

DIRECT ACTION

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ANARCHIST FEDERATION of BRITAIN

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TWOPENCE

AMERICA PLANS TO BOMB RUSSIA

EVEN BEFORE THE RUSSIAN BLOCKADE OF BERLIN, AMERICA WAS OPENLY DISCUSSING "THE COMING RUSSIAN WAR." FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THE PRESS, THE DAILY PAPERS, THE MASS SALE MAGAZINES AND THE TECHNICAL PERIODICALS — HAS BEEN PREPARING THE PUBLIC MIND FOR WHAT IS NOW REGARDED AS INEVITABLE.

ANY CONFERENCE OR ARRANGEMENT WITH RUSSIA IS REGARDED AS A TEMPORARY, VERY TEMPORARY, APPEASEMENT. THE PRESIDENT, THE CABINET, THE HEADS OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES AND THE CONTROLLERS OF PUBLIC PROPAGANDA CONSIDER THAT RUSSIA IS HELL-BENT ON WAR AND THEY ARE MAKING THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET, AND EVEN FORESTALL, THE COMMUNIST WAR-MACHINE.

Significantly, American plans of preparation for war, while featured in every American paper, are concealed by the British press. Even the occasional references in the British press conceal, rather than reveal, the war preparedness psychology of the U.S.A.

America pins its faith on the air weapon, but its military chiefs have a dilemma. Aircraft are changing from piston engines to jet engines. America is producing jet machines slowly. She can produce reciprocating engined machines quickly, but they will soon be outdated. "Five years from now, when the Russians have the atomic bomb in quantity," they say "we shall have large fleets of jet-propelled bombers and fighters." A similar dilemma faced Germany and Britain in 1939, when the new stressed-skin monoplane and light high-speed engine were produced by both countries, but not in sufficient quantities to be decisive.

Editorial

We regret the late appearance of this issue of DIRECT ACTION, and that we have been forced to reduce the size of the paper by half.

The delay was caused through no fault of our own. It was necessary for us to change our printers and the work of producing this issue of the paper could not be undertaken earlier by the M.L.E. Press.

The present four-page issue will be for this month only. On the 1st of October an 8-page issue will be published, and we hope and expect to maintain a regular monthly appearance from then onwards.

From October 1st, the price per copy will be 3d instead of 2d. For a long time DIRECT ACTION has been sustaining a loss on each issue—printing costs alone have been more than 2d a copy. As a result, a heavy debt has accrued and this will have to be paid off in the coming months, but it is impossible to continue to run the paper at a loss.

Comrades and sympathisers can
[cont. p. 4, foot of col. 1

Even a year's delay in the outbreak of war would aid America, so she may even welcome a little Munich business. On the other hand Russia, without even waiting for the atom bomb, has an initial military advantage in making war at the end of 1948.

So, America is building up her new air force as fast as she can. It is small now, but in a few months' time it will begin to increase rapidly. The general top military view is: "It will not happen this year, but it will happen within two years."

General George C. Kenney, commander of the Strategic Air Command, recently said: "The present peace is little more than a superficial armistice. It is no longer necessary to ask if we think there is danger of war. The question is quite simple and direct: When will the Communist crowd start 'Operation America'?"

A few months ago the American magazine, *Newsweek*, published an article which brought a sharp protest from Russia, Marshall replying that the U.S. Government "could not interfere with the freedom of the press." The article said that the U.S.A. had two top weapons, the S.A.C. and the atomic bomb. The S.A.C. is equipped with Superfort bombers and is constantly practising long-range 'special missions' It is the S.A.C. that would use, with ordinary bombs, the atom bomb. Forecasting the atomic bombing of Russia, *Newsweek* said that the 'Superforts' detailed for this job would be based upon England and would set out in twos and threes, flying at 35,000 feet, and would attempt to approach their targets unnoticed. The first target would be Moscow, then Leningrad, Kiev, Kharkov and Odessa.

The heart of industrial Russia is still in European Russia, said *Newsweek*. That industry is heavy, complex, and needs a large population to support it. It is therefore difficult to remove to Asiatic Russia. Further, the highly-capitalised political system of Russia retards dispersal of industry. 40% of Russia's aircraft industry, said the magazine, is located around Moscow.

Russia too, is preparing an air war on America and, principally, Western Europe and England. Preparation for this began in 1944. When the Red Army entered Germany, the Russian N.K.V.D. (now M.V.D.) at once rounded up every available
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BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

THE MAIN CENTRE of East-West conflict is still Berlin, ringed by the Russian zone, and meagrely fed by the Anglo-U.S. air lift that has so badly upset the Russian plans.

A two-fold iron curtain of secrecy still shrouds the Kremlin talks, as both sides have insisted—for the time honoured reasons—that the negotiations should be kept secret. Once again we shall be presented with a fait-accompli and told to make the best of it. People are beginning to ask if another Munich is being prepared.

Meanwhile, as a straw to show the way the wind is blowing, Montgomery—chief of the Imperial General Staff—and other chiefs of staff, attended a Cabinet meeting, while the permanent military committee of “Western Union” are working out the plan of “defence” for Western Europe. Among others taking part are Major-General Lennitzer and other U.S. and Canadian officers. This committee has the primary task of drawing up a list of military equipment which the Western Union powers require from the U.S.A. and of standardising weapons throughout the five countries concerned.

The usual pattern—discuss peaceable settlement of differences while building bigger and better bombers.

RED DANUBE. The technicians of the Molotov plan are pushing ahead with their task of consolidating communist domination, and preparing the way for eventual war. In spite of some internal friction, the red satellite team are well banded together on the question of the control of navigation on the River Danube. At the opening of the Danube Conference, M. SIMICH, Yugoslav Foreign Minister, stated: “The Yugoslav Government wishes to see the results of this Conference give proof of the possibility of international collaboration among countries having widely differing economic systems.” The new Convention, put forward by Vishinsky, allows only Danubian states to use vessels on the

Yanks Plan to Bomb Russia

continued from page one

aircraft technician and skilled worker, with special attention to those with experience of jets and rockets. By lavish promises the Russians also recruited skilled aircraft labour.

American Air Chief, General Carl Spaatz, says that Russia is rapidly building copies of the American ‘Superfort’ B.29’s to fly to America to drop there the atom bomb, and then jettison the planes. The U.S. Government wants military control of certain Atlantic, European and Middle Eastern countries, to prevent the Russians having forward bombing bases. Of course, it also wants military bases in these countries to carry out its own bombing programme.

“Draw a couple of thousand-mile circles around the industrial heart of Russia,” said an American Air General, “and you will soon see why we must have operating bases outside of this country.” The 2,000 mile ring borders Greenland, Iceland, England, France, Italy, Greece, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. India also borders the ring. Turkey, considered as very important by the U.S. generals, is between the one and two-thousand mile circles.

Already the new U.S. Air Force is in Britain, and is shortly to take part—with the R.A.F.—in big-scale practice manoeuvres. At the other end of Europe, U.S. air chiefs have been conferring with President Ismet Inonu and Turkish Generals.

And so to war again.

river—Russia, of course, has now become a Danubian State! During the debate, it was claimed that the U.S. also occupied the position of a state bordering on the river. Having a voting majority on their side, it was easy for the Vishinsky convention to be pushed through by the Russians.

The U.S. are thus placed in a difficult position, for the railways linking East and West are insufficient to handle the vast increase of goods contemplated for the Marshall economic infiltration plan. (It is intended to increase the 1948 volume by approximately 30 % during the next 3 years). Although Russian moves in Germany are being countered by the air lift, it would not be feasible to run an air lift for the Marshall goods. As this economic infiltration is America’s main tactic in Eastern Europe, it is not likely that Russian domination of the Danube will be meekly accepted.

MORE ARRESTS The question of land-collectivisation dominates the Hungarian scene. Tildy, President of Hungary, has ‘resigned,’ saying that, “a number of my immediate entourage have committed grave crimes against the Republic, and I cannot expect full confidence.” This followed the announcement, made by the Ministry of the Interior, that Tildy’s son-in-law, Csornsky, had been arrested and charged with treason and espionage.

Tildy, an agricultural expert, was one of the founders of the Smallholders Party, formed to protect the small landholders. He has been a bitter opponent of the Communist economic programme, and particularly the land-reform which entails the expropriation of the peasant farmers. His place has been taken by Szakasits, chairman of the Hungarian United Worker’s Party, leader of the former Social Democratic Party, engineer of the Communist-Socialist fusion, and violently pro-Soviet.

From Poland comes news of the arrest of ‘Little Stalin’ Gomulka—Polish deputy premier—reportedly arrested by the authorities acting on Russian instigation. Gomulka—who entered the Warsaw Government formed under the Yalta Agreement—was another opponent of the Soviet line on land-collectivisation.

A ‘communist catharsis’ is reported from Czechoslovakia. In plain terms this means another purge of elements considered doubtful by the party.

TITO As a result of the fifth Congress of the Yugoslav C.P., the names of the component members of the new Politbureau were made public for the first time.

Tito—as was to be expected—is secretary-general. The three other secretaries are Kardelj, Djilas and Rankovich (boss of the secret police), the men whom the Cominform has denounced as heretics and deviationists. Pijade, Kidrich, Laskovshek, Neshkovik and Goshniak are other members.

The campaign against the Yugoslav C.P. is being stepped up in the Cominform countries. In the Bulgarian communist press a cartoon of Tito as Goering has been published. We must admit they have some excuse for this—the Red Fuehrer’s physical resemblance to Goering is remarkable and his love of ornate be-medalled uniforms would have won Hermann’s heart.

The main bone of contention is still Macedonia. Both Tito and Dimitrov wish to incorporate Macedonia into their own territory (the old Serbo-Croat-Bulgar dispute). The Greek Communist guerrilla leader, Markos, has not been obliging on this point. He wants Greek Macedonia inside his boundaries. The thieves of the Balkans are falling out.

W.M.

International Anarchist News

E.C.N.I. CALLING Our comrades of the Spanish Libertarian Movement exiled in France, have recently established a powerful radio transmitter which makes daily broadcasts to Spain. The station, which can be picked up quite easily in Britain when atmospheric conditions are favourable, is on the 44 metre wave-band, and its call-sign is "E.C.N.I. — AL SERVICIO DE LA LIBERACION DE ESPANA." Programmes usually terminate with the song of the Iberian Anarchist Federation, 'Hijos del Pueblo' ('Sons of the People'). Transmissions are at the following times:

Weekdays: 1-1.30 p.m.; 7.30-8 p.m. and 9.30-10.30 p.m.
Sundays and public holidays: 8.30-9.30 a.m.; 1-1.30 p.m.; 7.30-8 p.m. and 9.30-10.30 p.m.
All broadcasts are in the Spanish language.

* * *
BULGARIA Through the I.W.M.A. Commission of Aid to the Bulgarian Anti-fascists we have received the text of a message of greetings to the Anarchists of the world from the Anarchist-Communist Federation of Bulgaria. Space unfortunately does not allow us to reproduce this message in full, but we extract from it the following paragraph:—

"What does the future hold in store for us? It is difficult to forecast. Some people are putting their hope of salvation in a coming war, are waiting for it impatiently and even desiring it. We, in these grave moments, have lost neither our ideological balance nor a clear vision of the reality. We are opposed to wars. We want to believe that war will be averted. At the most serious point of the conflict which is developing between the Anglo-American bloc and Russia, the latter will withdraw and the result of its political compromises will be its overthrow, and that of the Stalinist regime in our country. We are more convinced of this than many comrades in Western Europe and America, for we see directly the incomparable weakness of Russia in face of the monstrous material strength and even the moral advantages of Anglo-Yankee capitalism."

Our comrades of the Alexander Berkman Fund in the United States inform us that the English translation of the pamphlet *Bulgaria—a New Spain* will be ready in October, and a quantity will be forwarded to us for distribution here.

* * *
S. AMERICA As a result of an initiative taken by the recent clandestine Congress of the Regional Workers Federation of Argentine (F.O.R.A.), the Continental Working Men's Association of America is to be reformed. This Assn. was formerly a strong regional section of the International Working Men's Association, and its reorganisation should greatly strengthen the Anarcho-syndicalist movement both in the South American countries and internationally.

* * *
SPAIN The repression of Franco-fascism against our comrades inside Spain continues with unabated ferocity. We have learnt recently, with deep regret, that the Anarchist militant, Raul Carballeira, together with other comrades, was shot by the fascist police in Madrid.

THE LIBERTARIAN FILM CLUB

Sunday, September 12th, at 6.50 p.m.

Mother

directed by Pudovkin
also:— HIS TRYSTING PLACE (Chaplin)

Sunday, October 3rd, at 6.50 p.m.

Waxworks

with Werner Krauss and Conrad Veidt
also:— an *avant garde* film MENILMENTANTE

at Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.1.

TICKETS 2/-

For membership, guests' tickets, etc, apply at Office on night

British arms protect Tin & Rubber

F A C E D with an extension of the break-up of the British Empire to the Malayan Peninsula, the British Government is using all the means at its disposal—from head-hunting Dyaks to the S.S. men of the former Palestine Police—to protect the rubber and tin investments that are threatened by the rising of the 'bandits' and 'terrorists' of the native population.

It is unfortunate that this natural struggle of the Malayan people should have been infiltrated by Communist elements. Unfortunate because the Communists are interested in freeing Malaya from British domination only in order to place it under their own totalitarian control. Here, as in Greece, China, Burma and elsewhere, the local Communist Party is dancing to the tune called in Moscow and, should the tune change, the C.P. will be just as willing to do another somersault. After all, it isn't so long ago they were waving the Union Jack and praising Churchill.

But Communist influence must not be allowed to hide the essential fact, which is that the Malayan people are in revolt against British imperialism. The best way to counter Communist influence is for the revolutionary workers of all countries to give their moral and material support to the struggle of the Malayan workers and peasants against the exploitation and slave conditions imposed by the rubber and tin planters under the benevolent protection of British arms.

K.H.

T e a - b r e a k

"I just love Shoreditch," said Lady Cynthia Colville, lady-in-waiting to Queen Mary, recently. Oh, no! She hasn't moved there yet!

§ § §

Heard in an American butcher's shop. "We shouldn't complain Alice.....in some countries they never see steaks at all, but WE can go into any store and look at them."

§ § §

Heard in an American secretarial school: "We'll have to eliminate 'Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the party' as a typing exercise. Congress is getting suspicious."

§ § §

Sign above a church door: "This is the gateway to Heaven (closed during August and September)."

§ § §

"Do you support the Government, mate?"
"How can I? I've got a wife and six kids to support!"

§ § §

A politician doesn't make his bed and lie in it—he makes his bunk and lies out of it.

§ § §

There's only one place a fellow-traveller won't travel to — Russia.

§ § §

It seems that someone is going to get singed if the cold war in Berlin gets any warmer.

§ § §

Who carries more passengers? British Railways or the Coal Board?

TOBY

Libertarian Film Club Notes

THE CULT OF REALISM

A dominant force in filmmaking today is undoubtedly that of documentary realism". "Naturalism heightened by drama" — "a faithful reproduction of the event" — call it what you will; the subtlest techniques of camera and cutting room, grease paint and location, are used to create an impression of ordinary people behaving in an ordinary way.

Seen at its best in the post-war Italian films "Open City" and "To live in Peace", documentary realism can be misused to give an air of authenticity to false characters and stage types.

For example, in 'Brief Encounter,' the Noel Coward—Two Cities film, in the carefully-observed railway station set, credibility was given the stupid buffet attendant and ticket collector

In this manner; the camera builds up an authentic atmosphere—the slow accumulation of detail—everything including the kitchen sink minus its tap washer—or, as in 'Brief Encounter', the stale sandwiches inside their glass jars; and to what purpose?—to consolidate a belief in the inherent comicality of the British servant class.

The list can be extended. In 'It Always Rains on Sunday' one sees goys and jews photographed against their East End fruit barrows, who draw character inspiration, not from Aldgate Pump, but from Sid Field and Issy Bonn.

Another example is 'In Which We Serve' in which the sailors in their approved slop-chest rig-out, act a servile approach to their betters that is in the tradition of 'Squire's favourite ploughman,' and not of a modern conscript navy.

Before the war, Grierson and his GPO team acquired a genuine reputation for insight and truth. Came the war and its reporting, documentary was the heaven-sent instrument, and films like 'San Demetrio' and 'Lifeboat' were produced. The shift away from documentary values probably began at this point. Already the emphasis was upon propaganda rather than honest interpretation.

And now today, the ex-documentary directors, established in the commercial cinema, mis-employ the technique which they learnt pre-war.

It does not seem to be appreciated by producers that backgrounds faithfully reproduced from life demand life-like characters to people them, just as in reverse, stylised sets require stylised acting.

Lesser clowns than Laurel and Hardy are credible in a land of custard pies.

To disguise fake characters with a veneer of realism is as ineffective as introducing a live horse into a cardboard forest. F.R.

INDUSTRIAL JOTTINGS

CATERING The impact of the Catering Wages Bill has for the moment damped the struggle for catering workers' organisation. Waiters who received little or no wages before, are now enjoying the £4.8s or so which the Bill allows. Some kitchen staff, however, have suffered reductions of wages, while most staffs have been cut down to balance the extra pay of the waiters. Many of last November's Savoy strikers have still not been reinstated. The holiday season has been poor financially. The West End has slumped. Lewis and his C.P. fellow-travellers have been expelled from the NUGMW, while the latter make feverish attempts with large companies to collaborate on a closed shop in order to combat the Union's falling membership. The Rank and File Catering Action Movement continues to function; its bulletin, "Catering Workers' News" is published on the 1st of the month. The CAM has, by perseverance, been instrumental in bringing the first prosecutions against employers under the new Wages Acts.

HEALTH SERVICES The Nurses' Rally at Hyde Park on 15 August saw the emergence of the Rank & File Nurses' Movement. The average wage of a student nurse is £1.2.9, some General Nurses receive as little as 8s. after deductions. The position is desperate, and there will have to be a revolutionary change. A sudden consciousness and sense of solidarity has gripped the Nurses with a determination to see their £5 a week and complete humanisation of conditions laid down. The reactionary Royal College has a majority on the Whitley Council. The Union, COSE, is preparing a compromise, to which its members have not assented. As more Nurses are sensing a carve-up, RECEPTOR (274 Hillcross Ave., Morden, Surrey) is organising those who are taking no chances. "Nursing Mirror", please copy.

DOCKERS Although there is a lull in activity, the Rank & File Committee is still the strongest and most active grouping. The Catholic Action group has been foiled and the next battle is with the C.P. Barrett of the CP is in for a pasting from our good comrade Bert Aylward.

Dockers have discovered that they are right down 16th on the list of workers who have received pay increases, and this has shifted attention from the discipline question to a stronger bid for the Charta.

Industrial Bulletins

STRUGGLE (Dockers)

PURGATIVE (Health Services)

CATERING WORKERS' NEWS

each 2d, post 3d., from:
"Direct Action" Administration
15 Parliament Hill, London, N.W.3

help establish DIRECT ACTION on a firmer basis in several ways — by taking a bundle of each issue for sale and so helping increase our circulation, by becoming postal subscribers and encouraging their contacts to do likewise, and by sending a few shillings to the Press Fund from time to time. DIRECT ACTION supports your struggle—it wants your support—EDS.

*Pass 'Direct Action'
on when you have
read it.*

PRESS FUND

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London: W.O., 2/-, 3/-; A.O., 10/-;
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Glasgow: J.B., 5/-, D.M., 5/-;
Llanelly: E.G.R., 2/-.

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