

THE

Week

A news analysis for socialists 9d.

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A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

EDITORIAL NOTES

VIVA ZANZIBAR

British socialists must do all in their power to ensure that the revolutionary developments in Zanzibar are allowed to follow their natural course without any kind of British intervention (military, diplomatic or economic). Any such measures must be vehemently opposed.

The cause of the Revolutionary Government is eminently just. The leading coalition party, the Afro-Shirz Party, obtained 54% of the votes at the last election. Only the fraudulent constituency distribution, rigged by the Colonial Office, prevented its peaceful assumption of power. The Sultan's party, based on a rural social order, only one step away from slavery, where flogging is still the punishment for any infringement of landlord rights, recently demonstrated its anti-democratic nature by banning the Umma (People's) Party, the other member of the revolutionary coalition. Abdul Rahman Mahomed (Babu), the leader of the Umma Party, was imprisoned by the Colonial Office, with the connivance of the Sultan, until shortly before the elections. The electoral majority of the new revolutionary coalition would have been even larger had the Umma Party been able to contest the elections. Both ruling parties are committed to programmes of militant socialism and anti-imperialism.

From all accounts the Zanzibar revolution was classic in conception and execution. First, a period of intensive political organisation and education followed by armed insurrection based on mass popular support. In face of this, the Sultan, despite his Egyptian police and 150 armed henchmen, fled the island which his dynasty has opp^{ress}ed for centuries (with the active collusion of British imperialism during the recent period.)

Later issues of The Week will carry on the spot reports from revolutionary Zanzibar.

FIGHT TO THE FINISH AT PORT TALBOT?

As we go to press news has come through of the complete breakdown of the talks designed to end the dispute between the A.E.U. and the Steel Company of Wales which has closed the giant Margam steelworks. Despite the fact that Sir William Carron faces an election this year, only one interpretation can be put on the course of events: that SCOW is behaving, for a complex of reasons, in a thoroughly truculent manner, and is determined not to give ground. If SCOW wants a fight to the finish the whole labour movement must ensure that the fight ends in victory for the craftsmen and capitulation by the steel employers. By their anti-nationalisation campaign, the steel employers have shown their anti-Labour, anti-working class character. We should teach them a lesson.

NEW PROPOSALS FOR T.U. EDUCATION

from an Education correspondent

The T.U.C. has issued its proposals for regional machinery under T.U.C. auspices to replace the existing structure of NCLC and WETUC machinery in the country. These proposals are summarised in an article in this month's Plebs. The main points in the scheme are:

- (1) the existing local Colleges of the NCLC, and their divisional committees, the local and District WETUC Advisory Committees, to be disbanded. All affiliation from local Labour Parties and Co-ops to be discontinued.
- (2) complete financial responsibility to be in the hands of the TUC General Council and its Education Committee.
- (3) centralised planning of the types of facilities and programmes of work to rest with the TUC Education Committee.
- (4) regional TUC education officers to be employed (in the first place, they will be former NCLC organisers) and made responsible to the TUC General Council and the General Secretary.
- (5) the present TUC regional Advisory Committees (which consist of full-time officials elected at an annual meeting of full-time officials in each region) to create education sub-committees, consisting of some of their number, together with representatives of the WEA and possibly of the Federation(s) of Trades Councils in the region, and possibly of other co-opted persons. The regional TUC education officers would be attached to these committees, which would have advisory powers only, except in the field of very short term facilities such as day schools, short courses, and branch lectures. The advisory functions of the committees should include assembling and transmitting to the TUC advice and information about regional educational needs, recruiting tutors locally, and enabling WEA Districts to consult trade unions in their area.
- (6) in place of local committees, local organisers, and local publicity, centralised recruitment of students would be introduced "by developing the existing regular channels of communications between the TUC and the Head Offices of affiliated unions...(and)...a central register of students "would be built up. On this basis, "planned programmes of systematic study....could be offered to trade union members."
- (7) The TUC statement expresses the belief that local and regional initiatives result in a haphazard pattern of facilities, and that local recruitment of students by education organisers is indiscriminate.
....."

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE FEDERATION AFFILIATED TO T.U.C.

An industrial correspondent reports: The Customs and Excise Federation, with a membership of 4,750, has affiliated to the TUC. It organises officers of the Board of Customs and Excise.

N.B. In an item in the first issue we stated that the number of unions affiliated to the TUC was 117, this should read 177.

1960 SEAMEN'S STRIKE LEADER ELECTED TO UNION EXECUTIVE

Jim Slater, one of the leaders of the 1960 seamen's strike, has been elected to the executive of the National Union of Seamen by a big majority. Other left wingers are also understood to have won seats.

CURIOUS DROP IN BANK PROFITfrom a London reader

The profits on last year's operations announced by the Westminster Bank and the National Provincial record a drop in line with similar drops by the other banks - Westminster's profits were, like Lloyds, down 6% while National Provincial dropped 2%. Falls like this at a time of general expansion and rising profits appear to provide circumstantial confirmation of the thesis that there are differing interests within British capitalism and that certain contradictions exist between them. Banks and some other financial institutions appear to flourish during periods of "restraint" and stagnation: one factor is, of course, that these are periods of a high bank rate. Consumer orientated industries on the contrary encounter rising costs during "squeeze" periods and, of course, increasing sales, lower unit costs and high profits during periods of expansion.

Until very recently it has been the City interests who seem to have had the ear of the Chancellors and Treasury officials. The interests of "sterling" (i.e. the City) have been put above that of national expansion and thus of other important capitalist sectors.

"VOICE" TO HOLD SCHOOL ON INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY from a Hull reader

There is to be a Voice day school on industrial democracy on Sunday, April 26th, 1964, in Nottingham. Details are to be announced later but the school will be part of a whole programme of study around this question. The Voice has announced the formation of a study group which will be launched in Nottingham, the day before the school, on Saturday, April 25th, in the Adult Education Centre, Shakespeare St., commencing at 11.30. 70 leading academics and trade unionists have been invited to participate. Future issues of the Week will carry more details of this project as they become available.

NEW BOOKS AND PAMPHLETSfrom a special correspondent

The January issue of Colonial Freedom News is now out. costing 6d (2½d post) it contains articles on Kenya, Wilson's policy, British Guiana, Aden, Seychelles, Zanzibar (pre-revolution), Swaziland and various aspects of H.C.F. policy and activity. Of special interest are two discussion articles on British Guiana in which John Eber and Jack Woddis put different points of view about what attitude should be taken towards the various parties in that country. The journal can be obtained from H.C.F., 374, Grays Inn Rd., London W.C.1.

For 6d or 3/- a year, one can obtain Maltese Freedom News from F.X. Massa, 49, Solon Rd., London S.W. 2. This paper is edited by A.J. Scerri, representative of the Maltese Labour Party in Britain.

TAIS (Trans Atlantic Books Service Ltd.) have announced that Vintage Books are publishing The Black Jacobins (Toussaint and the San Domingo Revolution) by C.L.R. James in the Spring. This classical work will cost 16/-.

Edmund Wilson (author of To the Finland Station) explains why he has refused to file income tax returns in The Cold War and the Income Tax: A Protest. To be published by W.H. Allen in the Spring (12/6d).

CUCaND CALLS FOR MORE INDUSTRIAL ACTIONbased on Peace News report

The main feature of the Colleges and Universities Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament conference held January 4/5 in London, was the establishment of the principle of regionalisation in CUCaND. In accepting a resolution from Oxford and parts of a Manchester resolution, the conference took a major step towards promoting inter-regional co-operation; it is hoped that CUCaND will consequently mean more to the smaller college and university groups than it has previously done. On policy, the conference accepted a call for more industrial action by students in view of the failure of the CND National Executive to implement the 1963 CND conference decision on this matter. It also opposed any attempt by present and future British Governments to re-introduce conscription, and the CUCaND Executive was instructed to campaign against such measures being implemented. In both resolutions co-operation with the Youth Campaign was emphasised.

Co-operation with other bodies was also called for. CUCaND pledged support for the work of the Campaign Caravan Workshops, and an ad hoc committee of CUCaND and Committee of 100 representatives is to be set up in order to ensure efficiency in co-ordination for Easter. CUCaND's main work for Easter will consist of intensive canvassing on the lines of the 1962 "Flying Columns." On more general lines of policy the conference decided that:

- (a) Withdrawal from NATO is fundamental to campaign policy.
- (b) The struggle for peace and disarmament can only be won when people in other countries, both East and West, take action against their governments' nuclear policies. CUCaND should stress in its propaganda that British unilateral disarmament would help such action, instead of suggesting that it would in itself be a major step towards an agreement between the heads of power blocs.
- (c) CUCaND welcomes the re-affirmation by CND annual conference that positive neutralism is an integral part of CND policy...
- (d) The Official Secrets Act and the laws of sedition are incompatible with democracy and should be repealed.

500,000 DEPRIVED OF OLD AGE PENSIONSfrom a Croydon reader

A fitting comment on the so-called welfare state was contained in the following letter which appeared in the Observer of 5/1/64:

Members of the Old Age Non-Pensioners' Association are grateful to Dr. Horace Jowles for drawing attention to the shameful fact that many old people died from cold during last winter. In April last, the West London coroner declared that these deaths amounted to a "mass disaster" and a "hidden shame." Many people seem to be unaware that 500,000 of our oldest and weakest people are existing in want and misery and that old men over 80 years of age are compelled to work because they are deprived of old-age pensions for the crime of being too old when the present National Insurance Scheme was introduced in 1948. The Labour Party spokesman, Mr. Douglas Houghton, M.P., has delicately expressed the attitude of his party - and that of the Government - in the following words: "The average problem is...a transitory one and will rapidly diminish during the next few years." This means: "They will soon be dead; why trouble?"

APATHY IN THE CO-OP MOVEMENT

An article by "Analyst" in the Co-operative News of January 4th draw attention to the continuing decline in membership participation in the affairs of co-ops. We have extracted some of the passages:

"...I n 1955 a Co-operative Colloge Paper was published entitled "Co-operative Democracy" by J.A. Banks and G.W Ostergaard. The purpose of the paper was to examine what had happened in a selected number of societies since an investigation into member participation held in 1933. One of the most sombre findings revealed by the inquiry confirmed that the decline in both attendance at meetings and in voting in society elections was even more drastic than had been thought.

Briefly, in a sample group of societies in the Midlands, 24 societies totalling 1,100,000 members, the following position was revealed:

YEAR	% ATTENDANCE	% VOTING
1933	1.53	4.22
1954	0.24	2.78

...Faced with this situation, what has happened since 1955?.... Taking a recent informal sample of 22 societies (not the same as in the earlier samples) the following emerged :

1955	0.17	0.95
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MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION ACCORDING TO SIZE OF SOCIETY

SIZE	% ATTENDANCE	% VOTING
Under 50,000	0.19	1.81
50 - 100,000	0.21	1.10
over 100,000	0.14	0.94

The 1963 sample covered an aggregate membership of 2,231,000, and covered different societies so that a true comparison is not possible or intended. What may be of significance is the fact that in the 1963 sample, all of the societies employed a full-time education officer so that, as the writer knows, greater attention to stimulating member participation will have been given than in other societies.

Some additional information gleaned from the inquiry...:

...the smaller society has slightly better success in persuading its members to participate. A society in the "above 100,000" bracket had both the worst attendance figure and the best voting figure. Invariably there was competition for places on the management committee ...Only 5 of the 22 societies reported that there had always been competition for the education committee.....

ERA GIRLS CONTINUE FIGHT FOR REINSTATEMENT

The 13 girls who sacked by Truline Bras, Sheffield, a week after a union was formed at the firm, are continuing their struggle. They want their union to request the T.G.W.U. to black the firm's products, and to ask the Co-op, Truline's main customer, to reconsider its business relations with the firm. The management have taken back four girls who were sacked and now claim the dispute is over. The girls have sent a circular to every trade union branch in Sheffield asking for support - so far over £220 has been received. Messages of support, etc. should go to Mrs. D. Bland, 43, Hartley Brook Road, Sheffield 5.

NEW LEFT WING SOCIALIST PARTY FORMED IN ITALY

On January 11th, 700 delegates representing the left wing of the P.S.I. (Italian Socialist Party) attended a national congress during which the formation of a new party was announced. The new party will be called the Italian Socialist Party of Proletarian Unity (thus taking up the old name of the P.S.I.) and its general secretary will be Tullio Vecchietti. Another prominent figure in the new party is Lelio Basso. The split has its origin in the participation by Nenni in the Moro government. At the last P.S.I. congress the left wing had 40% of the votes. A split became inevitable when Nenni suspended 38 socialist M.P.s for abstaining in the confidence vote for the Moro government. Ed. note: we will be carrying more material on this next week.

BELGIAN WORKERS MOVEMENT END 1963 WITH BIG GAINS

A few weeks before New Year's day, after brief negotiations between the trade unions and the employers' associations, legal holidays with pay were increased for all Belgian manual workers and white-collar employees to three weeks with five weeks pay. On January 1st a new law came into effect which extends free sickness compensation (free medical service, prescriptions and hospital service) to all old-age pensioners, widows, orphans and injured workers.

Both successes have, of course, been hedged with many reservations which are correctly criticised by left-wing militants. The extension of paid holidays from two to three weeks is to be introduced in two stages (three more days this year, the full three weeks in 1965). The employers have the right, in some industries, to stagger the extra days throughout the year, which would prevent the workers from having longer holidays. Also, in exchange for the concession, the unions have agreed not to press demands for a 40-hour week before the end of 1964. The free sickness compensation for old-age pensioners is limited to those with an annual income of less than £530, which excludes many white-collar pensioners and government office workers. Contributions are to be increased.

Nevertheless, these reforms undoubtedly represent a significant step forward for the Belgian working class. The striking fact about them is the relatively easy way in which they were obtained. The demand for three weeks' holiday was first advanced by the leader of the left wing of the socialist trade-union in a radio speech at the end of August, 1963. Immediately after this speech, the demand was supported by the whole socialist trade union movement as well as by the Catholic trade union federation. Representatives of the employers first opposed the claim. But as soon as negotiations opened at the beginning of December, 1963, it became clear that they would give in.

From a Belgian correspondent.

WORKERS IN ICELAND WIN 15% WAGE INCREASE AFTER GENERAL STRIKE

The general strike which began in Iceland on December 10th, 1963, in protest against the employers' refusal to grant demands for a wage increase, ended on 21 December, with a general increase in wages of 15%. The strike, which paralysed all activity on the island, was called by the 30,000 strong Icelandic Federation of Labour.

SEGREGATION IN CHICAGO'S SCHOOLSbased on Economist report (11/1/64)

It is not only in the Deep South that segregation is deeply rooted in the United States as is shown the following:

"In October nearly a quarter of a million children, out of a total of 536,000 in Chicago's tax-supported schools, observed a "Freedom Day" from their classes to protest against a colour bar...This is the biggest racial demonstration which has ever taken place...Chicago ..has one of the largest - if not the largest - "Negro ghettos" in the country; a quarter of its population and over half of its children of school age are Negro ...Although the mingling of white and black children is not unknown, 87% of the Negro elementary pupils go to schools in which there are no whites or where they amount to fewer than 10% of the total enrolment.

The Negroes..maintain that the...quality of education in Negro districts is far lower than in white areas; and that there are empty seats in the white schools while overcrowding is so severe in the Negro ones that mobile caravan schools have to be used.....Mr. Willis, Superintendent of Schools, insists that his job is education, not the abolition of segregation, and that the Negro schools are not inferior. He is an able man and, with a salary of \$48,500, one of the most highly-paid public officials in the country. He is also determined to run the show. In August, when the Board of Education adopted a limited transfer plan for clever Negro pupils, parents of children at an all-white school objected. Mr. Willis sustained their protest and resigned when he was over-ruled by the courts. But the Board begged him to come back, and within a week he had withdrawn his resignation. This is what precipitated the "Freedom Day" in October.

UNEMPLOYMENT AS STUDEBAKER CORPORATION CLOSES DOWN U.S. Press Report

Studebaker Corporation has ended all production in the U.S. from the beginning of 1964 as a result of fierce competition in the U.S. car industry. It has closed down its plant in South Bend, Indiana, and will continue production on a reduced scale in its plant in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where wages are 20% lower than those in the U.S. At least 7,000 people in South Bend have lost their jobs. Officials from Indiana admitted that the shutdown of this plant would eventually throw about 10,000 people out of a job in this county, raising the level of unemployment to 11%. Many of the workers are in their 50s, so there is almost no hope of their finding another job. Furthermore, they are getting no redundancy payment, even though many of them have worked for the firm for their entire working life.

Since the first car was produced in the U.S. 70 years ago, some 1,850 U.S. car firms have gone out of business, unable to make the competitive grade. Two of them, Packard and Kaiser, were closed down after the second world war. Studebaker's departure leaves the U.S. with only four major car firms: General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, and American Motors.

ANTI SALAZAR LEADERS CRITICISE U.S. ATTITUDE from a London reader

A recent speech of General Humberto Delgado (leader of the anti-Salazar Movimiento Nacional Independente) released in London by the MNI representative and reported statements by Holden Roberto (leader of the Angolan government-in-exile) throw new light on US policies and indicate a change in the policies of the anti-Salazar and Angolan liberation forces. General Delgado's speech contains the following statement:

"We tried to the utmost of our patience to obtain from Western European and American powers the support and sympathy that would be necessary for the restoration of democracy in Portugal and the peaceful attainment of national independence by all Portuguese colonial possessions. It is my painful duty to record here that there is at the moment very little to expect from those countries with whose causes, principles and institutions we identify ourselves. Such are the equivocal attitudes of those powers that we are forced to conclude that they have become institutionalised to such a degree that they resemble huge commercial enterprises similar to their own "supermarkets" and, like them, only dealing in short term retail transactions. Perhaps the fact that, we, for the duration, are in no position to buy, accounts for their total indifference to our repeated knocks at their doors....."

"At an official level the situation becomes ludicrous. The orphans of Nazism and Fascism have been gradually adopted by the West. The United States, so conspicuous an interventionist in Cuba and South East Asia, chooses to be respectably "friendly to the established authority" when it comes to Portugal; Western Germany, back at the business of patronising all reactionary causes in the world, has resumed the former climate of German-Portuguese relations, by establishing an air-base at Beja, in Portugal, from where it carries out exercises that cannot but have an intimidating effect on the Portuguese; Great Britain has recently been departing from her traditions of granting political asylum and political freedom." Delgado goes on to call for the liberation of the colonies "not as a concession but as a restitution" (emphasis in original) and to thank friendly countries, especially Algeria, for their support.

The New York Times of Saturday 4th January carried the following:

"The Angolan Government-in-exile...has decided to accept the help of Communist China and "other Communist countries" in the fight to free Angola from Portuguese rule. Within a month an Angolan delegation is expected to visit Peking at the invitation of the Chinese Communist Government, African diplomatic sources said...Mr. Roberto is considered a political moderate with essentially pro-Western sympathies. Last month he met foreign minister Chen Yi of Communist China at Kenya's independence celebrations in Nairobi. He later met Soviet and Cuban representatives at the United Nations...He has abandoned hope, he said that the United States and other Western countries will press Portugal to negotiate with the rebels. "I came to the conclusion that the Western countries are hypocritical," he declared, "They help our enemies, while paying lip-service to self-determination, the U.S. supplies its North Atlantic Treaty ally, Portugal, with arms that are used to kill us."

CASTRO IN FIGHTING AND CONFIDENT MOOD

Speaking at a mass rally marking the fifth anniversary of the liberation of Cuba, Castro spoke of relations with the United States and the general position of the Cuban Revolution. His whole speech was marked by confidence and a contemptuous attitude towards the United States' attempts to intimidate Cuba. We have extracted some of the most relevant passages:

"...Cuba's economic situation is improving remarkably. When the Revolution took power, for instance, the country had less than 70 million pesos in foreign exchange reserve, but now the figure exceeded 100 million. In 1964, Cuba would export at least 200 million pesos more in terms of value than in 1963." After reading out the new year greetings exchanged between Khrushchov and Johnson, Castro said: "Perhaps the statement of Johnson can be called an inspiring statement of peace. But we have our reservations. I am sorry that we have to add a 'but.'"

He then denounced U.S. imperialism for blowing up a Cuban torpedo boat in December resulting in a number of casualties. This was a criminal, cowardly and unjustifiable attack. This was the Christmas gift from the U.S. and its CIA for the Cuban people -- the blood of the Cuban youth. He added: "Since the CIA is not acting on its own account, but on behalf of the U.S., we have the right to say that President Johnson is responsible for shedding the blood of our young comrades here." "We have the right to tell them that it is time to talk less but do more about peace, for peace is not to be maintained by such incidents..."

"We want peace, we yearn for peace, peace here in Cuba, peace in Vietnam too where 15,000 Yankee militarymen and thousands upon thousands of Yankee mercenaries are bombarding the Vietnamese population, killing the Vietnamese peasants, workers and patriots."...Turning to the struggle of the Venezuelan people, Castro said that they "have the right to make their own revolution." the U.S. imperialists have no right to meddle with their domestic affairs, to send arms and kill the Venezuelan people. Referring to Cuban-U.S. relations, he said: "We are fortunate enough to say that we need absolutely nothing from them. We don't need trade with them, or any other relations. If they want trade, we will trade...If they sincerely want to establish relations which will give them plenty of headaches, well, we are prepared to establish such relations. But to speak the truth, we are not particularly interested...We are not asking, we have not asked and we will never ask them for aid." He asked the crowd: "Are we not contented without their aid?" There was a burst of "yes".

SOME FACTS ABOUT PANAMA

Panama is a creation of U.S. imperialism. In 1903, the U.S. provoked a revolt by the local ruling classes against Columbia because that country refused to hand over the Canal Zone. After that the U.S. imposed an unequal treaty on the new government. Sixty to seventy thousand Panamanians died in the construction of the canal. The U.S. receives \$100m. per annum from the canal, Panama receives less than \$2m.

U.S. NEWSPAPERS REPORT GROWING CRISIS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

A special correspondent reports: The military junta that overthrew South Vietnamese dictator Ngo Dinh Diem is facing a critical situation. This is the view of observers on the spot, reflected in recent despatches to leading American newspapers. "There is in South Vietnam today very little optimism and much real concern," writes David Halberstam in the New York Times of December 23. There is little in the new regime to distinguish it from the old. "They say this was a revolution," remarked a young South Vietnamese to New York Times correspondent Hedrick Smith, "but it was just a coup d'etat. Many of the same old people are in power."

Striking confirmation of this may be seen in the continuing unrest amongst the Buddhists. "The new government...is faced with civil opposition," says Ed Neagher in the December 10 Washington Post. "It is led...by the two groups most instrumental in providing momentum for the coup -- the Buddhist leadership and the students." Buddhists of all groups, reports Hedrick Smith in the December 27 New York Times, are particularly incensed by the "the government's re-instatement of Ordinance Ten, one of the regulations of the Diem regime to which Buddhists objected most vehemently." Ordinance Ten gave the government control over the finances, property and public functioning of religious organisations and was used especially to harass Buddhist groups whereas the Catholic Church was exempt. The repeal of Ordinance Ten was one of the "Five Demands" of the Buddhist protest movement, which brought down the Diem regime.

Many young Buddhists are becoming increasingly concerned about the desperate conditions of the Vietnamese peasantry. Smith's article quotes from a speech by Tron Quang Than, a leading young Buddhist militant, arrested several times during the anti-Diem protests: "The rural population considers the change in regime just a coup d'etat.... A revolution must bring about changes at the lowest levels of society not just in the superstructure." In the countryside itself the attitude of the peasants is expressed by the intensification of the armed struggle. Casualties during the first month of the new regime were higher than in any month since the start of the war. In many areas the National Liberation Front, the political arm of the guerilla movement, now forms the effective government, levying taxes and redistributing land. Excepting the district capitals, this is true of almost all of the Mekong River Delta region, the country's rice bowl, in which live 60 to 70% of the population and which contains an even greater proportion of the country's agricultural resources.

Western observers in Saigon believe that lack of popular support makes the task of the Government forces and their American advisors almost impossible. The coming dry season, which starts in January and lasts for about four months, may provide them with their last opportunity of turning back the guerilla advance. But if the guerillas can maintain the military and psychological initiative which they hold in most rural areas then, says Halberstam, "there appear to be only two likely alternatives. One is a neutralist settlement. The other is use of U.S. combat troops to prop up the Government." (our emphasis)

HOW THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN INVESTMENT

This week's Board of Trade Journal has an article in industrial development in Malta in which the following appears about the incentives given to encourage foreign investment:

"Under..the Aids to Industries Ordinance..launched in 1959..an Aids to Industries Board was set up to consider and make suitable recommendations on applications for assistance filed by promoters of industrial projects. The main incentives comprise a ten-year tax holiday, the duty-free importation of building material and plant and machinery, and Customs easement on raw materials and components used in production.. The Ordinance also provides for anti-dumping and countervailing duties. In addition to these aids, non-repayable grants or loans, not exceeding normally 33 1/3% of the cost of capital assets (buildings, plant, machinery and equipment) may be made. These grants do not preclude an undertaking from receiving income tax relief. In addition, a scheme for making grants to cover a substantial part of the cost of training employees is being considered...."

With all these inducements to 'private enterprise' to invest, one might be pardoned for suggesting that it would be simpler and more logical for Malta to develop its own resources.

U.K. EXPORTS TO FRANCE UP BY 30% IN 1963 based on Financial Times report

British exports to France in 1963 are confidently expected to show an increase of just over 30% at around £180m. or some £40m. higher than in 1962. Exports in the first eleven months of 1963...are valued at £164.4 m. compared with £127.7m. in the corresponding period of 1962... Unlike their experience elsewhere in Europe, British competitors do not seem to have encountered any slowing-down in growth of French demand in November.....

Ed. note: Despite the Financial Times' correspondent's remark that the increase in French exports to Britain had been sufficient to prevent any undue toughness when trade questions are negotiated, it seems very likely that unless the French quickly deal with their inflation British exports prospects will suffer.

U.S. EXPERTS SCEPTICAL OF CIA REPORT ON SOVIET ECONOMY

The New York Times of January 10th carried an item which recorded U.S. economic experts' reactions to the now-famous CIA report on the state of the Russian economy: "...Professor Nicholas Spulber of the City University of New York, (said) 'I just cannot believe it..it is impossible.' The professor added that he would be ready to accept a figure as low as 4% annually but was baffled by the agency's estimate of less than 2.5%....Professor Warren Mason of Syracuse University termed the estimate 'awfully low.' ('I would want to look at it long and hard' he added. Prof. Robert Campbell of Indiana University called the difference between the CIA's estimate and earlier figures..'fantastic'....The basis for the general astonishment was that estimates of Soviet economic strength for earlier years, prepared by the CIA...had suggested that an annual rate of 6 to 7% was correct...."

ALGERIAN OIL AND GAS TO BE USED FOR INDUSTRIALISATION

A London correspondent has sent the following summary of an article in the American journal, Oil and Gas World, which discusses the likely developments in the Algerian oil and gas industry:

"...High-level talks between...Ben Bella and France's top government oil figure, Pierre Guillaumat, were surprisingly brief.. Guillaumat spent only 48 hrs. in Algeria...He and Ben Bella talked for only a little more than 2 hours. Algerian Government control, if not full ownership, of a third big crude-oil-pipeline system to move Saharan oil to the Mediterranean is being pushed by Ben Bella. Two days after Guillaumat returned to Paris a Kuwaiti delegation in Algiers agreed to lend Ben Bella \$26.8million to finance a pipeline.

Saharan natural gas will not be exported to Europe according to the present French plans without a struggle from Algeria. The French plan to move gas through Morocco and across the Straits of Gibraltar. Ben Bella's border dispute with Morocco has apparently doomed this for the time being. Tunisia and Algeria have signed a new cooperative agreement which calls for "joint utilisation" of the Saharan oil and gas for the benefit of both countries. The agreement calls specifically for the use of Saharan gas for North African industrial development..

Saharan Oil is no longer regarded by the French as a secure source of supply. Paris reports that the government has already made plans to replace Saharan crude^{oil} with other supplies in case a crisis arises... Guillaumat went to Algiers to talk about gas primarily, but the crude oil pipeline project certainly stole the limelight. Saharan crude oil production has been stabilised for months at about 500,000 barrels a day because it is^{is} limited by the capacity of its existing pipeline systems. A 16-company group, TRAPAL, has planned a third pipeline for months, but the government has never approved its construction plans. The group includes 5 American companies, El Paso Afrique, Mobil Sahara, Phillips International, Tidewater, and Sinclair Mediterranean....

It was only recently that the joint French-Algerian technical group, that oversees Saharan oil operations, gave the project its approval, but the question of Algerian ownership in the line has not been settled. Ben Bella's administration first wanted to have 51% interest in the line, but the companies resisted this. At various times during discussions, interests ranging from 20% - 35% for Algeria have been mentioned. Now...the Algerians say they will build the line themselves. Ben Bella's government insists there is nothing in the Evian Agreements, ..to prevent the government from building and owning a pipeline and charging producing companies for the use of the line.

...Ben Bella and officials of his regime have emphasised that they are far more interested in seeing the vast resources of Saharan natural gas used to industrialise..Algeria than they are (in exporting it). Bachir Beunouca, Minister of Economy, says, "Our policy is to see that the overall oil operations shall not be characterised by their extra-territorial nature. It is, in fact, illusory to talk of profits while the impact of petroleum operations on the economy of the country is nil or mediocre.
....."

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EDITORS' NOTEBOOK

Subscriptions are now starting to roll in. Among the towns we have received subscriptions from are: Birmingham, Cambridge, Croydon, Hatch End, Hindley, Hove, Hull, Leicester, Lincoln, London, Loughborough, Glasgow, Manchester, Mosley, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield and Stockton on Tees. This doesn't count the very large number of queries we have received from all over Britain. Orders for bulk supplies have come, so far - more and pending, from Cambridge, Oxford and London. However, we regard this as only a start and urge all our supporters to keep up the fine efforts they have been making.

Copy is still coming in at a satisfactory rate, but oooh! some of our contributors leave it very fine so far as copy day is concerned. Really we should like to get all material by the Monday before publication - even then it's one hell of a rush.

Local reports are still needed - we want to know what's happening in the wards, T.U. branches, C.L.F.s and Y.S. groups. So far as the latter are concerned we would like to receive reports of activities in relation to the lobby of Parliament and reaction to the discussions about the reintroduction of conscription.

THE WEEK - THE WEEK - THE WEEK - THE WEEK-- THE WEEK - THE WEEK

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EDITORIAL ADDRESS: 19, Greenfield St., Dunkirk, Nottingham.

BUSINESS ADDRESS: 54, Park Rd., Lenton, Nottingham.

Published by The Week Publishers, 19, Greenfield St., Dunkirk, Nottingham.
All paid work done by union labour.