangers and confining themselves to pious opining that the war ought to be terminated at the conference table, by negotiation. But what, in reality, they do mean by a peaceful settlement is that the people of Vietnam should make sacrifices for the sake of their, not its own, peace, that it should consent to the partitioning of the country and deliver its southern portion into the hands of a reactionary and corrupt regime.....An attitude of the described kind has been adopted, for example, by ICFTU and by the principal members affiliated to that trade union headquarters. It is true that such a stand obviates an unpleasant confrontation yet it certainly fails to serve the cause of the working class....."

LATIN-AMERICAN SOLIDARITY ORGANISATION SET UP IN CUBA from Hsinhua

A Latin-American Solidarity Organisation, with headquarters in Havana, has been set up by the delegates from 27 Latin-American countries and territories who attended the first Afro-Asian-Latin American Peoples' solidarity conference. According to a communique released in Havana on January 17, the delegates also decided that "under the auspices of this organisation, the first Latin-American Peoples' Solidarity Conference will be held in 1967."

It said that "the meeting of the Latin-American delegates has appointed an Organisational Committee which is composed of Brazil, Cuba, Columbia, "British" Guiana, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Its task is to direct the work of the new organisation in co-operation with the national committees of each country. The additional function of the organisational committee is to organise the first Latin-American Peoples' Solidarity Conference.

MEXICAN PEASANTS SEIZE LAND

from a special correspondent

More than 4,000 Mexican peasants seized the land on Pie de la Cuesta beach in Guerrero State, earlier this month. They followed this by the erection of tin shacks and straw huts on their newly-gained land. Mexican public opinion holds that although Mexico has carried out a form of land reform, the problems of the peasants' lack of land is not solved. Roberto Aguirre, Director of the Department of Agrarian Affairs and Immigration said recently that there are two million landless peasants in Mexico.

The current Mexican land law stipulates that the maximum land that a private land owner can possess is 100 hectares (approx 250 acres) of irrigated fields. However, many big plantations have not turned over their excess land. A representative of the Venustiano Carranza village in Coahuila State revealed that Amory Whitehead, a big U.S. latifundist, owns 235,000 hectares of land in the vicinity of the U.S. border.

BE SURE TO RESERVE YOUR TICKET FOR

A L A N S I L L I T O E ' S

S A T U R D A Y N I G H T & S U N D A Y M O R N I N G

(a benefit performance in aid of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation - proceeds towards the Solidarity with the People of Vietnam Campaign)

STARRING: T O M B E L L, J O A N H E A L, J U N E R I T C H I E.

London premiere: The Prince of Wales Theatre, Coventry Street, London W.1.

Saturday, January 29, at 8.00 p.m. Tickets are priced 30s, 21s and 12. 6d.

Available from 27, Argyll Mansions, King's Rd., London S.W. 3 (FLA 1451 and WHI 4200) and Housmans, 5, Caledonian Rd., London W.1. Also can be obtained from Colletts Bookshop, Charing Cross Rd., M.C.F. Office, 374, Gray's Inn Rd., or Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, 3 & 4, Shavers Place, London S.W. 1 (just round the corner from the theatre and Picadilly Circus tube station)

On the occasion of the visit of I.B. Tabata to Britain, we are reproducing extracts from an interview he gave to the American socialist journal, Militant, whilst on a speaking tour of the United States. "I.B. Tabata has been active in the struggle for the liberation of South Africa's oppressed black majority for over three decades. In 1956, the Nationalist Government placed him under a five-year ban and confined him to the city of Cape Town. On the midnight that ban ended, in 1961, he resumed his organisational work throughout South Africa under the conditions of heightened government repression both in the towns and the "Native Reserves." In May, 1963, however, it was clear that Tabata's arrest was imminent. With the police-van outside his door, he escaped through Natal to Swaziland...and now he resides in Lusaka, Zambia. With such an impressive career of struggle for freedom as his background, Tabata is far from the kind of person who would dwell on past accomplishments....In that spirit, he began by talking about the case of Dr. Neville Alexander.. 'Dr. Alexander,' Tabata began, 'was a young student in Cape Town. He was a member of the students' organisation affiliated with the Unity Movement, and he got a scholarship to Germany where he obtained his doctorate of philosophy. In Germany, he spread the ideas of the Unity Movement, and when he came back, he organised a study group which tried to study all the literature there is on guerilla warfare, and all the possibilities of meeting the situation in South Africa. Soon Alexander was arrested and tried, with ten other young people in the group. They were all members of the Society of Young Africa, an affiliate of the Unity Movement, and also of the African People's Democratic Union of South Africa (APDUSA), the national political organisation of the Unity Movement.....'

Tabata then went into greater detail about the Alexander case and related it to the general political struggle in South Africa. He was then asked what role the United States played in South African politics. 'For us,' Tabata answered, 'the role of the United States is so obvious that I don't know whether it requires explaining. Perhaps I could best put it this way: Many people - there has even been a clamour for this at the United Nations - feel that all states should institute an economic boycott of South Africa. This sounds plausible theoretically, but when you examine the concrete facts you will find that Verwoerd himself owns nothing in South Africa. What there is is the property of the British financiers, it is the property of the American financiers. So when you call upon the United Nations, which means in fact that you are calling upon the United States and Great Britain who control the United Nations, to boycott and blockade South Africa, you are in effect asking the to boycott and blockade their own property. It doesn't make sense to me. Verwoerd on his own could not manage to defy the world, were it not for the fact that both Britain and the United States have underwritten the Verwoerd regime. Without them, it's impossible for Verwoerd to exist. To me, that seems so clear that it requires no further information, but may I add one thing. I think one of your big financiers put the point simply. He said: I hate the Verwoerdian regime...but I must confess, without it, I wouldn't invest a dollar in South Africa. That makes it clear, especially in view of the fact that American financiers can get such high rates. In fact they make as much as 25% annual return on their investment in South Africa.

"That is far higher than the average of about 12% that they make in the rest of the world. With this, what else would you expect? The situation in Southern Rhodesia is at first glance similar in several ways to South Africa. The minority of 220,000 whites, led by prime minister Ian Smith, dominates a much larger population of over four million blacks.' When asked why the declaration of U.D.I. had become such a big issue, Tabata replied: 'For me this moaning and groaning by Britain about Rhodesia is a farce. It's like a man who builds a card house and then finds it difficult to blow it down. There is no problem in Southern Rhodesia itself. You have only to ask yourself one question. You used to have the federation of Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Malawi under Britain. When the people there demanded independence, and opposed the federation, Britain went straight ahead to dismantle the federation. And here, you must remember that in dismantling the federation the army and air force was handed over to Southern Rhodesia.'

to be continued in next week's issue.