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FRANCE

THE EX-TROTSKYISTS

At the recent Congress of Force Ouvriere (the reformist trade unions) the Left was divided. One faction, led by Hebert, voted for the "moral" report of the Right Wing bureaucrat, Bothereau, and for a resolution hostile to united front action with the Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT-); the other faction voting against the report and the resolution. And among the Hebert minority, who voted with him for the Bothereau report, were what the Editor of France Observateur calls "the ex-Trotskyists, Renard and Lambert"

Several years ago the Trotskyist movement in France suffered a heavy split. Ever since, until about six months ago, the Lambert group put itself forward under our name, styling itself Parti Communiste Internationaliste, French Section of the Fourth International. The confusion was great, and many people took a long time to grasp the differences.

With the Algerian revolution, the situation began to clear. The Lambert group, for months and years, constituted itself the champion of Messali Hadj, presenting the latter as a proletarian leader and the MRA as being close to a bolshevik Party. Even the Bellocis affair did not suffice to calm the pro-MRA passions of the Lambert group. Then, when it was no longer possible to defend Messali and his neo-Gaullist proposals, the Lambert group observed silence on the Algerian revolution, as if it did not exist and as if it did not constitute the number one question in French politics.

And now the cycle is completed. In Force Ouvriere the Renards and Lamberts, who refused so much as to work in the Stalinist-led organisations, have voted for the report of Bothereau

Henceforward the situation is, alas, all too clear, and one understands why the Editor of France Observateur did not hesitate to write: the EX-Trotskyists

We may at this stage usefully take a backward glance at "the capitulation to Stalinism" of which we were supposedly guilty. We have said since 1951, long before Stalin's death, that the movements directed by the Stalinists would experience great crises - which have, in fact, been seething inside these organisations over a long period. We have also maintained that the currents seeking a revolutionary solution would have the tendency to stay inside the Communist Party. From this we concluded that we ought to assist, with all possible means including the presence of revolutionary Marxists in the Communist Parties, the formation and the development of Left Wings.

Lacking such an analysis - which events are daily confirming - the Renards, shot through with Stalinophobia, have preferred to lodge themselves in the bosom of an organisation like Force Ouvriere. Now they celebrate the "democracy" accorded them by voting for the moral report of Bothereau who, like his deceased master Jouhaux, is the faithful servant of capitalism.

B R A Z I L NEW DEVELOPMENTS AFTER NITEROI
 (By our Brazilian correspondent)

The events in Brazil continue to accentuate their course. In Casieras, a suburb of Sao Paulo, there was on a smaller scale a repetition of the episode of Niteroi, with the same general retreats, and with a clear sense that the climate of revolt is approaching the city.

As in Niteroi, the government turned precipitately to massive forms of repression. In this case, the population protested against the absurd increase in the price of railway tickets (from 200 to 750 Cr). The train lines were blocked, and the government sent military police to re-establish order. The first attitude of the police force was to shoot - this time in the air - and to charge the demonstrators with open bayonets.

To the growing intensity of the people, each time more inclined to undertake violent actions, also corresponds an uneasiness and aggressiveness from the side of the authorities, which turns to forms of repression which can now only serve to exacerbate and intensify the struggles.

This can be explained by the simultaneous aggravation of the struggles for wage demands, with an increase in the number of strikes, growing disturbances in the country side, and a critical political situation, particularly since the nationalisation of "Bond and Share" of Porto Alegre. An immediate repercussion of this measure has been the aggravation of the national struggle for the expropriation of the electricity trust, especially in Minas Gerais and Paraná where the services are poor. The government had not hidden in either case its complete hostility toward any expropriations, whilst proposing conciliatory solutions. But in the case of Minas Gerais even the governmental conflict has complicated itself, owing to the intention of the governor to intervene in the company, and the consequent popular support making use of it.

The crisis in the political situation now affects the whole apparatus of the state and of the parties. The events of Niteroi have had a broad political repercussion, and weakened the position of the more radical nationalist wings within the bourgeoisie. The dominant sectors observe with growing mistrust any form of electoral campaign which could serve to mobilise, even in a limited way, the masses. From this flows the inflamed resistance which met the candidature of Lott in the governmental party (PSD) hierarchy. Since the events of Niteroi electoral support for Lott has declined in all parts of the country. On the one hand the popular rage against the repression and the government has cooled those who predicted a mass success to the Vargas campaign. Even the

C.P. has, once again, withdrawn its support for him - though leaving the door open for a possible change of line at some future date. On the other hand having accentuated the distrust of the more responsible bourgeois sectors toward even a moderately nationalist campaign - as had to be Lott's. The latter's inclination toward the right now, moderating his programme even at the risk of mixing it up with the programme of Janio Quadros, is even more sterile.

At the same time as the C.P. withdrew its support, Adhemar de Barros once more proclaimed himself as a candidate, hitting considerably the forces which had calculated on supporting the marshall.

In the other camp there is no doubt that Janio Quadros benefits by this crisis, and tends to present himself as the only viable centre for the bourgeoisie. But one should not forget, that the evolution of the situation does not favour in any way the perspective of elections, and that a solution by force therefore should not be excluded. There is one bourgeois wing which does not attempt to hide its intentions for a Coup d'Etat, and gives encouragement to a sector of the army on this line.

On the trade union field - and with a tendency to be of national importance - the dockers strike in Santos continues, and has gained considerable solidarity with the T.U. bureaucracy, but what is more important, much more important, is outbreak of another similar, but much broader, strike, that of the dockers of Lloyd and the coastal navigation of Rio - some 2000 workers.

As they are the main points of the economy - the port of Santos has been working very badly for more than one month - and as they considerably agitate the country, these strikes have great repercussions.

An indication of the tendency of the government to face the situation is given by the efforts undertaken before the international monetary fund. But it will not advance far on this path, as the IMF imposes conditions of such a nature for the aid, that they can not be applied in the present situation.

P E R U

Detained comrades free again.

The endeavours of the government to repress the strike of bank employees has failed. The detained comrades and all the trade union leaders taken were imprisoned have been released. The suspension of guarantees remains in force.

The strike of bank employees continues, Arequipa, Cuzco, the Maritime Block of Callao are paralysed. Other Trade union organisations have fixed the date of new strikes.

THE FASCIST GOVERNMENT'S REPRESSION DENOUNCES
THE DETENTION OF THE LEADERS.

The executive committee of the P.O.R. denounce before the popular and workers opinion:

- 1) The following leaders of the P.O.R. ; Fernando Bravo and Victor Villegas, have today been detained by Control Politico, whilst other leaders of the party are being actively searched.
- 2) In the country side around Sucre the repression against members of the P.O.R. have also been intensified, and the peasant leader, Mauro Vallejos was detained and taken to the city of Sucre.
- 3) These repressive measures of the Siles- IBER government are due to the fact that important sectors of the workers and peasants go forward to strengthen the P.O.R. whereas the government and it's trade union bureaucrats are repudiated by the masses, as now is the case of the miners congress. But the repression will not retain the crisis of the government, nor will it prevent the masses from identifying the P.O.R. as their new leadership.
- 4) In the face of this repression the Executive committee of the P.O.R. calls upon all workers, peasants, students, and employees trade union organisations to declare themselves for the liberty of the Leaders of the P.O.R. and to repudiate the methods of the government.

LA PAZ, June 3 1959.

INGO GONZALEZ M.

G. GUZMAN.

E. SANCHEZ.

F. LAMAS.

U. S. A.

WORKERS WORLD DEMANDS AGAINST TERROR IN PERU

Workers World sent the following protest to the President of the Republic of Peru.

"We hereby protest in the strongest terms the use of troops, and the terror that you permitted to be used by the army against the workers and students who demonstrated in Lima on May 24th(?) . Which resulted in the death of two workers, the wounding of many others and the arrest of many of the leaders. We demand the immediate and unconditional release of all who were arrested.

E C U A D O R

The permanent crisis of the Ecuadorian bourgeoisie and the struggle of the masses.

The political and economic situation of Ecuador fits in to the structural crisis of the world capitalist system, especially into the dialectical process of the Latin American struggles which have taken immensely rich and profound strides.

The latest events which took place mainly in Guayaquil and Porto Viejo are a profound manifestation of the permanent crisis of the feudal - capitalist system, and of the sharpening of the social struggles.

The crisis is fundamentally characterised by the militancy of the workers and by the increasing impossibility of the bourgeoisie to control the situation. The epoch of Velasquez has served in order to measure the convulsion and the pressure of the workers and peasants which manifested itself in the wave of uninterrupted strikes, in spite of the opportunist leaderships, the intensification of the peasant struggles, -assacred and inflamed by the government, leaving the peasants in a state of terror and savagery.

On the other hand the economic crisis permanently accentuating: budgetary deficits growing from year to year, due to a permanent and inordinate waste; an unjustifiable increase in taxes; the exploiting and unreined eagerness of the landholders and bourgeoisie.

The feudal - oligarchal group of Ponce, seeking shelter behind the neo-fascist army, which could find no solution to the crisis, began to unleash a brutal repression, on both the workers and peasants movements. This served only to intensify and strengthen the struggle, and increase the belligerency of the working class toward the army.

By an act, intrascendental if you want, in the history of the oligarchic repression, the masses surged valiantly into the streets, facing the army and attacking the prefecture and other government buildings. In this massive action of the workers, a captain, incarnating the Ponceist repression, was beaten to death by the workers, and then his body was paraded through the

streets, before the passivity of the police

The city was rapidly taken over by the workers, the banks and commercial houses had to close and were forced to ask for help from the armed forces. There was some pillaging and arson stated by the bourgeois press to be "villainous and communist". Next day on the march to the castrary, a demonstration of more than ten thousand men, women and children, both workers and peasants, and poor-petty bourgeoisie, mobilised themselves and threatened the government and the army. The masses were in control of the whole city. In Guayaquil and Portoviejo the struggles intensified to such a degree that groups of workers erected barricades and a clash with the army took place.

The objective of the masses, guarded for a long time, manifested itself in the intention to mobilise themselves towards the residential areas known as "Centenario", some groups, mocking the police cordons and the tanks, succeeded in entering the area, to the fear and awe of the oligarchs. The army commenced the massacre, as it did with the peasants of Pichincha, Loja, Esmeraldas, etc. The workers armed only with stones, sticks and irons etc, from trenches and behind barricades, succeeded in maintaining the struggle for more than half the day.

In the course of this action the Fascist dictatorship lost 14 soldiers, with 83 wounded. 52 workers died, 219 injured, 44 disappeared, and 572 were jailed.

All the attempts of the masses to attack residences, prisons government buildings etc are a form of expression of the dire necessity in which workers are living now, and expresses the desire of the masses to change the capitalist system of exploitation.

The opportunist leadership in the Confederación de Trabajadores Ecuatorianos - TUC- could not rouse the workers to common action, so as not to hurt the sentiments of, and the relations with, the Salazars, Genez, the Flazas and Co. The prime and fundamental error of these leaderships was the bad policies of the Socialist and Communist parties, which formed a "Frente Democrático" with liberals, and Christians etc., instead of forming a united class front.

The Leftist tendencies, both of the Socialist and Communist parties (who claim to be sympathisers of Trotsky) led the latest movements. This trial of strength of the workers will accentuate even more the crisis of the bourgeoisie and will accelerate the march to the Socialist transformation of the system, with the parallel action of the other workers of Latin America and of the world.

INDONESIA

PKI CONTINUES IT'S CATASTROPHIC POLICY

The intervention of the Indonesian army chiefs in favour of a return to the 1945 constitution and of "guided democracy" which "regulates" the political role of the army and gives full powers to Sukarno, the bourgeois nationalist president, has not in any way changed the criminal policy of the PKI.

In a statement, issued after a meeting of the acting Indonesian president Sartono with the leaders of the 4 big parties on June 13th, D.N. Aidit, general secretary of the PKI said that his party stood for the dissolution of the constituent assembly, and the return to the 1945 constitution by order of the president who was concurrently the supreme commander of the armed forces. By giving such powers to Sukarno now that parliament did not accept the return to the 1945 constitution, the Bonapartist position of the president will be further strengthened.

This policy is directly aimed against the Indonesian workers and poor peasants and is openly counter-revolutionary.

The same Aidit, together with other leaders of the PKI, and several parliamentary members and members of the constituent assembly, went to Pasa Rebo in the outskirts of Jakarta, in order to take part in manual work with the peasants. Evidently they were "inspired" by the example of the Chinese Communist leaders, but alas, only to this limited extent.... Aidit made a brief speech, calling on the peasants to raise production by applying the farming methods indicated by the PKI. He was smart enough to add that increased production would be meaningless if the land was still owned by the landlords, because the increase would only fall into their hands. Instead of posing the necessity of the division of the land amongst the poor peasants, however according to the Russian and Chinese examples, he said that efforts should be made for the peasants to retain as big a proportion of the crop as possible.

Aidit said the PKI "would try still harder to enable the peasants to retain a minimum sixty percent and the landlords a maximum forty percent of the crops". The betrayal of the Indonesian Stalinists has no limits.

RESULTS OF UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS

The retreat of the Socialist Party

An analysis of the results of the recent elections indicates a considerable reduction in the number of votes cast for the SP. This in fact means that the illusion of the gradual organic increase of the SP has collapsed.

The retreat of the Communist Party

As with the SP, the votes cast for the CP are reduced. It has been said that the CP had recovered considerably in the past few years, especially within the trade unions. Yet an analysis of the present situation shows that the CP influences only about 1/10th or 1/14th of the working class.

The SP is still the main centre of working-class political activity. Moreover, the SP has tended to act as a pipeline through which the pressure of the workers has been channelled. Therefore, the increased authority of both the October revolution and the Chinese revolution are a positive factor to both the CP and the SP. Within the foreseeable future, a drastic and radical change in the relationship of forces is not likely to occur. This fact, a fact that was recognised at the time of the local elections, indicates that the SP will play a central role in the coming period of instability, mass ferment, split and regroupment of the workers' parties.

Meaning of the increased vote for the SOKA GAKKAI

The SG, which is a militant Buddhist political organisation, got 2,470,000 votes in the 1959 elections, about four and a half as many votes as the CP.

The class base of the SG is in the lower petty bourgeoisie and unorganised workers - this in competition with the CP. The CP has lost some votes among the lower strata to the SG, while gaining some among the organised workers.

Has the SP lost votes to the SG? There are reasons for thinking so. A further analysis of the election figures shows that the other parties remain relatively even compared with the 1956 figures. This is, of course, based not on the concrete substantial analysis but on political logic. It is far more reasonable to suppose that hundreds of thousands of CP and SP supporters moved towards SG, which is quite alien from the traditional parties, than to suppose that they moved towards the Liberal Democrats.

In the next period there is a possibility that the SG will grow at the expense of the Liberal Democrat Party. When the economic decline begins to affect the lower strata more deeply, millions of the masses will lose all hope and belief in the present order. The SG's having obtained already four and a half times the CP vote in the present period is the prelude to long-term decline.

The firmness of this organisation, far superior to that of the SP, equals that of the CP. It must be regarded as a powerful candidate for the role of a mass fascist organisation. Its ideology will possibly turn towards conscious fascism, which aims at the extermination of the working-class organisations, by the reorientation of the leadership when the political situation enters the pre-revolutionary period, and the lower strata are stirred more profoundly.

The traditional bourgeois ideologists have been extreme in their neglect of SG. They do not for one moment think that SG will ever constitute a serious challenge to the traditional parties. Here we have a serious enemy which will have to be faced in the future.

Iwai, General Secretary of the SOYO, adopted a more correct attitude to the problem. He said: "The primary reason for the SP defeat is that the SP has not attracted a greater number of the poor people. This is the reason why SG increased its vote".

The SP leader, Suzuki, did not see the danger signal in the election results. Such stupid optimism is a characteristic of the reformist. We hope that he will not lose his consciousness when faced directly with the enemy.

Ola Ryce

Election results

<u>Party</u>	<u>Number of votes</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>1956</u>
Liberal Democrat	12,119,000	41.2	39.7
Ryokufu	2,381,000	8.1	10.1
Conservative	1,430,000	4.9	
Workers'	227,000	0.8	
Pure	4,159,000	14.1	
Socialist	7,794,000	26.5	30.5
Communist	551,000	1.9	2.1
Independent	5,817,000	19.8	15.5
Miscellaneous	753,000	2.5	2.1
Total	29,419,000	100.0	100.0

(Condensed from The Workers' Voice, June 15, 1959).

INDIA

STORM IN KERALA

Dark clouds are hovering over Kerala. The leaders of the Catholic Church and Nair Service Society are planning a massive agitation against the Education Act, and the Stalinist Government is preparing itself to meet the situation "with military help if necessary".

The Education Bill, which secured the President's assent after being referred to the Supreme Court, is one of the few reforms which the Communist Party of India Government in Kerala was able to introduce within the framework of the bourgeois constitution. There is nothing radical or revolutionary in the Bill. However, there is all-round resentment and disapproval towards this measure, both open and latent.

The teachers, who are expected to mould the characters of the future citizens of the nation, are the most neglected and uncared-for section of the "white-collared" workers. Their living conditions throughout the country are deplorable. The majority of them are under private managements; and their

emoluments are low and conditions of service miserable. They can be appointed and dismissed at the sweet will of the managers. It is the primary task of any government, leave alone a communist government, to improve their lot and to afford them security of employment.

The actual opposition to the Education Act centres around three "controversial" clauses. The Catholic Church, which has enjoyed uncontrolled monopoly in the educational field in the former Travancore-Cochin state, has been asked to choose its teachers from the panel selected by the Government or quasi-governmental machinery. The original Clause 13 of the Bill, which met with uproarious opposition from the vested interests, has been amended. This clause now stipulates that the panel of teachers shall be selected by the Public Service Commission (instead of the Government-appointed authorities as originally planned in the Bill) and the teachers for the aided schools shall be appointed by the managers from these panels. The other two clauses provide for payment of the teachers' salaries by the Government. The teaching profession shall be pensionable, and the syllabus and curriculum shall be prepared by the Government authorities. These provisions in the Education Bill are not the creations of the intellectuals in the CP leadership, but have been incorporated from the educational systems already in existence in some of the bourgeois states - the United Kingdom, Ceylon, etc.

The Catholic hierarchy is disappointed that its unquestioned control over the educational system in the State has been snatched away by the Act, whereas Mannath Padmanabhan, President of the Nair Service Society and leader of the present crusade against the Act, is unhappy over the reservations provided for the Ezhava and other backward communities. It is a strange coincidence that the other political parties, being unwilling to identify themselves openly with these crusaders, have decided to sponsor an "independent" state-wide agitation simultaneously, based on the "charge sheet" prepared against the Kerala Ministry. While the reactionary character and ulterior motives of the opponents of the Education Bill are quite clear, there is a genuine fear in the minds of the public that the CPI may utilise these provisions to infiltrate the educational apparatus of the state. Knowing, as we do, the unscrupulous methods adopted by the CPI leadership to achieve its ends in the past, and the lack of political integrity in keeping to its assurances, it is likely that the Kerala Ministry will misuse these provisions for its party gains. The agitators are making concerted efforts to kindle communal feelings in their fight against the Act. The Communist Party is also playing on the same communal feelings to win over the support of the "backward" communities. It is an unfortunate fact that the support enjoyed by the various political parties in Kerala is community-wise. This agitation has proved useful to the CPI Ministry in Kerala, as it will greatly assist it to divert the minds of the masses from the vital issues facing them, such as unemployment, the rising cost of food, etc.

Mr. Achutha Menon, Minister for Law and Order in Kerala, has declared that he will seek military help if necessary to meet the situation arising out of this agitation. Having come to power by parliamentary methods, without the struggles of workers and peasants, the CPI Ministry considers it justifiable to rely on military assistance instead of calling the toiling masses to rise to the occasion and meet the challenge of the reactionary forces. The Stalinists should realise that the same military apparatus may be used by the reactionary bourgeoisie to overthrow the CPI Ministry if the bourgeoisie deem it necessary.

Education in a socialist state is entirely the affair of the state. All the educational institutions will be owned by the workers' state, and it will be its primary task to provide free and unfettered education. Instead of boldly taking over all the private schools within the State, the CPI Ministry is trying to make some provisional adjustments within the existing out-moded educational system, a system riddled with unhealthy religious influences. Such a dynamic policy would no doubt bring the State Government into collision with the Central regime, which the Stalinists do not want, as it would run counter to their national policy of "support to the Indian bourgeoisie".

(From The Militant, Bombay, June 5, 1959).

BRITAIN

THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM

Fresh ferment has been created in the British Labour Movement by the murder of Kelso Cochrane, a West Indian (Negro) immigrant. Groups of coloured students and workers have come together with organisations like the Movement for Colonial Freedom (whose President is Fenner Brockway, the Left Labour MP) to form an Inter-Racial Co-ordinating Council. The Council, and the Committee of African Organisations, have held meetings in London and the provincial cities.

A weakness of the campaign is that so far it has been conducted outside the ranks of the broad Labour Movement, and has been confined to protests against racial discrimination and demands for firmer police action against fascists and racists. The attempt is now being made, however, to involve the organised working class, and an important meeting of Labour Parties, trades councils (local associations of trade-union branches), coloured people's organisations and the MCF in the West London Area has been convened for July 16. An earlier attempt to convene a conference of West London Labour Parties to be addressed by a spokesman from the National Executive Committee of the LP was quashed by the intervention of the London LP leadership.

The Afro-Asian West Indian Union, a militant organisation of coloured workers with branches in London, Nottingham, Sheffield and other provincial cities, has redoubled its activities in the last period. Over 1,000 leaflets were distributed at underground railway stations and in the main market-place in Notting Hill (the affected area in West London). More than 160 copies of the pamphlet, Don't Blame the ~~Nixxx~~ Blacks, were sold by members of the organisation assisted by British Marxists and members of the Labour Party. Two further pamphlets, on the crisis in Central Africa and the growth of fascism in Britain, will be produced in the near future. Fifty coloured workers attended a meeting called recently at short notice in a small hall in North London, 31 of whom applied to join.

The main task at present facing the Marxists within the Labour Movement and the colonial peoples' organisations is to relate the struggle against fascism and racialist manifestations with the day-to-day fight against capitalism. It is necessary to integrate the immigrant workers firmly within the Labour Movement, which must take up the special problems of these workers. Marxists must fight against opportunist "constitutionalism" on the one hand and, on the other hand, against sectarian demands for the premature formation of workers' militias unconnected with the broad Labour Movement

From the dutch Stalinist Daily newspaper "De Waarheid" June 5th. The decision of the committee of the Vandaarheid party (labour party) to oppose the it's own left wing Social Democrat Center has aroused considerable interest. Many newspapers have devoted editorials to it, each in it's own way agreeing with the decision.

The declaration of the party committee says, as one will remember, that the action of the group causes damage to the political position of the PvdA, that this is unacceptable and proposals will be put before the congress in order to stop this.

The fact the PvdA committee has acted in this way cannot as is generally considered be seen without the political developments of recent times. It in fact represents the struggle between controversial opinions which can also be observed in other parties. In this case it is the struggle between those who wish to capitulate as soon as possible to Rome and participate at any cost in the government-- and those who for various reasons want a more forceful opposition.

Against the P.S.P.

It is difficult to deny that the Social Democrat Center has deserved well of the PvdA, especially in the recent elections. From the fortnightly paper "Perspectief", published by the group could clearly be concluded through Messrs Van Tijn, Drenth & Co. intended to keep the left wing of of the PvdA together. In particular the paper was constantly engaged in a polemic with PSP (both the leadership and the rank and file) that their proper place was in the PvdA. This should have been why during the last months, the attacks from the "official" side were ended. On the occasion of Sam de Wolff's birthday, the vice-president of the PvdA, Dr Vos, was the guest of the S.D.C. At that time "Het Vrije Volk" wrote friendly things about it.

Then during the period when the new cabinet was being formed, on the occasion of the "Perspectief" congress, "De Volkskrant" again launched a violent attack on the existence of the group. Implying to the PvdA that upon the liquidation of this group depended the acceptability of the party for a future government.

In all probability, since that time, the extremist right wing elements in the PvdA leadership have prepared the attack. At least the formulation of the decision in question arouses the suspicion that here one is not dealing with a hastily thought out decision but with one that has been preceded by some months of preparation and struggle.

It is probable that this struggle has been waged between those who most of all want to act according to Rome's wishes and those who deem it prejudicial to add further to the estrangement of the left wing forces.

In this connection one wonders if it is accidental that this is the first decision of political consequence which bears the name of the new general secretary J.J.A. Berger. This former NVV secretary and GAK director has during his whole political career been closely attached to the former minister Sauerhoff who, as is well known, is one of the most rightist elements in the PvdA.

TROTSKYIST BECAME SECRETARY

Finally one may observe that in many respects the Social Democratic center has itself facilitated the attack on it's existence. It has for instance, chosen for it's secretary one Ferrares who years ago in Amsterdam was spat out by the workers movement as a Trotskyist and a splitter. Shortly after the war Ferrares was even at the head of a Trotskyist election list, which did not succeed in obtaining any following at all.

By the actions of such persons the group could acquire but little following among the workers and it could easily be attacked by those who wish to sacrifice a peace offering on Rome's altar. One can still expect to hear something of Dr. Luskas and his friends in the coming days.

AUSTRIA

POST-ELECTION CRISIS

by Our Austrian Correspondent

At the General Election on May 10 the Socialist Party of Austria (SPA) achieved considerable success, gaining the largest number of votes cast, 1,953,566, an increase of 80,000 on the 1956 elections. The leading bourgeois Party, the People's Party (PP) received less votes, obtaining 1,827,690, a loss of 72,000 on previous figures. Because of the electoral system, the PP gained an extra seat, having 79 against the SPA's 78.

The second bourgeois grouping, having a neo-fascist tendency, obtained 330,000, a gain of 50,000. The Communist Party (KPA), due largely to its Stalinist policy, polled only 142,000 votes, a loss of 50,000. It is not represented in the new Parliament.

The election results indicate a defeat of the bourgeoisie. The FP had twice requested an early election because of the economic deterioration which was apparent by the autumn of 1958. There was a reduction of exports, mainly due to sharp foreign competition. The formation of the European Common Market added to Austria's problems. The bourgeoisie hoped that an early election would improve its election prospects. This hope did not materialise.

The success of the SPA is due to both objective and subjective factors. Objectively, the rapid industrialisation of recent years, which today is at about the same level as Belgium or Switzerland, assisted it. The number of people employed is now 2.2 millions, the highest figure ever. This is favourable to the SPA in an election, especially in the recent elections. When one considers the shamelessness with which the bourgeoisie announced the anti-working class measures which were to be implemented after the victory of the FP, one sees that these measures were to include the de-nationalisation of industry, attacks on the social welfare services, raising of rents, etc., along with other measures favourable to the capitalist class. The bourgeoisie, moreover, openly acknowledged Dollfuss, the "hangerman" of 1934, and declared its authoritarian aims - stimulated, no doubt, by the success of de Gaulle in France.

This combination of objective with subjective factors has favoured the SPA. Thus by no means does the Right Wing leadership owe its electoral success to its opportunist policy (since 1945 it has participated in a Coalition Government) or its new, equally opportunist, Party programme.

In the protracted negotiations to form a Government, which have been going on since May 10, the SPA was in a not entirely disadvantageous position. The bourgeois FP, led by Raab, recognising the situation, did not wish to face fresh elections, at which it would undoubtedly suffer a still more painful defeat. Neither was the correlation of forces sufficiently in its favour to enable it to dissolve the Coalition without the danger of mass reaction from the working class.

Acting upon this assessment of the correlation of forces, and faced by a programme of demands from the SPA leadership, demands which embrace some of the decisive problems of Government policy (the safeguarding of nationalised industry and the protection of the social services, etc.), after weeks of negotiation, Raab at last took an unexpected tactical step, and offered the Finance Ministry, hitherto in the hands of a trusty of Big Business, to the SPA. Raab's intention was to place the SPA in the invidious position of having to take responsibility for any unpleasant economic measures that may be needed, in the hope that at a later stage he could remove them from the Government without the danger of mass reactions.

This move of Raab has precipitated a profound crisis within the FP. The union of industrialists has demanded an end to the Coalition, and is urging that a strong line be taken against the SPA for fear of its insisting on its demands. The offer of the Finance Ministry exacerbated the revolt of the industrialists, forcing them into association with some of the provincial leaders of the FP to reject Raab's action.

The bourgeoisie is no doubt intent on forcing the SPA to abandon its demands, or to accept the breaking of the Coalition. During the last few years, the bourgeoisie has been able, in some extraordinary way, to ameliorate its economic, as well as its extra-parliamentary position, through the creation of a new confederation army, already twice as strong as in 1937. As has been demonstrated, there is considerable division of opinions as to the precise evaluation of the relationship of forces, one group believing that a further intermediate phase is needed to enable the SPA to exhaust itself; the other group, headed by the big industrialists, thinks that the moment for a breach with the SPA has already arrived.

This quarrel inside the ranks of the bourgeoisie creates a favourable situation for the working class, if utilised by the SPA leadership. The

leadership, however, prefers to seek a compromise solution rather than take the offensive and press its demands to safeguard the living standards of the masses, protect nationalised industry and social services, and press for fresh elections. It is not excluded that the leadership of the SPA may yet press for the latter. The SPA leadership finds itself in a very difficult situation. If it forgoes its demands, it only moves further into the bourgeois camp, with the latter hoping that the SPA will compromise itself in the eyes of the masses.

There can be no doubt that the elections have brought about considerable changes in Austria. A period of growing instability is imminent. The bourgeoisie, while seeking an end to the coalition with the SPA as soon as possible, is at the same time preparing a brutal offensive against the masses. The forces are coming out in the open, and, as in the First Republic, signify the danger of violent suppression of the working class. Fortunately the working class has today sufficient strength to frustrate the plans of the bourgeoisie. It gave new electoral successes to the SPA in May, and further elections will see the SPA emerge as the strongest Party in both votes and seats. In these circumstances, extraordinarily favourable prospects open for the working class struggle. But the real issues will be fought out not only in the field of parliamentary elections, but on the extra-parliamentary level.

BRITAIN

NIGERIAN SEAMEN'S STRIKE

Seventy-eight Nigerian seamen, part of the crew of the Apapa, a vessel of Elder Denster Lines, recently refused to rejoin the ship after the Company had rejected their protests at alleged discrimination against them by white officers.

The Africans complained that they were allowed to purchase only inferior brands of cigarettes from the ship's stores, and that they were compelled to do menial work to satisfy the comforts of senior British officers. Attempts were allegedly made at Freetown and Lagos to bring criminal charges against rebellious members of the crew with the object of removing "troublemakers".

Where British members of the crew were fed on bacon and egg, steak and chicken, the Africans were given black pudding, mashed potatoes and pork belly. Beer for the whole crew was diluted; when the European members of the crew complained, their beer was served "pure", but the beer served to African members of the crew continued to be watered down.

The 78 members of the crew of the Apapa took strike action when the ship arrived in dock at Liverpool, and were joined by 20 seamen from the Kalera, 19 from the Zini, 17 from the Shebro, ten from the Sekondi and nine from the Sulin, who came out in sympathy.

The Nigerians have been dismissed by the company and have been flown back to West Africa.

STRIKE OF PRINTWORKERS

The nine unions affiliated to the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation (PKTF), together with the National Society of Operative Printers and Assistants (NATSOPA), are in dispute with the Newspaper Society and the British Federation of Master Printers. Many magazines, weekly journals and local newspapers are already affected, and threats made to printing ink workers by the arrogant ink employers may bring the national dailies to a standstill by July 6. The workers are demanding the forty-hour week and an increase in basic wages to meet the rise in living costs.

For this reason the last two issues of our BULLETIN, which were to have been printed, have had to be mimeographed, as before. It is to be hoped that a speedy victory for the printworkers may enable our issue of July 15 to appear in printed form.