

MOLOTOV + MARSHALL = N.C.B. VICTIMISES

MASSACRE! Bevin's "Peace" Plan - Atom Bomb A.R.P.

ARMAMENTS BUILDING UP FOR THIRD WAR

THE Christmas festivities stand as a reminder that, many centuries ago, a man was born who later became the symbol for what is called the "Christian Era."

The approaching conflict of tomorrow was, instead, ushered in with a blinding white flash and a hideous pall of smoke—the present from "above", when the first atom bomb was dropped on unsuspecting Hiroshima.

This time, however, only one of the "wise men" comes from the East, while the other three are the products of the crooked political machinery of the western democracies.

From the East comes Comrade Molotov, bearing the Molotov Plan; from the West, to confront him comes the bearer of the Marshall Plan, and his two stooges, Bevin and Bidault.

The Marshall Plan is primarily that of economic infiltration and the first objective is Western Europe, which will thus become its main bridgehead.

The Molotov Plan of political infiltration is aimed at stabilizing the already considerable communist domination over the Balkans, then the extension of the sphere of influence into all Western Europe.

The head-on collision of these two plans has given rise to some ominous rumblings, and some of the liveliest showers of sparks

as yet seen outside the domain of his Satanic Majesty. Whether or not these sparks will initiate the flames of the third world holocaust is as yet uncertain.

France is now slowly recovering from weeks of social strife that brought her to the brink of civil war. While France expels Russians, indirectly accused of having aided in initiating this strife, and in retaliation Russia expels French nationals, the rest of the world can only gaze in wonder at the weird antics of the "leaders" of France.

Facing them are the French "Marx Brothers", Thorez, Cachin and Marty, the exponents of the Molotov Plan. Their strings too are tugged in a far-distant land and the Politbureau supplies the words and slogans.

In Italy, Milan has been occupied by communist forces, while a carefully-engineered strike wave battered at the all-too-shaky base of Italian economy, while Rome has had about 600,000 workers on strike.

To further complicate the confusion come, disturbing facts from both sides. America has the tragic-comedy of the Committee of Un-American Activities.

The Molotov Plan of political infiltration is aimed at stabilizing the already considerable communist domination over the Balkans, then the extension of the sphere of influence into all Western Europe.

From behind the Iron Curtain come grim tales of opposition parties being split up, their leaders flying or dying. For in this great sphere of "liberty" and "equality" in the "new democracy" the colour of

your skin is no crime, but wrongly-coloured politics lead to firing squad and gallows.

This is the grim back-drop for the "Grand Guignol" play enacted in London in December. The stars were the big "four"—Marshall and Molotov, while in the supporting cast were Bevin and Bidault.

Marshall, bristling with righteous indignation, accuse Molotov of draining assets, to the tune of 500,000,000 dollars yearly from Eastern Germany.

The Marshallites bend every effort to force an early settlement of the German question, for they must do this while they have an economic stranglehold on Western Europe.

The dominant note of the Conference was fear, thinly disguised as belligerence. Like two small boys whistling near the churchyard—quaking with fright, yet attempting to put on a bold front.

So the endless stream of words flow back and forth, and behind the screen frantic preparations are made. New armaments are manufactured, armies, navies and air forces re-equipped.

WAGE SLAVERY at JOHN BROWN'S Industrial Fascism in Clyde Shipyard

Most of us are familiar with that old marching song—"John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave but his soul goes marching on!"

The fame of 'John Browns' has spread to every corner of the globe, chiefly on account of its big ships, big profits and innumerable Royal Visitations.

At precisely 7.30 in the morning, the huge entrance gates are closed against all local workmen.

To insure that nobody 'sneaks' in, policemen, gatemen, yard detectives and other lackeys, stand faithfully on guard; No concentration camp ever needed to demonstrate such a display of might, but then—John Brown's have their own ideas as to the best means of imposing discipline.

Inside the yard, Bowler-hatted bosses strut around as thick as bees. They emerge from their various 'offices' before the last sound of the starting siren has died away; enthusiastically 'whipping' the workers to their allotted tasks.

No tea breaks are permitted during working hours, and no smoking, or meals to be taken aboard partially completed ships. When a man is caught by a 'Hat' or one of the yard 'Gestapo' breaking any of these rules, he is fined half-a-crown, or as an alternative, instantly dismissed.

At the present moment, labourers in the yard are paid the miserable wage of £4 5s. 0d. per week.

When one considers this pittance paid to men engaged in ship construction with the £40,000 a year placed in the lap of royalty

IN FRANCO SPAIN

123,470 Political Prisoners SECRET DOCUMENT REVEALS EXTENT OF FASCIST TERROR

We print below the exact figures of political prisoners in the jails of Franco Spain. These figures, which are included in a document of the Spanish Ministry of the Interior, and secretly obtained, are, at one and the same time, the proof of the falsity of the figures issued publicly, and a clear demonstration that the bestial fascist regime of the "Christian General" can only survive by putting behind bars tens of thousands of freedom-loving men and women.

This mediaeval barbarity is tolerated by U.N.O., and by the politicians of all colours, who are responsible for the continuance of fascism in Spain and Portugal; the British Labour Government by its economic aid to Franco bears a heavy share of responsibility for the slavery of the Spanish people, who were the first to rise in arms against fascism.

The following are the names of the men's prisons together with the number of 11 political prisoners in each—all of whom are condemned to from six to thirty years, and many of whom are awaiting the death sentence to be carried out:

- Alcala de Henares: 1,874; Ocaña: 1,625; Talavera: 1,043; Guadalajara: 1,537; Guadalupe (special prison) 967; Carabanchel and Yeserías: 6,400; Cuenca: 170; Segovia: 600; Ciudad Real: 1,225; Penal de Cuellar: 1,035; Puerto de Santa Maria: 1,589; Sevilla: 2,322; Badajoz: 1,021; Cadiz: 672; Huelva: 565; Tenerife: 1,823; Balearic Islands and Morocco: 2,327; Colonia de Donas Hermanas: 1,034; Barcelona: 5,480; Gerona: 526; Lerida: 418; Tarragona: 345; Saragossa: 1,633; Figueras: 1,070; San Miguel (Valencia): 1,989; Granada: 1,048; Reformatorio de Alicante: 1,093; Provincial de Castellon: 486; Provincial de Teruel: 268; Provincial de Albacete: 563; Central de Santona: 1,542; Provincial de Santander: 986; Central de Gijon: 960; Provincial de Oviedo: 1,027; Provincial de Lugo: 840; Provincial de la Coruna: 820; Salamanca: 647; Avila: 110; Caceres: 468; Leon: 627; Zamora: 340; Provincial de Valladolid: 706; Palencia: 428; Burgos: 2,058; Pamplona: 940; Larrinaga, Bilbao: 649; San Sebastian: 458; Vitoria: 372; Provincial de Pamplona: 280; Provincial de Burgos: 380; Soría: 195; Provincial de Granada: 770; Almería: 689; Málaga: 896; Cordoba: 985; Jaen: 990; Cartagena: 504; Prisiones Partidos: 16,928; Concentration camps: 7,933; Delegaciones de Falange: 8,500; Provincial de Valencia: 1,832; Provincial de Alicante: 507;

The following are the details of women imprisoned on political charges:

- Ventas (Madrid): 988; Segovia: 342; Alcala de Henares: 782; Aranjuez: 1,017; Prison de Mujeres en la Cancia (Madrid): 229; Manicomio Prision: 85; Toledo: 362; Provincial de Segovia: 180; Guadalajara: 195; Ciudad Real: 562; Cuenca: 142; Seville: 620; Badajoz: 325; Cadiz: 249; Tenerife: 380; Balearic Islands and Morocco: 495; Barcelona: 1,115; Gerona: 220; Lerida: 160; Tarragona: 109; Huesca: 267; Saragossa: 534; Valencia: 672; Gerona (special prison): 629; Provincial de Valencia: 466; Provincial de Alicante: 180; Provincial de Castellon: 198; Teruel: 86; Albacete: 493; Santander (special): 487; Provincial de Santander: 462; Provincial de Oviedo: 498; Provincial de Lugo: 318; Provincial de la Coruna: 503; Provincial de Pontevedra: 216; Provincial de Orense: 260; Provincial de Salamanca: 290; Provincial de Avila: 32; Caceres: 200; Leon: 210; Zamora: 112; Valladolid: 385; Palencia: 150; Bilbao: 346; San Sebastian: 218; Vitoria: 109; Pamplona: 132; Soría: 70; Granada: 403; Murcia: 215; Almería: 321; Málaga: 392; Cordoba: 1,025; Jaen: 985.

These figures give a total of 20,501 women and 102,969 men imprisoned, a total of 123,470. The statement of Aylagas, Spanish Director General of Prisons, that there were only 40,000 political prisoners in Spain, and that of these few were sentenced to more than four years, is shown to be a deliberate lie, made to cover-up the fact that present-day Spain has been turned, by its fascist rulers, into one vast concentration camp.

for launching these vessels, the cool reception, indeed the lack of interest shown by the people of Clydebank in the recent royal visit, is self-explanatory.

John Brown's body may be a-mouldering. But the pent-up hate of the workers employed in this shipyard is smouldering! One day it will burst in flame, and the 'Hats' and other symbols of authority will be enveloped in the conflagration.

J.M.C.D.

MINERS

Grimethorpe Men Ordered to Pay £304 Strike Action Needed Now

The pattern of industrial relations under nationalisation was set in Barnsley Magistrates' Court, on December 19th, when forty miners from Grimethorpe were ordered to pay the National Coal Board £304 for the "crime" of having taken strike action in November. This money is to be deducted from their wage packets at the rate of 10/- a week, commencing on January 16th.

In court it was stated: "The Coal Board really means business in dealing with these strikes."

For the strikers, miner Victor Turner said:

"Our working place was unsafe. There was no recognised roof. The floor was soft."

The prosecution took place under the Employers and Workers Act of 1875. £10 damages was claimed from each of the morning shift fillers, and £4 from 16 afternoon shift workers.

This is the meaning of State ownership of industry. The boss, in this case the N.C.B., takes you to his court, makes the pretence of giving you a hearing, fines you and then deducts the amount of your fine from your wage packet. All for the "criminal offence" of taking direct action to redress a legitimate grievance. That is what happened in Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. The almighty state became the arbiter of all social life. Now it is happening in Britain, where the Labour

'Molotov' Strikes in France and Italy C.P. Losing Support of Workers

The recent widespread strikes in France and Italy were, to a large extent a manoeuvre of the Communist Parties in those two countries, carried out for purely political and partisan ends. There is no doubt that, during the strikes—particularly those in France—the Communists hoped that a situation would develop where it would be possible for them to seize power. They were not interested in the demands put forward by the workers, but simply in playing a hand for Molotov and Stalin in the preliminary skirmishing with Anglo-American imperialism which is now taking place (see the "Big 4" article).

The fact that so many workers came out on strike was, of course, a symptom of the deep unrest which is prevalent among the French and Italian working-class. This unrest has been caused by the sharp rise in the cost of living, and the fact that wages have—as usual—lagged sadly behind prices. An acute food-shortage, far worse than anything Britain has yet experienced, has increased discontent.

As we pointed out in our last issue—before the strikes started—it is still too early for the French Anarcho-syndicalist movement, the C.N.T., to give the situation a revolutionary direction. The C.N.T. is gaining in numbers rapidly—many workers, disgusted by the Communist trickery within the official C.G.T. unions are tearing up their C.G.T. cards and joining the ranks of the C.N.T.—but has not yet reached a point where its influence on events can be decisive.

During the strikes the C.N.T. took part and tried to break the political direction of the workers' action. In many factories, mines and railheads a C.N.T. majority was elected to the strike committees and where this was the case, a clear statement of the workers' demands was put forward by the Committees, and gains were made by the workers.

The French Government, changed during the crisis, utilised the situation to pass vicious anti-labour legislation, and the arm of the state machine—in the form of armed police and mobile guards—did the dirty work for French capitalism in batoning, shooting and gassing the striking workers. Through their political direction the strike-movement in France, as in Italy, has resulted in a temporary defeat for the workers. In the next round the State, and the employing-class it represents, may find themselves laughing on the wrong side of their faces.

Party are doing the Tories' work by laying the cornerstone of a totalitarian state. You aren't even given the option of not paying your fine, and going to jail instead: your employer—the state—with the power of the law behind him, filches the money from your wage packet before you even see it. And the Control of Engagements Order prevents you from finding a new boss.

When the big Yorkshire strike took place last August, it was in Grimethorpe that the miners' action originated. This case against the men of Grimethorpe must receive the immediate support and action of all workers. The Government—like the coalowners of old—are yelling for more production. The answer to victimisation of miners is NO PRODUCTION. The worker's weapon against the boss lies in the withdrawal of his labour power. A general strike, throughout the British coalfields, NOW would teach the Government not to be so hasty in bringing similar cases in the future.

Direct action in support of the 40 Grimethorpe Miners!

Force the Government to stop victimisation!

All Coal Board Officials to the Coal Face!

The Mines to the Miners!

Savoy Strike Fizzles Out

Union Leaders Betray Struggle Vicious Strikebreaking by Police

After gaining the right to organise in October, 1946, the Savoy Group of workers have again struck, this time fundamentally against arbitrary dismissal, but there were a number of outstanding grievances against the Savoy employers, including the matter of the dismissed waiter. Not one concession would the Savoy employers grant the workers, not even under the threat of strike-action. This is the fault of the Union—for they have shown that they are not serious in the matter of strike-action, either through inefficiency or weakness. We believe that the strike methods used were totally unsound, and the fact that the weakness was there was demonstrated by the fact that the majority of the pickets were imported.

Immediately the strike was declared official, the employers wrote to the Ministry of Labour to say that, though they realised that their proposed enquiry had no standing in law, they would be happy to accept the decisions. After all, they must have business as usual some time. It was recommended that a job should be found elsewhere for Piazza, and that the Savoy should take a few men back at a time—50% first week, 25% second week, and 25% "when convenient." At time of writing, many men have not been taken back.

It is high time that workers in general opened their eyes to the attempts by the Communist Party to make profit out of these strikes. The C.P. said that the 8 waiters who had resigned from the Union were fascists. This is wrong. They were Italians who were interned without trial when this country was at war with Italy. They were aliens and were detained as such. They had no trial and the C.P. has no right to give them a verdict.

Police Strike Breakers

But the most sinister development of the strike was the vicious batoning and strike-breaking of the police. It showed where the police stand—as servants of the "Socialist" State in the preservation of capitalism. The cops' action showed the strike to be a class issue which should be fought as such.

Union Mis-Organised

It is useless to speak of the workers voting for and conducting a strike when the Union comes under the thumb of the T.U.C. The latter body gave orders that the strike should not become general. They did not wish to embarrass the Labour Government, especially at the time of the royal wedding. Everything must be considered except the workers, who came out.

The "French Cooks' Syndicate" of bygone days proved the invincibility of the stay-in strike, by 38 victorious struggles. We must develop their methods, their class character, and refusal to affiliate to the traditional Union machine.

—Catering Action Movement Bulletin.

MEETINGS

Open Lecture-Discussions are held each Sunday at 7 p.m. at:

CENTRAL HOUSE,

TRADE UNION CLUB (Room 7), Great Newport Street, W.C.2. (Opposite Leicester Square Station.)

All Welcome Admission Free

SUNDAY, JAN. 4th—Bill Mansbridge—MERLINO AND MARX.

SUNDAY, JAN. 11th—Bonar Thompson—THE FAILURE OF BERNARD SHAW

SUNDAY, JAN. 18th—Raymond Upton—ANARCHISM AND WAR.

SUNDAY, JAN. 25th—Nan Hanson—THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SOCIALISM.

SUNDAY, FEB. 1st—Julian Pilling—NATIONALISATION OR WORKERS' CONTROL.

SUNDAYS, FEB. 8th and 15th—Subjects to be announced.

SUNDAY, FEB. 22nd—F. J. Corina—THE FREETHOUGHT STRUGGLE.

Questions. Discussion.

Imagination Unrationed!

Sir — Potatoes seem to taste much better since they were rationed two days ago. I think we should all eat them much more slowly, be more conscious of their rich, unique flavour and the minute golden grains of which they are composed. I am sure if eaten this way the vegetable will become more appetising and therefore more nourishing. — Yours &c.,

K. H. C. LO., Acting Vice-Consul, Vice-Consulate of the Republic of China, Sunlight House, Manchester 3, 11/11/47. —Letter in "Manchester Guardian", 15/11/47.

NOTICE

All communications to the National Committee of the Anarchist Federation should be addressed to:

The National Secretary, A.F.B., 59, Malham Road, Forest Hill, London, S.E.23.

Those desiring further information regarding the Federation, or interested in becoming members, should write to the above address.

A.F.B. NATIONAL CONGRESS AT MANCHESTER

Delegates Fix Policy

FOR REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE AHEAD Tasks Defined for European Anarchist Federation

THOUGH only a small number of delegates were able to attend the Second National Congress of the Anarchist Federation of Britain, which was held at the Milton Hall, Manchester on November 15th last, the work accomplished there will undoubtedly strengthen our Federation for its future struggles.

Congress opened on the morning of Saturday, November 15th, under the chairmanship of Raymond Upton (London), with Jim Pinkerton (Ashton-under-Lyne) as Minutes Secretary.

Greetings from Abroad

After a brief opening address of welcome to the delegates, the chairman read the letters of greeting that had been received from sister organisations. These included: the F.A.I. Group in Great Britain, the F.I.J.L. in Great Britain, the M.L.E. in Great Britain, the M.L.E.-C.N.T. in France, the Italian Anarchist Federation, the Western Europe Secretariat of the I.W.M.A., the Libertarian Communist Alliance of Central Portugal and the Catering Action Movement.

Organisational Reports

The report of the acting General Secretary gave an outline of the work that had been accomplished by the Federation since the previous Congress, in September 1945. The difficulties encountered were detailed, including the question of the schism within the Anarchist movement, which the A.F.B. had tried, so far without success, to bring to an end.

A short report, presented by the Secretary for International Relations gave details of movements with which the A.F.B. had established organic relations. Correspondence with the movements of other countries had recently greatly increased, particularly in view of the A.F.B.'s proposals for a new European Anarchist Conference.

Reports were presented by the Administration and the Editorial Committee of "Direct Action." The financial difficulties involved in the regular production of the paper were brought forward, and means of increasing sales and obtaining the finance necessary to ensure the regular monthly appearance of the paper were discussed.

Internal Organisation

A long discussion took place on the subject of internal organisation, and, as a result of experience gained since the last National Congress, a number of modifications and additions were made to the Federation's organisational basis.

International Relations

The keen interest which the A.F.B. has in the International Anarchist movement was in evidence when the question of International Relations came up for discussion. A motion, urging the immediate formation of an European Anarchist Federation, was adopted.

"The A.F.B. believes that international, and European, organisation is essential for the following reasons: "It is time that the Anarchist movement realised that practical results can only be

achieved by a methodical scheme of work on an organised basis. The fact that revolutionary opportunities have been lost by the Anarchist movement can be attributed to the lack of organisation, both national and international, of our own forces.

"Faced with the increasing danger of a third world war between the forces of Russian and American imperialism, Anarchists should be prepared to unite their forces in the revolutionary third-camp of the class struggle—only a well-organised Anarchist movement on an international scale can resist the dangers which are presented by the impending clash of rival imperial forces."

The resolution continues by detailing the Aims and Organisational form proposed by the A.F.B. for European Federation. A copy of the resolution has been sent to the Provisional Secretariat of International Relations in Paris for circulation to all European Anarchist organisations.

A.F.B. POLICY Industrial Organisation and Action

"The A.F.B., basing itself on the class struggle, and recognising the direct action of the working-class as the only effective weapon in the fight against capitalism and the state, advocates the industrial organisation of the workers for the

Aims and Principles of the Anarchist Federation of Britain

(Adopted by the first National Congress at Glasgow, September, 1945, and amended by the second National Congress at Manchester, November, 1947.)

THE ANARCHIST FEDERATION OF BRITAIN seeks to establish a free society which renders impossible the growth of a privileged class and the exploitation of man by man. The A.F.B. therefore advocates common ownership of the land, industry and all means of production and distribution, on the basis of voluntary co-operation.

CLASS STRUGGLE. "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common." THE A.F.B. is based upon the inevitable struggle of the worker against those who own and control the means of production and will continue that struggle until the workers gain possession of the means of production.

REFORM OR REVOLUTION. Victory in the fight against class domination can only be achieved by the direct action of the workers themselves. The A.F.B. rejects all parliamentary and similar activity as deflecting the workers from the class struggle into paths of class collaboration. No compromise with the forces of reformism or reaction. Organisation for the Social Revolution.

WAR AND MILITARISM. The A.F.B. is opposed to all wars between rival states and governments. It stands firm for the international solidarity of the world's workers. But while it opposes war, it does not urge non-violent submission to ruling-class aggression. It believes that it is necessary for the workers to use violence in their own defence. It opposes militarism because the armed forces are used by the ruling-class to maintain their class rule.

ORGANISATION. To achieve these aims the workers must organise. They must replace the hundreds of craft and general trade unions by revolutionary industrial unions—syndicates. To that end the A.F.B. aids the formation of workers' committees in all factories, mines, offices, shipyards, mills and other places of work, and carries out propaganda for their development into syndicates federated to an all-national Federation of Labour.

To popularise this aim it is necessary to build up the A.F.B. as part of the World Anarchist Federation. Recognising the need for organisation, we therefore accept the responsibility which organisation places upon its members. Without the loss of freedom or personality, we can avoid both dictatorship and leadership.

Towards a Free Society The New Economic Structure

(1) Introduction

In the long struggle for emancipation, the Anarchists have been motivated by a belief that while freedom and equality are but utopian dreams as long as we remain shackled by the existing social organisation, once these shackles are smashed, then both freedom and equality will be attainable.

The glaring injustices, inequalities and illogicalities of capitalist society show us clearly that purely reformist measures will never emancipate mankind. To secure this long sought-after, long fought-for emancipation, social changes of a profound and all-embracing character are necessary; changes that can only be achieved by determined working-class action—in short, revolutionary action. For, to clear the way for building up a free equalitarian society, every root and branch of the old order must be completely destroyed.

This view has long been held by revolutionaries in this country, yet there has been comparatively little done to define what form this much desired "Free Society" would take. When asked by non-anarchists, "But what will a free society be like? . . . how will it function?", it has been too easy to reply "We lay down no blue prints, for we believe that when the workers' revolutionary forces finally

proceeding of this struggle, and as a means of providing the framework of the organisation of production in a free society.

"Recognising that such industrial organisation can only be developed organically, the A.F.B. works through the medium of job organisation, factory committees, etc., and seeks to destroy political control of these bodies where it may exist. In industries where sufficient strength is present, the A.F.B. advocates the formation of minority groupings which will urge the policies of revolutionary syndicalism and strive to develop direct action methods among the workers.

"The A.F.B. views the British trade union movement as becoming part of the capitalist state machine. The trade union movement, by its organisational form divides the workers, and by its methods of class collaboration sabotages the class struggle. The A.F.B. does not, therefore, seek to reform the trade unions, but, by working through the medium of workers' committees, etc., to develop an organisation which will replace them. Members of the A.F.B. are free to join trade, or industrial organisations when, by this means, the solidarity of the workers can be aided or the struggle for syndicalism advanced.

"The industrial action advocated by the A.F.B. is in conformity with the Principles and Charter of the I.W.M.A. and with the declaration of the First International Syndicalist Congress held in London, Sept. 27-Oct. 2nd, 1913, and the ultimate aim of this propaganda is the formation of a National Confederation of Labour in Britain, which will be affiliated to this, the only true workers' international."

Economic Crisis

"The crisis of British capitalism is based on economic factors, which within the capitalist framework, are unaffected by the particular government in power. The Labour Party, based on a programme of reformism, is powerless to solve this problem, except by attacking the wages and conditions of the workers.

"The A.F.B. sees the origin of the crisis in the attempt of the British ruling class to maintain a parasitism, unequalled in the world's history, upon the body of a moribund economic system. The Monarchy, the Church, the Law, the landowners and industrialists, the merchants, bankers

and stockbrokers, insurance agents and the myriad, useless, non-productive elements of society with their hangers-on and servants, together with a swollen state-machine, are part of this gigantic parasitic structure, which was built up on the nineteenth century level of imperial exploitation and foreign investment.

"The British Empire is, in general, now costing more from public funds than can be extracted from it. British export trade supremacy is a thing of the past. The return on British investments abroad is shrinking even more rapidly than the investments themselves, yet the scale of parasitism seeks to extend itself.

"That, and not the financial issue, which is but an expression of capitalist society, is the basis of the economic crisis. It is the working-class who are suffering as a result of the crisis, and the Labour Government as the servants of the capitalist system they represent and protect, will increasingly attack the workers in order to protect their own interests.

"To protect and raise the standard of living of the working-class, the only real solution lies in a direct attack on capitalist property relations and the state machine which defends these relations. This attack can be achieved only through the conscious and direct action of the workers, and the destruction, by social revolution, of class division within society.

"Capitalism, in decline, as British capitalism is today, turns the total state machine of fascism to protect privilege. The British ruling class are no exception to this rule; their Labourite lackeys are already introducing legislation which tends increasingly towards the complete subjugation of the individual to the rule of the State bureaucrats.

"The A.F.B., therefore, calls on the working-class to organise against this threat and for the revolutionary overthrow of the system which has created it."

Political Parties

"The A.F.B. deplores the fact that the majority of the organised British workers give their adherence to Labour and Co-operative parties which are committed to the support of the capitalist state and society, and which are, therefore, the workers' enemies.

"The Communist Party, though holding only an infinitesimal number of workers, nevertheless constitutes a considerable danger to the British working-class, since it has succeeded in capturing a disproportionate amount of the higher bureaucracy in the trade unions and other working-class organisations. We reject with contempt the mixture of opportunism and dangerous demagoguery which purport to be this party's policy. In reality the C.P. is only an arm in the imperialist expansion policy of the Stalinist government.

"The I.L.P. and other splinter parties, being only pale shadows of the main parties, and offering no real solution of the class conflict, cannot and do not hold the allegiance of the British worker.

"Holding that these parties in their continual struggle to attain power for themselves, cause disunity in the ranks of the working-class, and when power is obtained use it to create new privileges and new inequalities, the A.F.B., aiming at a classless society, where no special privileged groups will exist, refuses to collaborate in any way with political parties."

Conscription

"The A.F.B. is utterly opposed to conscription in any form, whether military or industrial. Under military conscription the individual becomes an expendable unit in imperialist market-grabbing wars. The application of industrial conscription at any time, and in any circumstances, reduces the worker to chattel slavery and is an admission by the state executive of the existence of class war.

"Conscriptive legislation, enacted by a Labour government, in its attempts to bolster up a failing capitalist economy, merits the contempt and resistance of all class-conscious workers. Conscription is used by the ruling class to consolidate the military society upon which the state is based. Therefore, while advocating and supporting individual resistance to conscription, the A.F.B. realises that conscription can only be defeated by the destruction of the state."

3rd World War

"It is two years since the end of World War II, and the main feature of the international situation is still that of clashing imperialism. Faced with the imminence of a third world war, with the possibility of further abuse of atomic energy the A.F.B. declares itself against all imperialism, whether of the right or the left. The Japanese people are still dying as a result of the atom bombs which fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The A.F.B. declares its firm opposition to imperialist conflict and sees the only solution in revolutionary action and international fraternisation of the workers."

(Continued at head of next column.)

Greetings to Anarchists Abroad

In closing the Congress, the Chairman read the following motion, which was accepted with enthusiasm:

"The A.F.B., meeting in Congress at Manchester, sends its fraternal greetings to the Anarchists of the entire world, and to all organisations which, within the International Working Men's Association, are upholding the banner of the revolutionary class struggle against the forces of capitalism and the State. In particular the A.F.B. expresses its solidarity with those libertarian organisations which are fighting against the brutality of totalitarianism in their respective countries; of the heroic Spanish and Portuguese comrades who are continuing the struggle against the tyranny of Franco and Salazar; of the Bulgarian Anarchists and Anarcho-syndicalists who face forced labour and death at the hands of Red fascism, and of the comrades in South America who are still submitted to bloody dictatorial regimes.

"The Anarchist Federation calls on the workers to support its campaign in aid of these revolutionary militants who, for their activity in favour of a free society, are daily faced with the same horrors which the "democratic" powers claimed to be fighting to wipe off the face of the earth during the second world war."

Piccadilly Incident

The following news-item was prominently displayed on the front page of the London "Evening News" for December 8th.

ANARCHISTS 'TOUCHY' OVER OBSTRUCTION

They Sold Newspapers Sidney Frederick Read and Lilian Dorothy Pilling, Hereford Road, Paddington, both 24, were at Bow Street today each fined ten shillings for causing an obstruction at Piccadilly-circus on Saturday evening. It was stated that they were selling an anarchist newspaper, "Direct Action."

Read, from the witness box said: "This is an attempt to interfere with sellers of minority papers. It is unusual to see these papers in Piccadilly-circus."

Pilling quoted the recent acquittal of a newspaper editor and added: "The freedom of the Press is a dead letter if it does not include the right to sell as well as print."

The magistrate said they had caused an obstruction, and were far too touchy about it.

Press Fund List No. 5

Table with columns for names and amounts: London: Lib. 1/10; W.B. 2/6; 3/6; 2/-; 2/6; J.M. 2/-; F.R. 5/-; K.N. 2/9; E.S. 2/-; W.O. 2/6; H.G. 1/-; R.U. 2/-; 2/-; M.S.D. 7/-; Glasgow: D.M. 2/-; Manchester: R. & B. 10/-; Tadjana, U.S.A.: A.S. £1 3s. 7d. Total £8 9 2. Previously acknowledged £3 1 0. £71 10 2

We thank those comrades who have enabled us to continue our work by contributing to the Press Fund. "DIRECT ACTION" is still facing a heavy deficit, and we appeal to all those of our readers who wish to see the paper appearing regularly in future to give us their aid quickly.

(Continued from foot of previous column.) perfected, is prone to error, and there are many obstacles, crossroads and pit-falls that are bound to arise.

Certain primary considerations must be remembered and taken into account, and here we can list only a few, owing to the restricted space at our disposal.

Centralism, one of the curses of the present social order, must be avoided, and to do this the basic principles of association and federalism must be adhered to. To avoid the domination of man by man, authority, as we know it today, must be eradicated completely.

A society can only be free when men have complete equality; this means economic equality—no more class systems based on private property, no more castes based on political party membership and ease of access to state-owned property. Men must have not only equal civil rights, they must have an equal share in the full ownership of the country, its resources, its products and its amenities. In order to avoid later regressions, let us point out now that when we speak of communes, co-operatives, federations, or any other organisms, the administrative functions of which could be supposed to carry extra responsibility to extra work, this responsibility will not be accompanied by any form of particular privilege, whether economic or social.

The right to life being the same for all, no difference in individual advantages must be admitted. Any differentiation would be a reversal to the old wages-scale; it would create inequalities and would lead back to the old regime, based on profit and privilege. This rule, absolute and definite, is the necessary condition to the final and complete disappearance of the class struggle.

To avoid more useless repetition, we also wish to precise that all representatives, members of councils, enterprises, co-operative councils, agricultural collectives, communes, etc., will be chosen by the general assembly of the interested grouping, and will be elected for a determined period. These representatives will be subject to instant recall, and re-election will be facultative.

After the expiry of their mandate, representatives can remain in their position or function while their successors are trained.

The whole organisation will be built up on three principal organisms:

- On the economic plane— (a) Consumers Co-operatives, (b) Production Co-operatives, to which will be added the agricultural collectives and artisans unions. On the social plane— (c) The Free Commune.

Having thus defined these primary considerations and factors, we will deal, in the next article, with consumers' co-operatives and production co-operatives.

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Spanish Congress Maintains Anti-State Position Full Aid for Fight Against Franco

(I.W.M.A.) Towards the end of October the Spanish Libertarian Movement—C.N.T.—in France held its second national Congress at Toulouse. Delegates represented 462 local federations of our Spanish movement in exile in France. Dozens of telegrams of greeting were received from the movement throughout the world—including one from the A.F.B. Fraternal delegates from many sister organisations were present at the debates of the Congress.

The delegations unanimously ratified the anti-state position of Spanish Anarcho-syndicalism, as laid down in the regular Congresses of the C.N.T., and rejected any compromise with political elements.

The need to reinforce the International Working Men's Association in its work of international revolutionary liaison was stressed, and practical decisions were reached to ensure that the I.W.M.A. should receive the economic support of the Spanish comrades in France. The question of the struggle against Franco, from inside Spain, received full attention, and resolutions were taken to intensify the aid to the comrades within the Spanish Peninsula, who are fighting Franco and his henchmen by means of direct action.

The Congress of Toulouse—one of the most important events in the history of the Spanish Libertarian Movement—showed the firm will of our Spanish comrades to propagate the ideas of revolutionary syndicalism and to realise them in the practical struggle against international fascism, capitalism and the State.

Australian Workers Oppose Fascist Trend of Labour Government Melbourne.

The Australian "Labour" Government has passed a fascist-minded Act, worse than any that was ever passed here by any anti-Labour Government. It makes any attempt at banning work on Defence projects a criminal offence, and practically deprives the worker of the right to strike on any of these projects. This can, of course, mean whatever the Government chooses—railways or road transport for example.

The T.U. movement, after making a weak formal protest against the Act, took no action.

There has just been a state election here, in which the Labour Government was overwhelmingly defeated because of its support of the Federal Labour Government's Bill to nationalise the banks. The Labour Party, of course, tries to represent that the Bill is for the benefit of the workers—or, as Mr. Chifley puts it "for the love of humanity." Many workers regard the Bill as another step towards totalitarianism." K. J. KENAFICK

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