

International Bulletin

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FRANCE - THE WORKING CLASS SHOWS ITS STRENGTH

All comrades will have read reports of the massive demonstration on the occasion of the funeral of the eight victims of DeGaulle's police in Paris held on Tuesday 13th. Reports on the numbers involved vary from one million to one hundred thousand, but even the most reactionary sources had to admit that Paris had been brought to a standstill. Everything stopped - except the tubes and buses taking people to the funeral. What a resounding answer to those who argue that it is necessary to hide behind DeGaulle to prevent the victory of Fascism! The French working class demonstrated that given a firm leadership they could settle accounts with that gang of cutthroats - the O.A.S. - with ease. The leadership of the French workers' organisations show no sign of giving such a firm lead - the French Communist Party confines itself to calls for the 'unity of 'all democrats' and Mollet's 'Socialist' Party is more concerned with trying to avoid united action with the C.P. than fighting reaction.

Elsewhere in France strikes and demonstrations on a massive scale took place: in Clemon Ferrand, there was a total stoppage of all rail and other transport from 8 a.m. to midday and other strikes took place; in Marseilles there was a total stoppage; in Lyons, 25,000 demonstrated in the main square and there was a total stoppage of transport and engineering; transport was stopped for four hours at Nice, Dijon, Carcassonne, Dunkirk (where the docks stopped too), Le Havre, Montpellier, Perpignan and St. Etienne. In all places the demonstrations went off peacefully except at La Rochelle where the police used tear gas against the demonstrators.

We reproduce herewith a statement by the International Secretariat of the Fourth International on the situation in France. This, as well as the following article by T.M., was written before the big Paris demonstration.

Communique from the I.S. of the Fourth International

The International Secretariat of the Fourth International salutes the of the workers, students and intellectuals of France against the danger of the rebirth of fascism.

We pay homage to the victims of police repression who fell in the demonstration of the 8th February, and we call upon the workers and intellectuals of France to unitedly take part, throughout the country, in the general strike in memory of these victims. However, the blood of these martyrs has not flowed in vain, and their sacrifice will be, as that of 12 February 1934, the beginning of a strong mass movement against fascism and against Gaullism which favours and protects it.

The International Secretariat appeals to the working masses and their organisations of France to unite with their Algerian brothers in the struggle against fascism and Gaullism:

- to prevent completely the continuation of war operations in Algeria and the transportation of arms and troops;
- to help soldiers to revolt against their fascist officers and to identify themselves with the Algerian people;
- to impose speedy and positive negotiations with the G.P.R.A. (the provisional Algerian Government);
- to overthrow the Gaullist regime and impose a government of workers' organisations supported by the united front anti-fascist committees and controlled by them, this alone being the answer to fascism.

The International Secretariat appeals to all working class organisations of Europe to vigorously support the anti-fascist struggle in France. It asks the World Federation of Trade Unions and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions as well as the trade union centres of Africa, Latin America and Asia to launch an international appeal to sustain and support the anti-fascist and anti-colonial struggle in France.

9, February, 1962.

The Bonapartist nature of DeGaulle's regime has never been more clearly demonstrated as in the February 8th encounter between the police and the mass demonstrations against the O.A.S.. The impudence of the O.A.S. murder gangs arises from two factors, firstly their influence among the powers that be in France (radio reports suggest that even in prison they behave as they please) and the spineless attitude of the senile and treacherous CP and SP leaderships. The French section of the Fourth International as was reported in the Bulletin has called for immediate workers' defence committees.

The French state apparatus is in practice defending the O.A.S. and must be distinctly worried over the revival of the French workers' movement and the sharpness of the demonstrations (albeit taking place in an environment of economic stability.)

Although the overall European balance of forces is now totally different from that prevailing in the 30's in France, Trotsky's words on the subject of dealing with fascist terrorism, in his "Whither France" are strikingly relevant.

Despite the incessant activity of the O.A.S. and the possibility that their numbers will be strengthened from repatriated Algerian colons when a settlement is reached, this is counterbalanced by a renewal of activity among French youth and militants. The severity of the February 8th clash is a pointer to this resurgence.

DeGaulle's latest speech contained its usual patriotic appeals, infallible sign of bankruptcy. He did claim, however, that the greater part of the French armed forces are to be withdrawn to Europe before the end of the year. The Algerian Revolution has proved its strength.

The demonstrations of February 8th were handled in marked contrast to those on January 7th and reflect the increasing stress of a Government with no really solid and reliable social base. De Gaulle's recourse to patriotic gibberish in a disillusioned atmosphere will lead his regime nowhere.

The French Communist Party and the French Socialists called the demonstrations and large sections of the mass movement will look to them, but it is unlikely that these organisations will be able to control as in the past the spontaneous activity of the youth and other activists.

ECONOMIC NOTES

Lucas joins the Common Market

In the past it has been noted that the biggest British monopoly firms are getting into the Common Market regardless of what the British Government does or how long the negotiations go on. The latest example is that of Joseph Lucas (Industries) the motor and aircraft accessory manufacturer. This giant firm makes four/fifths of all the electrical equipment used in the British motor car industry as well as a very large share of that of heavy vehicles, aircraft, rockets, etc.. It has now bought for £2.9 million a 40% interest in Ducellier, the largest French manufacturer of automobile electrical equipment. A spokesman for the firm said, announcing the step, that this would give them a European outlet, regardless of whether Britain was admitted into the Common Market or not.

German Balance of payments deficit

The latest report of the German Federal Bank states, that for 1961 there was a deficit of nearly £180 millions on the German balance of payments. The main factor being a heavy deficit on invisibles (spending of German tourists abroad, etc.) Also the speculative inflow of money from abroad ceased during the year and was replaced by an outflow. Trade surplus was actually up during the year by 25% but the tendency here too is for a downward turn. Export orders for German firms have fallen off since the revaluation of the D-mark last March and at the end of 1961 unfilled orders were about 5% below the level of a year earlier. In fact, the trade surplus was largely due to a decline in imports of raw materials and semi-products. This was achieved by change in stock accumulation and is only a temporary feature. This is yet another indication of heightened level of competition of the coming period.

CORRECTION OF ADDRESS : We have been advised that the best address to send reports for Tribune's Youth section is: Brian Lynam, c/o Fairhead, 37, Westbourne Terr, London W.2.

Two successful meetings were held in Nottingham with Pierre Frank, Member of the International Secretariat of the Fourth International, secretary of the French section of the F.I. and one-time secretary to Trotsky. The first on the Sunday afternoon of the 11th was attended by some forty-odd people. As it was an 'invitation only' meeting and the organisers had been selective, the audience was a serious one consisting mainly of young people active in the Young Socialists, Y.C.N.D., University Socialists Society, etc., in addition there were active Labour Party workers, trade unionists, Committee of 100 supporters and members of the Afro-Asian West Indian Union. After outlining briefly the main periods of Trotsky's life, Pierre went over Trotsky's contribution to marxist thought and his great organisational achievements e.g., the creation of the Red Army and Fourth International. Pierre spoke of how in the terrible period of the thirties, Trotsky's example had inspired his followers to withstand the severest test of all, the campaign of repression and defamation waged by the stalinists. He advised his audience to read and study all Trotsky wrote, not only on directly political subjects but on art, culture, science, etc. The seriousness of the audience and high political level of Pierre's lecture were shown in the character of the questions. Comrades asked for clarification on such points as the difference between the 'minimum programme' and the 'transitional programme', what role Lenin would have played if he had not died when he did, the difference between Lenin's conception of inner-party organisation and Rosa Luxemburg's, etc. A collection of £2 was taken and a good quantity of literature was sold.

The meeting at the University, on the Monday afternoon of the 12th, despite the counter-attraction of other meetings, was attended by some 25 people. Pierre's lecture again went down well and inspired serious questions. The organisers, the Nottingham University Socialist Society were pleased with the meeting.

All in all, both meetings went down extremely well and the general opinion of comrades when discussing afterwards, was that they had had an enjoyable and informative experience. From a long term point of view, we feel that the meetings apart from have familiarised the comrades with many aspects of Trotsky's thought will have laid the basis for a serious theoretical study of Trotskyism in quite wide layers in Nottingham.

ANTI COLOUR BAR DEMONSTRATION TO BE ORGANISED

The weekend of the 24/25th of February is to see many joint demonstrations by the Young Socialists and NALSO against the Tory colour bar Immigration Bill. This arises from the decision of the Y.S. National Committee agreeing with a NALSO suggestion on these lines.

The West Nottingham branch of the Young Socialists, at a meeting on the 13th, decided to press for this to be done in the Nottingham area. There will be a march through town on the Saturday afternoon, starting from the 140 Mansfield Road at 2.15, to be followed by a meeting in the square. All interested organisations are going to be asked to take part.

Opponents of the Government's racialist measure will have an opportunity to make their views known to one of the main racialists in the Tory party on Sunday the 18th, at 2.30, at a meeting of the Nottingham Cosmopolitan Society which also meets at the Co-op Education Centre. Cordeaux, member of Parliament for Central Nottingham, is notorious for his continual raising in the House of Commons of issues designed to blame bad housing, etc. on the immigrants. Just before the so-called Nottingham race riots he held a series of open-air meetings in which he again and again raised such questions, especially that of immigrants allegedly living on the state. Whenever he makes such a declaration it receives wide press publicity and there is no doubt that he is as responsible as much as any fascist organisation for poisoning relations between the British and West Indian workers.

NEW LEFT CLUB TO BE REORGANISED IN NOTTINGHAM

After two successful years the Nottingham New Left Club more or less fell through because the former secretary was unable to carry on the job. Most comrades having too much on already it proved difficult to find anyone to take on the post. However the search has been successful and there will be a meeting to reorganise the Club on the Friday the 23rd. February, at the Three Tuns pub, Fletcher Gate at 7.30. It is thought that the main activity of the Club in the future will be that organising study courses and just having occasional meetings with well known speakers.

At its last meeting on Monday, 12th of February, the Tobacco Workers' Union Nottingham No. 5 branch passed a resolution reaffirming the right of all constituency Labour Parties to choose their own Parliamentary candidates, providing the candidates are not members of proscribed organisations. The resolution is to go to the Union's annual conference, where it is expected to get a great deal of support and stands a good chance of being adopted as union policy. The branch also sent a resolution calling upon the TUC to convene a meeting of T.U. executives to consider a general strike should Adenauer use force over the Berlin. Tobacco Workers' Nottingham No. 3. branch has sent a resolution calling upon the leadership of the Union to take steps to ensure that should a general strike be called that the TWU play a full role in the strike. Another resolution passed calls upon the paying of the full rate of pay in the industry at the age of 18.

NOTTINGHAM CITY LABOUR PARTY APPROVES RESOLUTION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

At its last meeting on Thursday the 15th of February, the Nottingham City Labour Party approved unanimously the resolution calling for a conference of people working in local government to consider a radical reform of local government finance, which had come from Lenton ward. The resolution now goes to the East Midlands regional conference.

C.N.D. NEWS AND REPORTS.

The following reports have been sent in for the bulletin by comrades active in the anti-nuclear weapons campaign:

The Day the Earth Caught Fire

From 15 to 20 supporters of the C.N.D. and Committee of 100 picketed the Odeon cinema, Nottingham, throughout the showing of this film. Offers of help were received during the week from members of the audience who read the appeal on the back of the leaflet. The chief lesson to be learned from this experience would appear to be the elastic but effective social cohesion built in the last few months among highly diverse elements of the left. This was the living fact that made this activity, which included the giving out of 5,000 leaflets, relatively easy to organise.

Protest against Nuclear Insanity

It is essential to make it possible for Nottingham people to protest against the West's decision to resume testing. If we fail to do this we pour ridicule upon the sacrifices of Mike Randle and his colleagues at the Old Bailey.

Saturday March 3rd is a date for your diary: 10.30 a.m. a motorecade will set out from Lenton Rd., the Park, and will proceed for an hour through the City. 2 p.m., A march & Poster Parade will leave the Heathcote entrance of the Co-op Education Centre. 3 p.m., a meeting in the Square, and at 4.30 a Regional Council to discuss Aldermaston.

Try to attend at least one of these activities particularly the march.

Regional Committee of 100 formed

A packed meeting last Sunday, the 11th of February, was attended by Young Socialists, students from the University and Teachers' Training College, C.N.D.ers, Labour Party and trade union activists, at which this committee was formed. The first practical result was a plan for a demonstration. The level of discussion was excellent and it was possible to evaluate the position of the committee in the unilateralist movement. The discussion also showed that activities of a specific nature, i.e. civil disobedience, were the prerogative of the larger population centres and while we could organise ^{transport} and support for mass disobedience, the word catalyst summed up our local role in unilateralism.

SUMMIT TALKS AGAIN

by P.J.

Discussion article

It appears that again we are to be treated to whole new round of talks, negotiations, proposals, differing lists of invitees, etc., which can be called summitry. Again the C.P.s of the world will show their role of being propaganda agencies of whichever clique happens to be on top in the Kremlin by arguing the merits of the latest proposal, or counterproposal, of Krushchov. The ordinary people all over the world must be heartily sick of all this. What is there really to discuss? Can any amount of discussion persuade the leaders of U.S. imperialism to abandon their self-appointed role or erecting a 'Chinese wall' against world revolution? Or detract them from their ultimate objective of reconquering those areas lost to imperialism? This is not a psychological problem. The only positive outcome of summit talks possible is some kind of a deal at the expense of the colonial revolution (maybe Cuba) in exchange for concessions over Berlin. (to be continued)

(We include this report in the Bulletin for the information and guidance of comrades in their dealings with the S.L.L.. We must stress that the individuals concerned are young and inexperienced, that consequently, the real responsibility for the terrible action of going to the right wing bureaucrats in an attempt to stop a left wing resolution going through, rest with the local leadership of the S.L.L.. Furthermore that we must take every step not to be provoked by these activities into retaliation. Particularly it is important for us to protest the comrades under S.L.L. influence, no matter how misguided they might be, from the witchhunt. We trust that comrades will treat the following information as being in confidence when it refers to people being members of the S.L.L.: Ed. Note)

The comrades of West Nottingham Young Socialists, who had a somewhat naive outlook towards the S.L.L., have, over the last two months, been receiving weekly lessons on the tactics of that organisation. Trouble began shortly before Xmas when two 'Keep lefters' and one sympathiser in the branch carefully selected a poorly attended meeting, on a cold foggy night, to force through an S.L.L. program of speakers and weekly anti-capitalist dances. This was inevitably amended at the following meeting. It is notable that the S.L.L. comrades insisted on the necessity of holding rival socials at the same time as the Young Socialist Federation and Y.C.N.D..

Early in January the branch held a meeting which discussed matters relating to the Young Socialists' National and Regional conferences. The members decided unanimously to send a resolution to National Conference on the subject of Algeria. The resolution called for aid and support for the F.L.N. and G.P.R.A., a comrade who had spoken in support of the resolution was overwhelmingly elected as delegate (after he had seconded a 'Keep Lifter' so that a vote might be taken.) After learning the Healeyite line on Algeria our socialite faction appeared at the meeting the following week, and insisted that the previous week's meeting was unconstitutional, as they had not been given seven days notice of the meeting (the branch meets the same night every week: ed. note). At this stage they maintained that their reason for objection was that the constituency party might discover this irregularity and so prevent a left wing resolution from appearing on the conference agenda. They couldn't think, when questioned, who would inform the adult party officials. It was decided that the secretary should enquire whether or not the constituency standing orders stated that seven days notice of resolution must be given. No reference was to be found in standing orders, and the dispute should have ended there.

A short time later the branch received a letter from Simmons, the Regional Youth Officer. The letter stated that the Regional Office had been informed that a considerable number of the members were dissatisfied with the manner in which the meeting in question had been convened. The next two week saw the situation where League members were to be seen paying regular visits to the bureaucrats at both constituency and regional level. One wonders if the League comrades were so naive as to think the right wing bureaucrats in the Regional Office too stupid to realise the great possibilities of a full scale faction fight in a left wing Y.S. branch. We have no doubt that the right wing was most grateful to the excuse for inter ference presented to them by the 'Keep Left' supporters.

To cut a long story short, the squabble was terminated when the issue was put to a vote in the branch (The 'Keep Lefters' said we could not vote on this issue). The result was decisive, only the two S.L.L. supporters voted against a motion declaring the previous meeting valid.

GAITSKELL AND H. BOMB TESTS

As we go to press the news has just been announced of the decision of the Parliamentary Labour Party not to oppose the resumption of the tests by the West. We hope to comment on this more fully next week. In the meantime, we must say that this monstrous hypocritical act must be opposed and denounced. We would suggest that comrades get hold of press cuttings, etc., with the statements made at the time the Russians resumed their tests. Just as we criticised the Communist Party for drawing a distinction between Soviet strontium 90 and American strontium 90, we must now do the same in respect to Gaitskell and co. Their role as apologists for U.S. imperialism has never been more clearly shown. Coming at a time when sections of the C.N.D. movement are considering putting up their own candidates, i.e. contracting out of the struggle to make the Labour Party a unilateralist party, this decision can make the task of the left all the more harder. We must, therefore boldly and publicly disassociate ourselves from it. One last point, Michael Foot and co. could use this occasion to make themselves the spokesmen of the hundreds of thousands who feel strongly on this point. Will they? or will they keep their mouths shut so as to make it easier for them to creep back into the Parliamentary Labour Party? Much depends upon the pressure put upon them.

We are informed that No. 14 of the review Fourth International is ready and will be received in this country soon. This issue has been delayed for a variety of reasons, the main one being the expense involved in the Amsterdam trial.

It is essential that the maximum effort be made to sell a good number of this issue especially as it contains important material appertaining to the 22nd Congress. In view of the interest in our ideas this should be possible. We have already received an advance order for 10 from a comrade in Sheffield and another for 6 from a comrade in Glasgow. Please send your orders in as soon as possible. One last point: in the past a lot of copies have been distributed and not paid for. This is both bad from a financial point of view and from a political one as well. There is a bad tradition in the British movement that literature is just doled out, consequently people do not take the literature seriously. There is far more respect for something which has been paid for than something given away. As part of the process of tightching up our organisation we must oppose this tradition at all levels.

TROTSKY ON PLEKHANOV REPUBLISHED

Trotsky's essay on Plekhanov, written in 1922 and published that year by the Soviet theoretical journal, Under the Banner of Marxism, has been republished in the form of a pamphlet costing 4d (postage 2½d). This introduction to the ideas and life of the founder of Russian marxism is characterised by its scholarly approach. This is in direct contrast to the stalinist method of denigrating all the works of political opponents. Plekhanov, it is true, deviated from his revolutionary past and was during the first years of world war one, the main exponent of 'social patriotism'. However this in no way lessened the role he played in the past. Trotsky assesses Plekhanov's place in history, his strength, his weaknesses and the roots of both. As a by-product of 'destalinisation' the Russian authorities are making available for the first time since the early days of the revolution many of Plekhanov's works (a five volume collected works is underway, vol. 1 being out already). The pamphlet has previously been published by the L.S.S.P. from an article in "Fourth International" for March, 1943.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHES BULLETIN IN ARABIC

The first issue of a bulletin in Arabic has been published by the Fourth International. It contains articles on the arrest of Somali students in Italy, perspectives of the movement in Britrea, an analysis of the 22nd Congress, an article on ^{the} crisis of Portugese colonialism and news of the International. This is a very good achievement considering the technical difficulties involved and will, no doubt, lead to the spreading of marxist ideas in whole new fields.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES

The aftermath of February 5th

The series of struggles up and down the country which broke out over scabs, black work, vicitimisation, ^{etc} after the one day strike of engineers have nearly all resulted in victories for the workers and a strengthening of their positions. At Hobourn Aero Factory, Strood, Kent, the managment have been forced to take back the 80 nightshift workers that it sacked, because the workers refused to work with blacklegs. This took place after a strike by all the workers of the factory. At Anglo-Celtic Clock and Watch Co. Ltd., the 1,500 sitdown strikers, most of them girls and women have returned to work. The 15 chargehands, who were non-unionists and some of whom worked on Feb 5th, have joined the A.E.U.. The 800 Hull engineers who were locked out at Priestman Brothers, have won their demand for the withdrawal of the 49 new working rules. The victory of the Jaguar workers has received much press publicity. At Raleigh, Nottingham, the strikers have returned to work. with their demands, in essence met by the management.

White-collar workers pay claim rejected

The Engineering Employers Federation have rejected the claims for a substantial increase for 500,000 white-collar workers in the engineering industry out of hand. It is to be hoped that the unions concerned will now instruct their members to join in the March 5th one day strike.

London Teachers want to join the T.U.C.

By an overwhelming majority some 400 delegates representing 14,000 London teachers voted at their last meeting to press the N.U.T. ^{leadership} to explore the question of affiliating to the T.U.C. and report to the 1963 annual conference.