

THE

Week

A news analysis for socialists 9d.

THE WEEK

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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EDITORS' LETTER

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We are still getting a mixture of bouquets and brickbats from our readers. We are pleased to receive the former and need the latter if we are to have a constant stream of ideas as to how the journal can be improved. To all our readers, however, we would stress one thing: the whole success and character of the Week depends upon reports, reports and more reports. On this point we are pleased with the number of Young Socialist items we received this issue. We hope the Y.S. comrades will keep this up. Next issue will be a special one, designed to be sold on the Y.S. lobby of Parliament, and as such will contain a number of articles on the issues facing young people in general and the Y.S. in particular.

Space considerations compelled us to hold over the special article on the long term perspectives of automation in Britain - we shall include this in the next issue. Next issue will have another article by Tom Wengraf arising out of his recent visit to Algeria. Our correspondent in Zanzibar hasn't 'come across' yet but we have hopes for some exclusive material soon. We do, however, get a flow of Zanews items.

FOR THE FORTY-HOUR WEEK, AND AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT!

The latest of a series of blatant governmental intervention into the field of industrial relations has effectively cut away the ground from beneath the oft-repeated argument that trade unions should not concern themselves with political matters, and that industrial goals should not be pursued by political means. This time, the Government has launched a 35,000 word document, at the National Incomes Commission, in the hope that in some way it can block any further cuts in working hours.

This Treasury document is clearly intended as an encouragement, even as a warning, to the employers to hold fast, withholding any substantial offers. On Friday, the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions meet the Employers' Federation to present their long-standing claim for a 40-hour week. Since the forty-hour week has been an official TUC demand since 1944, and an aim of some of the constituent unions for a longer period, neither the Engineering Employers nor the Government should be surprised that such a claim is now being pressed. The strange thing is not that it is being pressed, but that it was not conceded a very long time ago.

The arguments of the Government are no more serious than they were when they were advanced to frustrate the claims of the Builders and Painters in the NIC Report of last April. But the Treasury statement is quite open about the real reasons why the Government is worried:

"If it (the engineers' claim) is conceded...the normal chain reaction through the industries which follow the engineering settlements must be expected...In any case, the general... repercussions of a 40-hour week settlement in engineering are likely to be even stronger than those of a wage settlement."

Further, the statement bluntly continues:

"Bearing in mind the important agreements to reduce hours already made...and the solidarity of the trade unions on this question, the possibility of its general introduction, once it has been accepted by engineering, needs no elaboration."

That the officials of the Treasury, the Government, and the advisors who have contributed to this stand, should object to a 40-hour week is not surprising. The experiences of the ruling minority are quite different from those of the working majority - it is doubtful whether anyone of the former has ever really worked 20 hours in a week let alone 40.

Labour should reply with two answers:

The first will need to be a solid preparation by the unions to carry into operation the words of Mr. George Barratt, the secretary of the Confed.: "If the employers turn us down now it will engender a real fight."

But the second should be given by Harold Wilson for Labour as a whole. The Party should pledge itself to ratify the ILO convention on the 40-hour week, as soon as it assumes office. This will establish a legal 40-hour week, and will sharply differentiate Labour from the Tory Government. If the Tories can use a Government department to try to stop the 40-hour week, why shouldn't Labour reverse the process.

CO-OP CALL TO GET OUT OF NATO

from Pat Jordan

The preliminary agenda for the annual conference of the Co-operative Party has been issued. Resolution number one, from the Birmingham and District Co-op Party, whilst asking for a future Labour Government to give full support to the U.N., says 'it is no longer necessary to remain a member of N.A.T.O. and other military groupings.' Other resolutions of interest on the question of foreign policy are: number three, opposing the N.A.T.O. mixed-man-force, from Parkstone and Bournemouth; number four, a unilateralist one, from Portsea Island; and numbers seven, eight and nine, all on South Africa. The first two, from Birmingham and District and Manchester and Salford, call for the ending of arms exports to South Africa and a campaign by the Co-op movement to achieve this end. Number nine, from Nottingham, demands the cessation of trade between the Co-op movement and South Africa and the diversion of this trade to countries "applying Co-operative principles." The latter point has Algeria in mind - there originally being a separate resolution calling for trade with Algeria but the two resolutions were amalgamated in committee.

This is the preliminary agenda and a final agenda will appear in which most of the resolutions will have been composited. It is to be hoped that this year the movers will resist any attempt to 'composite' out the two most radical demands, viz., withdrawal from N.A.T.O. and unilateralism.

ANOTHER LEGAL BLOW TO UNIONS

from a legal correspondent

Coming hard on the heels of the Rookes v. Barnard judgment (see Week number five), the ruling by Mr. Justice Marshall in Queen's Bench Division on February 3rd that the Watermen's union acted illegally in instructing its members to handle barges belonging to J.T. Stratford gives cause for concern. The judge granted an interim order that the the union officials must not cause further substantial damage to the company's business and goodwill by continuing to implement the instructions. He refused an application to suspend the order pending an appeal. J.T. Stratford and Son is pursuing a claim for damages against union officials and the court's orders are in force until the hearing of this claim or a further court order.

The significance of this particular judgment is that, unlike the Rookes v. Barnard case, the employer was directly concerned in a dispute with the union. The experience of Stratford's will encourage other employers to go to the law courts when faced with a demand for union recognition. The judge said that the Watermen's union officials were not protected by the 1906 Trades Dispute Act and that they had acted "unlawfully." Thus not only is a union prevented from carrying out activities which have been considered perfectly normal and legal for several decades, but if the judgment's logic is repeated the union will have huge costs awarded against it.

The dispute arises out of the fact that Bowker and King a subsidiary of the firm refuses to negotiate with the union. The firm used the fact that Bowker and King is a separate entity to claim that there was no dispute between Stratford's and the union.- despite the fact that J.T. Stratford is chairman of both companies.



LIFE'S BETTER UNTIL THE CONCENTRATION



113,000 UNEMPLOYED GET NOTHING

Figures in the January issue of the Ministry of Labour Gazette reveal that 113,000 of the 474,000 registered unemployed on the 11th of November last year received no payment. A further 207,000 received unemployment pay only, whilst 108,000 received national assistance but no unemployment pay. Of the 113,000 receiving nothing 55,000 were men, 14,000 single women, 25,000 married women, and 18,000 boys and girls under 18. The last categories suffered most, nearly 44% of married women registered receiving nothing, and more than 56% of boys and girls under 18 likewise. These figures ^{of} strengthen the opinion that a large proportion of these two categories unemployed do not register as unemployed because they see no point in it if they get no money.

VOICE - FEBRUARY ISSUE APPEARS

by our T.U. correspondent

The February issue of Voice of the Unions is now on sale. A 12 page issue, it is centred around a broadsheet on defence, which argues the case for disengagement, for demilitarisation of Germany, and withdrawal from imperialist commitments. "We have no business east of Suez except in peaceful trade" says the main statement, by R. & P. Fletcher. The issue also contains a controversy on conscription, in which Barbara Castle and Bill Vester take part.

On industrial matters there are articles on the Youth Unemployment lobby by Eric Heffer, on Holidays by Eddie Hough, on Wages and Profits by Alan Rooney, and on decasualisation in the docks by a Salford docker. "Unitas" carries on the discussion on Workers' control, and a number of Voice study groups are announced, including one on planning, at which John Hughes and Stephen Swingle will speak on 22nd-23rd February. It will be held at the Mostyn Hotel, Portman St., London W.1. Bulk supplies of Voice are available at 4/6 per dozen from 57, Crystal Palace Park Rd., London S.E. 26.

NORTH-WEST CND MEETS

from Alan Rooney (Manchester)

North-West Region CND held its AGM on February 1st. There was a very good turn out - 170 - and £31 was collected. Peggy Duff said that CND was going through a rather difficult period after the relaxation of international tension. She made it clear that CND was not going to make a pact with the L.P. during election year. CND and the L.P. had fundamentally different views on NATO. She warned the Labour left that if they kept quiet on defence issues now they would be voiceless in a Labour Government. She saw CND as a revolutionary movement, challenging basic ideas on defence. CND's General Election plans were announced.

ST. PANCRAS OPPOSES CALL-UP

from John Strauther

St. Pancras North Young Socialists have sent the following resolution to the annual conference:

"This conference declares its uncompromising opposition to the reintroduction of conscription in any form by any government, and calls for a sustained campaign of resistance to its reintroduction."

They also wrote to the National Youth Officer in these terms:

"North St. Pancras Young Socialists protest vehemently against the threatened expulsion for his political views of John Robertson, National Chairman of the Young Socialists. Only the Young Socialists' national conference, by whom he was elected, are entitled to his recall."

OXFORD OPPOSES WITCH-HUNT

from Chris Arthur (Oxford)

Oxford University Labour Club passed by a large majority a resolution protesting about the reported recommendation for expulsion of John Robertson, Chairman of the Young Socialists. When someone said we should wait until the official announcement, the mover pointed out that by acting quickly we might help to forestall possible action by the 'hatchet men'. If it is true that the right wing are prepared to indulge in such splitting activities even in ^{an} election year then all sections of the movement will have to prepare for an attack on the Y.S. and on democratic rights in the Labour Party generally, after the leader moves to number 10. We must make sure that under a Labour Government discussion in the party is intensified and Ministers called to account to the party for their actions.

MORE SUPPORT FOR UNEMPLOYMENT RALLY

By Tony Morris (Nottingham)

Another AEU branch in Nottingham has sent in a £1 towards the cost of the bus taking participants to the Y.S. lobby of Parliament. Young Socialists from several branches including South, Central, West and North Nottingham are taking time off work to come. The bus leaves Friar Lane, off the Old Market Square, Nottingham at 8.00 sharp on the morning of the rally (February 11th).

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Based on Labour Party publication

The average number of unemployed workers under 18 have been supplied by the Ministry of Labour ^{and} are quoted below:

1950	15,796	1951	13,613	1952	24,492	1953	18,500	1954	16,571
1955	13,548	1956	13,185	1957	16,293	1958	26,854	1959	30,694
1960	22,052	1961	19,322	1962	34,138	1963	50,102		

The increase has been only partly due to the increased number of school leavers. At the end of 1963 there was a sharp fall - in December the total was down to 26,718; this low figure is partly because Xmas is no longer school-leaving term. The numbers would be much bigger if: (a) They included all under 25 or even all under 21; (b) some school leavers had not returned to school because of the job situation (this has happened in many northern towns); (c) all those out were included. Most school leavers register with the Youth Employment Officer, but as they cannot receive unemployment benefit, not all under eighteens register.

CONTRACTORS KNOCK DIRECT LABOUR

from an industrial correspondent

The National Federation of Building Trades Employers, in its annual report issued on January 30th, urged that the use of direct labour by public authorities and other bodies for construction work should be discouraged 'in the national interest.' It says: "The output figures for building work carried on by direct labour are not so good. Nearly 400,000 men, approx. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the industry's total labour force, are now directly employed by local authorities and other public bodies and private organisations, and the number is still rising..." Claiming that the use of direct labour was an uneconomic method of employing the building industry's work force, the reports goes on: "Man-power being one of the limiting factors in the expansion of the industry, it would seem to be desirable in the national interest that the use of direct labour be discouraged." To back its arguments, the Federation produces figures of output per man in the first 6 months of last year, comparing those of contractors with those of direct labour.

These figures show for contractors an output per man as new housing (£1,155), other new work (£1,258), repair and maintenance (£813) and all work (1,100). The respective figures for direct labour are £768, £896, £584 and £626. As impressive as these figures would seem to be, one wonders why, if direct labour is so inefficient, its use is increasing? Furthermore, one can always 'smell a rat' when a section of the employers start talking about the 'national interest.' Just now with a rapid expansion in construction the private employers are engaged in competition with local authorities, etc., for labour and contracts; hence these kinds of arguments. The report is also interesting when it speaks of growth of productivity per person employed. It says the latter has outstripped practically every other major industry, and that in the third quarter of 1963, gross output per man was 24% higher than in 1958.

SHIP OWNERS WILL FIGHT

In a special article, written by the labour staff of the Financial Times, and appearing in its January 31st issue, we read:

"...It is no secret that owners will oppose shop stewards on ships with everything in their power. Such a battle would have none of the cricket-field politeness of the present dispute..."

FALKIRK FACTORY TO CLOSE: Falkirk's already bad unemployment position (2,315 registered unemployed in December or 3.8%) will be considerably worsened by the closure of R. & A. Main's (Glover & Main Group) factory. The firm, which manufactures domestic appliances, employs 650 workers in Falkirk. Production is to be transferred to the company's works at Edmonton in the interests of 'efficiency'.

AMERICA'S 35 MILLION POOR

by Pat Jordan

The annual report of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, which was recently issued in Washington, gives many facts and figures about America's poor. The report considered that people were poor if their income was less than \$3,000 a year for a family or under \$1,500 for a person living alone. (See footnote). On this reckoning there were 9.3 million poor families, containing over 30 million people, and 5 million other poor persons in the United States. This amounts to 35 million poor out of a total population of 185 million.

The proportion of poor people has greatly declined since pre-war days - more than half the population would have been characterised as poor when Roosevelt became President. However, most of this change took place between 1939 and 1953 - largely as a result of war (the 2nd World War and the Korean War). The rate at which the proportion of poor has declined has slowed down since then. The report estimated that if the rate of improvement recorded in recent years continues unchanged there will still be 13% of American families below poverty line by 1980. Moreover, it is by no means certain that even this modest rate of improvement will continue.

A large proportion of the poor are Negroes and other victims of racial discrimination and any improvement in their lot is dependent on the civil rights struggle. Others, like those affected by local industrial decay, e.g., Kentucky miners, need Federal action to improve their position. The old farm a big group and unless there is a vigorous social security programme enacted they will remain poor. Over two-thirds of the families headed by a woman are poor, usually because the female bread-winner is obliged to take a grossly underpaid job. Lastly, there come the long-term unemployed and there is no sign that U.S. capitalism is anywhere near bringing down their number.

This is the background to Johnson's 'declaration of war on poverty'. His recently presented budget does, indeed, contain an allocation for \$500 million to 'attack poverty', other departmental increases would bring this to a total of \$1.2 billion. However, it is not intended to spend more than half this in the 12 months starting next July, and even then it works out at less than \$35 per head of the poor - so much for Johnson's attack on poverty!

Footnote: The Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Conference on Economic Progress both regard higher figures - \$4,000 for a family and \$2,000 for single people - as barely adequate. According to this reckoning more than a quarter of the American people are poor.

LARGEST EVER MILITARY EXERCISE BEING HELD IN ALASKA

More than 10,000 U.S. soldiers and airmen and a company of Canadian infantry started on January 30th, a 12-day exercise, designated "polar siege" designed to test army and airforce cold weather tactics. About 4,000 of the troops and much of their air support is being flown to Alaska from other states and from Canada.

FANTASTIC SLAUGHTER OF PIGS ON SOVIET FARMS

The official report of the Russian central statistical office for 1963 gives details of the number of livestock on Soviet farms. It states that because of the shortage of fodder (due to the bad weather) an unusual number of animals were slaughtered towards the end of the year. Just how unusual is shown by the figures given:

January 1.	numbers of animals in millions	Cows	Pigs	Sheep & Goats
1962		36.3	66.7	140.5
1963		37.9	69.9	146.3
1964		38.2	40.7	139.2

Whilst the number of cows edged up slightly, the number of pigs declined by nearly 30 million or 40%. Most of the decline took place on the state and collective farms. These had 53.8 million pigs at the beginning of 1963 and this was down to 27.6 million by January 1st this year. This will undoubtedly lead to difficulties later in the year. That this kind of thing should take place alongside the tremendous technical advances of the Soviet Union in other fields is remarkable. It can only be explained in terms of the gross under-capitalisation of Soviet agriculture over a period of decades.

NEIZVESTNY'S NEW PROJECT

Ernest Neizvestny, the Soviet sculptor whose work was severely criticised during last year, was recently interviewed by a Tass correspondent. The 38-year-old sculptor received the correspondent in his studio in which the most prominent object was a 10-foot photograph of a project for a monument tentatively called "Thought Square." In the centre of the composition will be a very large head of a thinker, which the sculptor has already cast in plaster of paris. "The happiness of cognition of the world and its transformation in the interests of the people on Earth is the keynote of my new work," the sculptor said.

He explained that his composition was designed for a large square and would be formed with many-figure bas-reliefs, as if illustrating the triumph of reason. "It is to be a work in which the theme of labour, of perfecting man, must be conveyed with the greatest force..." He ended the interview by saying of the party's criticism of him, "I admit I got carried away...by a narrow professionalism. That probably led me to experiment for the sake of experiment...."

PRO-CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTIES ESTABLISHED IN PERU AND CEYLON

The New China News Agency has carried reports recently of meetings in which the leaderships of the Peruvian and Ceylonese C.Ps are said to have been expelled and replaced by pro-Chinese tendencies. In Peru, the fourth national conference of the C.P., held January 18/19, 'expelled' the general secretary and other members of the C.C. The report claimed that conference was convened by a majority of the old C.C. and attended by 13 out of 17 regional committee representatives. A similar development was reported in Ceylon (a fuller report of this will appear in the next issue of the Week). In both cases, the positions taken were unmistakably pro-Chinese, including favourable references to Stalin. It must also be noted that the pro-Khrushchovites claimed to have expelled the 'dogmatists.'



ITALIAN NEW LEFT ORGANISES

from our Milan correspondent

The formation of the Italian Socialist Party of Proletarian Unity has opened a new phase in the class struggle in Italy. The centre-left regime, which was carefully prepared beforehand by Nenni, as well as by Saragat and the Christian Democrats, is now rapidly consolidating into an increasingly firm political grouping, and the decision of the left of the PSI to break away from the right must be valued as a positive action. By January 25th, 34 members (out of 101) of the Central Committee of the PSI, 1,118 members of provincial committees (out of 3,461) and the majority of the PSI trade union cadres had joined the PSIUP: this last fact is of major importance as the essence of the centre-left experiment was to capture and control the working class precisely by enrolling the PSI in the Government (the PSI still being united with the Italian C.P. at trade union level in the CGIL). This distinct refusal on the part of the working class to fall for Nenni's demagogy about the workers getting into the control room of power by entering the (bourgeois) Government is a solid cause for continued optimism concerning the militancy of the Italian workers.

STRIKE WAVE IN ITALY

On January 31st, 450,000 Italian textile workers started a 48-hour nationwide strike for the renewal of collective agreements on the basis of a programme of shorter hours, lower labour intensity and higher wages. This is the fourth national strike they have held since the beginning of December. In addition there have been a series of local work stoppages. The present strike is the beginning of a 3-week intensified campaign which will include more local stoppages. The same day, women workers at the Italcable Radio and Telegraph Company came out on strike. Another 48-hour national strike has started - this one being called by employees of the Italian Red Cross in support of a claim for better living conditions. On February 5th, 1,750,000 civil servants are due to hold a 24^{hr} strike. They are demanding higher wages and revision of salary scales.

HOLLAND GOES 'SELWYN LLOYD'

In face of inflationary pressures and growing difficulties with the trade balance, the Dutch Government announced on February 2nd a series of 'disinflationary' measures. These include an extension of the 5% cut in Government expenditure, cutting back of various tax allowances for businessmen, credit restrictions, the abolition of R.P.M., and the right to make price ceilings for individual companies.



THIRD WORLD WEEK

ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER LUXURY CLUB

The new Zanzibar Government took over the 'Sir Tayabali Karimjee Club' on January 28th and have renamed it the People's Club. The Swahili language Government paper, Kweupe (dawn), said in a commentary that the take-over would enable all Zanzibar people to enjoy the amenities of the club. In the past, it was only for the recreation of the rich. Workers, peasants, other poor people and even educated youth, could not become members. The club, with luxurious indoor and outdoor facilities, was opened in 1959, sponsored by Tayabali Karimjee, a big capitalist in East Africa.

ZANZIBAR ESTABLISHES RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY

An official announcement issued on January 28th by the People's Republic of Zanzibar Government stated it had decided to recognise the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). This move is significant in view of the fact that hardly any countries outside the Soviet bloc have 'recognised' East Germany because of U.S. and West German pressure.

ESTATES SEIZED IN INDONESIA

The Indonesian Government-controlled Anatara news agency reported on January 30th that nearly 7,500 acres of foreign rubber and coffee estates in East Java have been seized by the local authorities because of economic offences by their owners. The foreign owners had, according to the East Java Attorney-General conducted trading with Indonesian citizens without authorisation from the Foreign Exchange Institute.

CHILEAN COPPER MINERS STRIKE FOR 100% WAGE INCREASE

Comtel reports that 3,500 Chilean copper miners in the Potrerillos and El Salvador mines went on strike on February 1st in support of a 100% wage rise - they had been offered 30%. The two mines are owned by the giant North American Anaconda Corporation. The size of the claim is determined by the huge increase in the cost of living in Chile in recent years.

ZANZIBAR YOUTH LEADER IN CHINA: : Adam Shafi, member of the Central Committee of the Umma Youth and vice chairman of the National Union of Zanzibar and Pomba Students, arrived in Peking on January 31st as the official guest of Chinese youth groups.

TRADE UNIONS VERSUS LAND-SHARKS

by Tom Wengraf (Algiers correspondent)

The Algerian Trade Union journal Revolution and Labour (23 January 1964) exposes the struggle for hegemony that continues in Algeria today:

"In our issue of September 5, 1963, an article failed to please the plunderers of vacant lands, the saboteurs of self-management. The article, entitled "The class-struggle at Bou Smail around self-management", described the struggle by the agricultural workers against a gang of land-thieves. Our journal has helped to unmask those who attempt to swindle the people and has contributed towards their defeat. One should have been able to think that the resistance of the thieves would have ended there, but they found a powerful ally - the Law.

One of the land-sharks, Boudjali, of whom we wrote that he owns a transport firm and a cafe and that he has not even the right to enter as a worker into a self-management farm, has not hesitated to attack us legally. The judge at Kolea awarded the case in his favour. At the hearing, Boudjali formally admitted that he had appropriated vacant lands and that he had at the same time exercised his activity as bourgeois employer. He attacked us in the following fashion: our denunciation of him as pluralist and land-shark, however true, was morally defamatory. This was exactly the case, our intention being to show him up as an enemy of the people and as an enemy of self-management. The extraordinary feature of the case is that the Judge of Kolea decided in his favour.

The Judge decided that the robber who had been denounced had the right to damages from the militants who had accomplished their duty of revolutionary vigilance. For the Judge, revolutionary vigilance is an offence for which militants are tried and for which they pay fines! The other astonishing aspect is that the sentence to pay 200,000 Algerian francs (over £150) was awarded against Brother Amar Kharroubi, secretary of the local branch of UGTA at Bou Smail who gave us the information. Revolution and Work was neither sued nor even called to the hearing.

It is easier to make a cowardly attack upon a militant than to make one on a national organisation. But in this way one attacks the UGTA and self-management that it defends. That is the profound sense of the decision taken by the court. One must admit that from the point of view of French bourgeois law, the judge's decision was perfectly correct.

The problem, therefore, is to know by what criteria our courts will make their judgement. Will they defend the "honour" of bourgeois thieves or will they defend the decrees of March and those who apply them?"

The official journal of the FLN, in reprinting this, also not only announced its total support for the stand of Revolution and Work but also demanded that the decision should not be simply annulled but that an official enquiry be made into the facts presented by the UGTA paper so that the thieves of national property and the enemies of the people and self-management should be punished properly. Both the difficulties that confront the regime and its clear orientation towards them are revealed in this small news item.



LIFE'S BETTER

TATTLE THE CONCENTRATION



CRIPPLES HARRIED BY GERMAN RED-BAITERS

from a correspondent

A man and his wife reduced to physical wrecks by the Nazis have been put on trial in West Germany for activities "endangering the state." Under Hitler they both spent years in concentration camps for opposing the Nazis. When rescued by the Society of Friends in 1938 and brought to England, Herr Fladung was crippled, almost blind and partly deaf. Herr Fladung (65) and his wife Klara (61) are charged together with Greta Hoffman (56) with "advancing the unconstitutional activities of the illegal Communist Party through publishing and other organising

It has been left to friends in Britain, Dame Sybil Thorndike and Sir Lewis Casson to protest on their behalf. When the trial opened, Herr Fladung was declared physically unfit to stand. His wife had a heart attack after her first appearance in court and a doctor's report is awaited. Getting little publicity in Germany, this persecution shows that capitalism has not changed its nature even at the moment when the bourgeoisie is trying to purge itself of guilt at the Frankfurt mass trial. Afraid to let people publish their opinions, German capitalism descends to this petty and sordid persecution of a couple in the last years or months of their lives.

SOVIET DEALS WITH FRANCO?

Moscow and Madrid exchanged new year greetings this year. The final barrier to the restoration of relations is believed to be a 650-ton hoard of gold, worth £200 Million, shipped to Russia by the Republicans. Franco insists on its return. The Russians say that it was spent on arms for the Republic. The Daily Mail reports that it is possible that the Russians will acknowledge the debt and settle it in crude oil. If the Soviet leaders do go through with this support of Franco's shaky economy it will be another example, following hard on the invitation to the fascist so-called trade unions, of their subordination of the Spanish revolutionary forces to the convenience of their diplomatic manoeuvring. Enquiries to the Soviet Embassy might help establish an atmosphere from which Soviet opponents of such deals could draw encouragement. It could do no harm if trade union branches and constituency labour parties, to say nothing of Communist Party branches, were to write in for information.

THE VIETNAM COUP

According to news agency reports General Nguyen Khanh, the new military boss of South Vietnam, told reporters at his first press conference that General Paul Harkins, chief of United States military "assistance" in Vietnam is "our best friend. I cannot say he's my boss just now, but we have full confidence in him." (Reuter) According to the New York Times international Service: "When Mr. Diem sent the army to quash the dissident religious sects, General Khanh worked closely with General Duong Van Minh whose place he took as head of state.... General Khanh was part of the coup last November that overthrew President Diem, but three years earlier he defended Mr. Diem against an attempted rebellion of paratroopers."

This recent coup has apparently halted a much-heralded Government offensive into the areas controlled by the National Liberation Front (the so-called Vietcong). According to Time magazine Jan. 31: "One of it's (the National Liberation Front) most important but less well known functions is to administer the one-third of South Vietnamese territory controlled by the Reds.....The Front's 'capital' is believed to be the Vietcong's military G.H.Q., which is situated deep in the jungle 75 miles north-west of Saigon, conveniently close to the Cambodian frontier, and protected by a maze of fortifications plus 1,000 elite troops. From there a disciplined apparatus extends through provincial and district levels, down to the smallest village...An estimated 4,000 propaganda (education: Editor) squads follow Red guerilla units into the villages,

"The Front even publishes 30 crude newspapers. Boldly the Front's yellow-starred flag now flies over dozens of villages. The guerillas levy taxes, circulate their own currency, even operate a primitive postal system...For weeks, Radio Liberation has been triumphantly boasting that the organisation held its "Second National Congress" early in January in a secret "liberated area." The 150 delegates were said to have demonstrated "a mood of patriotism as mighty as the Mekong River."

PROFESSIONAL ARMY OR PEOPLE'S ARMY IN TANGANYIKA

The recent events in Tanganyika have greatly strengthened the position of Oscar Kambona, the Foreign and Defence Minister, who is widely regarded as the most important representative of the left. Firstly, while Prime Minister Nyrere panicked during the mutiny and fled to a boat in Dar harbour, Kambona rapidly restored the civilian authority. Secondly, Kambona is known to have been warning Nyrere for some time of the dangers both of slow Africanisation and of the existence of a professional, British trained army. Following the mutiny, the remnants of the professional army are being dismissed and it is reported that a new militia is to be created based on the youth wing of the party - TANU (Tanganyika African National Union)

U.S. UPSETS COSTA RICA AND COLUMBIA: The presidents of Costa Rica and Columbia have both denounced the U.S. for manipulating coffee prices upon which the economies of the two countries are dependent. President Orlich of Costa Rica, on Jan 29th, stated that the price of \$50 a cwt. was unsatisfactory and that the U.S.'s price policy has "caused a big political problem."

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