



Workers of All Lands Unite!

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The world today is characterised by political, diplomatic, and propaganda moves which reflect the growing antagonism between America and Russia.

At the same time practical preparations for war are feverishly going ahead. Budget expenditures on armaments are reaching higher levels than pre-war in Britain and America.

Atom Bomb research is being stepped up. Even more horrifying preparations are being made for biological warfare which will destroy men, beasts and crops and produce famine conditions in the "enemy" ranks.

The political struggle in Italy, France, Greece, Turkey and China is interpreted from the angle of the future great conflict.

The Press of Britain and America is filled with hypocritical denunciations of the totalitarian regimes of Russia and Eastern Europe.

The only hope for humanity lies in the international solidarity of the world working class and the establishment of world socialism.

MOCK ELECTION At University College

In a mock political election recently held among the students of University College, London, candidates stood from all the political tendencies represented in the college.

Italian Socialist Youth Move Left

BY PAUL G. STEVENS

"We are leaving the Saragat Party because it stands irrevocably outside the Socialist Movement and is moving further and further away from the working class to become a left cover for the bourgeoisie."

Refuting reports circulated by the Saragat party leadership, Comrade Maitan categorically stated that this was not a resignation of the Socialist Youth leadership, but a split which takes almost all the Socialist Youth outside the ranks of the Socialist Party of Italian Workers (PSLI) led by Saragat.

In the interview published in the daily "Repubblica" of Feb. 8, Comrade Maitan likewise defined the class position of the new movement and clearly indicated that the split was not the result of a difference of opinion over tactics, but of a principled incompatibility between a reformism bogged down in the mire of collaboration with the bourgeoisie, and a sincerely revolutionary tendency, placing in the forefront the defence of the class interests of the proletariat.

Political Platform The Revolutionary Left of the Saragat party drew up their political platform before the Congress which led to the split.

capitalist class and its agents, particularly the Christian Democrats, as well as against the opportunism of the Stalinist apparatus.

4. The Ministers in the Christian-Democratic Government who are party members, must leave this government.

5. Presentation of Socialist unity lists at the elections, and where this proves to be impossible, of autonomous PSLI lists.

6. Activity directed toward the unity of the world proletariat, indispensable precondition for a socialist construction, and, consequently, opposition both to the Stalinist position which wants to adapt the policy of the proletariat to the interests of the Russian state, and to the Labourite position, which is openly endeavouring to tie up the activity of international Socialism with the diplomatic plans of the British government.

7. Solidarity with the movements of the proletarians, peasants and toiling people of all categories, which arise from the ever growing misery and increased capitalist oppression. The party must reassume the leadership of these workers' struggles in order to bring them back to the field of the class struggle and forestall their tactical utilization by the Stalinist party.

8. Struggle for the recognition of the management councils, and condemnation of all attempts to split trade union unity. Denunciation of the attempts of pseudo-reformists and Stalinists to tie the trade unions to the state apparatus.

STOP THE ANTI-RED PURGE Imperialists Prepare For War on Russia

THE DECISION TO PURGE THE CIVIL SERVICE MINISTRIES CAME AS A BOMB-SHELL TO THE LABOUR MOVEMENT. THIS STEP DEMONSTRATES THAT THE LABOUR LEADERS ARE PREPARED TO THROW OVERBOARD THEIR DEMOCRATIC "PRINCIPLES" AS SOON AS THEY ARE FACED WITH THE VITAL ISSUE OF THE DEFENCE OF THE CAPITALIST STATE.

The inclusion of Fascists as well as Communists serves only as a cover to head off anticipated criticism.

Apparently the Tories in high places in the Civil Service are beyond suspicion in their loyalties to the working class! It is an undeniable fact that a large proportion of high-up civil servants are more than sympathetic to the ideas of fascism and reactionary dictatorship.

Every left winger in the Civil Service is now open to victimisation through tale-bearing, spite, and above all, for "unorthodox" political opinions. Had the Tories introduced such legislation there would have been a storm of protest in the Labour movement.

In debate, Attlee has made use of the police states established by Stalin in Eastern Europe and Russia itself in support of his action. Undemocratic

measures by the Stalinists are no justification for undemocratic measures by the Labour leaders.

Of course, the capitalists are greatly pleased. They see the possibilities before them. Already, in South-West England, Colonel M. Whitwill, President of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of the S.W. Regional Board for Industry, has made an accusation that the Stalinists were responsible for slowing up production and suggested that the purge be extended to industry.

This measure has aroused considerable disquiet in the Labour movement, and even in the ranks of the Parliamentary Labour Party itself. Certain Labour M.P.'s have put a motion signed by S. O. Davies, Harold Hudson, and 41 others, regretting Attlee's statement, and pointing out that the Official Secrets Act should provide adequate protection in peace and war.

There is only one reason for this move. The Government wishes to hold back the technical secrets of the future war from the Soviet Union.

The Easter Conference of the Co-operative movement voted heavily in favour of the purge. The reason can no doubt be explained by the fact that the workers are repelled by the methods and police regimes of Stalinism.

Workers in the organised movement must fight for the annulment of these undemocratic measures. Civil Servants, like all other sections of the working class, must have the freedom to hold allegiance to any working class organisation.

£20 FOR A LIFE

The following item taken from the Johannesburg "Rand Daily Mail" of the 3rd March, is an indictment of the white herren-volk and their treatment of the black and coloured people of South Africa.

"FINED £20 IN INSTALMENTS FOR HOMICIDE

KICKED, THRASHED, THREW MAN IN FIRE

SWELLENDAM. Tuesday.—Gert Johannes Swanepoel, aged 60, a cartage contractor of Bonnievale, was found guilty of culpable homicide by Mr. Justice Newton-Thompson in the circuit court here to-day and fined £20, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment.

It was alleged that Swanepoel assaulted a coloured man, Christian Muller, by pulling him off a cart, kicking and jambokking (thrashing) him, and later throwing him into a fire which had been made at the side of the road.

TUC DECISION Hamstrings Unions

Tribunals Given O.K. To Freeze Wages

BY ROY TEARSE

THE T.U.C. AND THE FEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRIES HAVE REACHED SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PEG WAGES.

Commenting on the F.B.I. "plan" on price and dividend limitation, the "Times" commented that "many indeed would probably accept the stabilisation of 1947 dividend rates gladly in exchange for the certainty of being able to earn 1947 profits."

Considering that the profits of some 2,000 companies in 1947 was £435 million, the "Times" shows good horse-sense from the employers' point of view.

The current weekly wage rates for workers are: £4 16s. 6d. for many railwaymen; an average of £3 11s. for women cotton workers; £4 4s. for women in the Yorkshire Woollen Textile Industry; £4 10s. for agricultural workers; £4 16s. to £5 for drivers in the provincial transport services, less for conductors.

In announcing the Government's policy, referring to the possibility of "some exceptional case," where increased wage rates would be "justified" Cripps had the effrontery to state: "it is difficult to imagine one!"

T.U.C. Accepts... Despite their talk about the cutting of profits and prices, this policy has now been endorsed by the Trade Union Executives.

Threat To Trade Unions

Two vital factors are here involved. One, the contradiction between an attempt to build and strengthen the unions by showing to unorganised workers the need for organisation to fight for better living conditions, and at the same time the declaration to the world at large that the union is against wage increases to-day.

The Rank And File

Secondly, there is the pressure of the rank and file. Unlike the union bureaucrats, they do not get fat salaries. They see no reason for pegging their wages while the Government and T.U.C. General Council accept "reasonable profits"—£435 million in 1947!

These are only two unions. The situation in the others, whose leaders voted for the Government policy, will be substantially the same. The bureaucrats will argue that wages must be frozen, but in order to save their faces they will tell their own members that they did not really mean it should apply to them.

T.U.s At Arbitration

Tewson, T.U.C. General Secretary, pointed out that "the union Executives are not automatically tied" by the decisions of the T.U.C. or its General Council, but stated that the decisions will have an "influence".

Moreover, the position of the union representatives will be particularly farcical in front of the Arbitration Tribunals to which they are tied by the Industrial Truce.

The Isaacs' Circular

What the policy of the Arbitration Tribunals and other such bodies will be, was shown by the circular sent by Isaacs, Minister of Labour, to the Chairmen of Wages Councils.



VIETNAMESE PRISONER, securely trussed, is interrogated by a French Foreign Legionnaire. The prisoner was captured after fighting recommenced in October at the end of the rainy season.

22 million inhabitants are now at war with France. The area of Viet Nam is one-third greater than that of France. There are 115,000 French soldiers in Indo-China, among them numbers of ex-Nazis recruited from the Foreign Legion.

(Picture from "Life")

French Imperialists MOVE AGAINST TROTSKYISTS AND COLONIAL WORKERS

PARIS—The French courts have instituted proceedings against a number of French Trotskyists considered responsible for the editing and distribution of a poster denouncing the colonial war in Indo-China.

The examining magistrate, Padin is careful not to operate the amnesty law of January 1947, passed subsequent to the summoning of the accused.

On Saturday, Jan. 31, and Sunday, Feb. 1, large police and mobile guard forces in the whole of France proceeded to encircle the camps of the Viet Nam workers and arrested 150 of them.

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