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BELGIAN GENERAL STRIKE

After the strike in Borinage in February, 1959, and after the strike of 29th June last, the Belgian working class has, recently, once more given proof of its astonishing militancy. On 29th January it responded to the appeal for the general strike, launched by the Socialist trade union, FGT.

One year ago, under conditions of full recession, the leaders of the same trade union had not dared to extend the strike of the Borinage miners to other industrial sectors, a strike which was directed against the closing of coal mines and against unemployment. Even the leaders of the "Renardist" Left wing trade unions had hesitated to throw their forces into the battle, thus in practice betraying the magnificent struggle of the Borains. The Left wing trade unions tried to correct themselves and to again take control of the most advanced layers of the proletariat by organising the strike for half a day on 29th June, which was a big success in Liege and in the Walloons in general, but which was sabotaged by the Right wing trade unions in the Flanders.

Since then the recession finished, but unemployment continues: 300,000 unemployed out of two-and-a-half million salaried people; that represents a very high percentage outside a period of recession. Industrial production has in fact reached the same level as before the recession in the most important sectors of the Belgian economy, but thanks to an increased productivity and reorganisation, this production is now obtained with 100,000 workers less!

In the face of this situation the FGT and the Belgian S.P. demand a planning of investments, and some nationalisation. But these were not the principal slogans of the strike of the 29th January.

EMPLOYERS' REFUSAL

In 1955 an economic and social conference took place in which the employers, the trade unions, and the government participated. An agreement provided for another conference of this type in 1959, which would have examined the progress of the productivity and decided upon a new redivision between workers and em-

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ARGENTINA

TROTSKYISTS OPPOSE EISENHOWER VISIT

The Central Committee of the Communist Party has made known in a communiqué its "welcome" to Eisenhower, whilst expressing its confidence that his trip constitutes a "mission of peace and friendship" in Latin-America.

This declaration constitutes a new and flagrant break of the Communist Party with the whole tradition of Communism of the times of Lenin, and towards imperialism, capitalism and their governors and representatives.

The trip of Eisenhower to various countries of Latin-America forms part of the preparation of the counter-revolutionary war against the USSR, China, the other Workers' States and the colonial and world revolution. It forms part of the plans of imperialism to beat the struggles of the Latin-American peoples for their national and social liberation. It integrates itself within the cam-

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HELP THE ALGERIAN PRISONERS IN FRANCE

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DOCUMENTATION

SECOND ALL-AFRICA PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE DECISIONS

ECONOMIC RESOLUTION

CONSIDERING the under-developed state of the African economies which is a result of the colonial system and foreign domination;

CONSIDERING the tendency of the colonialist countries to substitute economic for political domination and thus rob the newly-won independence of African States of its true content;

CONSIDERING also the departmentalisation and lack of harmony existing in the African economies and the inadequacy of technical cadres and finance;

CONSIDERING that economic growth and development constitute the surest guarantees of the freedom of the African Continent;

CONSIDERING that foreign powers sometimes use their economic aid as a means of endeavouring to divide the African territories and isolate the Independent States from territories that are still under colonial rule;

AFFIRMS that independence is a pre-requisite to all economic development.

DECLARES that the Peoples of Africa are determined to work for the economic development and liberation of Africa, for the benefit and under the control of the masses.

RECOMMENDS to the Independent African States:

- (1) The intensification of their efforts to wrest their respective countries from economic dependence on the imperialist countries.
- (2) The refusal to enter into any undertaking with foreign powers which may either directly or indirectly prejudice the movement for the liberation and unity of the African Continent.
- (3) The development of the co-operative system and the harnessing of the essential resources of their territories in the interests of the masses, to ensure social justice and raise the living standard of their peoples.
- (4) The promotion of industrialisation, the direction of effort towards agrarian reform, and the modernisation of agriculture in order to make Africa's economy independent.
- (5) The encouragement of joint enterprises and inter-African companies in order to achieve the maximum result from the development of the resources of Africa in the interests of the peoples, and move along the path of African unity.
- (6) The removal of customs barriers between the Independent African States.
- (7) The progressive liberalisation of commercial exchanges and the conclusion of multilateral payments agreements, with a view to developing economic exchanges and the consequent setting-up of an African Common Market, the formation of an African Transport Company (Land, Air and

Sea) to promote exchanges among the African territories.

- (8) Regular meetings between Economic and Finance Ministers with a view to co-ordinating their economic policies.
- (9) The setting-up of an African Investment Bank to promote development projects.
- (10) The creation of an African Institute for Research and Training of the various cadres.
- (11) The Conference decides that its Secretariat should edit a popular review on social and economic studies.

1.—RACIALISM

The Second All-African People's Conference

NOTES with indignation the persistence, even the extension of racialism in certain African territories, which is often a source of serious social disturbances;

DENOUNCES the autocratic racial systems which are being established or are tending to be established in Africa.

AFFIRMS that these social problems cannot be solved except through national independence and the establishment of a democratic system.

RECOMMENDS that the Independent African States should take all appropriate steps, including economic boycott to bring immediate and effective pressure to bear on the States responsible.

2.—DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICAN TRADE UNIONISM.

The Conference:

(a) DECLARES that the freedom of Trade Unions, their independence from special interests and their opposition to influences contrary to their genuine democratic principles are a necessary condition for the development of the working class movement and the achievement of social progress and African unity.

(b) SUPPORTS the desire of African Trade Unions to unite in an autonomous Panafrikan Federation with a distinctive African personality.

AFFIRMS that this federation shall be an independent central organisation.

3.—IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING CONDITIONS.

The Conference:

RECOMMENDS that the Independent African States should:

- (a) work out a system of social security for the workers.
- (b) protect the legitimate rights of children, women and old people.
- (c) provide health education for the people.
- (d) work out joint campaigns in order to prevent and fight against scourges and epidemics, and reduce the high rate of mortality.
- (e) initiate a programme of exchange visits by doctors, and thus enable every country to profit from the experience of the others.

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ARGENTINA

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campaign of imperialism against the Latin-American revolution, in which it tries to consolidate its alliance with these bourgeoisies against the Latin-American masses.

Eisenhower is the figurehead, the super-representative of world imperialism and capitalism. Under his leadership, the most reactionary imperialism of history (to be judged on a world scale), American imperialism and its allies are prepared to fight to death — though they still hesitate to launch themselves into a nuclear war against the revolution and the masses of the whole world. His trips, especially his trip to the colonial and semi-colonial countries such as those of Latin-America, have nothing to do with "peace" and "friendship." They mean serious steps and means against the masses, they signify that imperialism before the continuing development of the colonial revolution, looks for more efficient means, stronger alliances, in order to try to regain control of developments.

GUATEMALA

Eisenhower is the figurehead of the campaign against Communist China, against the workers' states, against Communism, against the struggles for national and social liberation, and against the colonial revolutions all over the world. He prepared and led, through his men, the aggression against Guatemala, the attacks and plots against the Bolivian revolution, the imperialist campaign against the Cuban revolution, leaving aside all the reactionary adventures of imperialism in the world, from the sending of troops to the Lebanon to the permanent provocation in the Straits of Formosa.

The Latin-American masses repudiate and hate Eisenhower, as they repudiated and attacked Nixon. They are conscious that both represent the most reactionary and hated power on the globe: American imperialism.

Nevertheless, the leadership of the Communist Party does not hesitate to "welcome" this person, thus completely turning its back on the profoundly anti-imperialist desire and will of the working masses, and sowing confusion in the camp of the workers and their own Communist militants.

The Partido Obrero (Trotskyist) condemns this capitulatory activity of the leadership of the Communist Party, which only expresses the interests of the international policy of the bureaucracy of the Kremlin. Such a policy cannot but confuse the workers, and will facilitate the ends and objectives of the trip of Eisenhower, of war preparation and repression against the masses.

The Partido Obrero (Trotskyist) appeals to the whole working class movement to demonstrate the total rejection by the whole working people of the visit of Eisenhower. It appeals to the Communist militants to participate in such a

mobilisation, and to demand an open discussion on this problem within their party, and a change in the policy of their party in accordance with the interests of the Latin-American masses, fighting for national and social liberation.

The Political Bureau of the Partido Obrero (Trotskyist), February 4, 1960

SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN FOR AFFILIATION IN CORDOBA

The Regional Committee of the Partido Obrero (Trotskyist) informs us that on January 18th, the campaign for 500 affiliates was concluded with success. Such a number of affiliates is, according to the law on political parties, necessary in order to be allowed to participate in the regional elections.

Cordoba is the fifth electoral district in which the Partido Obrero obtained more than 500 affiliates, and in which it prepares for participation in the coming elections.

FIRST ELECTION MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES

On January 29th, the Partido Obrero launched its electoral campaign in Buenos Aires. The first meeting took place, then, on Plaza Constitucion in which 1300 persons took part. The speakers were Eugenio Luis Bercherucci, representing the Regional Committee of Santa Fe; Salvador Levy, of the Regional Committee of Tucuman; Carlos de Yebra, representing the Regional Committee of Avellaneda of the Province of Buenos Aires; Dora Coledesky, of the Federal Capital and Jose Lungarzo and Angel Fanjul of the National Leadership of the Party.

POLICE BAN ELECTION PROPAGANDA IN TUCUMAN AND SANTA FE

The police of the provinces of Tucuman and Santa Fe has forbidden public meetings of the Partido Obrero. Moreover, the Party has been excluded from television and radio broadcasts, for not being a "National Party". Having obtained 500 affiliates in various provinces however the Partido Obrero was recognised as a National Party on June 3rd, 1959, so that its exclusion from broadcasting is illegal.

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NEGROES REVOLT INSIDE AFL-CIO

In Detroit, on May 28th, the foundation of Negro American Labor Council will take place, writes Joel Seldin in the N.Y. Herald Tribune (Paris) of February 15th. According to Seldin, there is "a widespread dissatisfaction among the federation's (AFL-CIO) nearly 1,500,000 Negro members with the general treatment of Negroes in unions". Seventy years old A. Philips Randolph, head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, one of those who took the initiative to hold regional conferences in preparation of the founding conference of May 28th, called the effort "an authentic, basic, fundamental revolution, bound to shake up the unions and the AFL-CIO as a whole".

"The complaints of the dissatisfied Negroes are many", says Seldin in his article. "The primary one is segregation and discrimination which either keeps them out of some unions and hence, some jobs, or else restricts them to unskilled, low-paying jobs. Another is that they are barred from apprenticeship programmes that would lead to higher-paying jobs.

"A third complaint is that, despite such exceptions as Mr. Randolph, negroes are barred from positions of policy-making leadership within the unions as well as in the federation. This criticism is directed as much at the industrial unions stemming from the CIO as at the craft unions that came out of the AFL.

"The movement, according to Mr. Randolph is 'spreading like a prairie fire'. He said chapters have been set up in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Youngstown and Cleveland, Ohio,

Gary, Ind. and St. Louis. Other chapters are in the process of organisation in Philadelphia, Washington and along the West Coast.

"Mr. Randolph would not give the names of other leaders, because, he said, many have already been warned by their labor-leader employers that their jobs in unions will be in jeopardy if they become active in the NALC. But he said they are in the unions with large Negro memberships, and mentioned the steel and auto unions, the building trades and the hotel and restaurant unions.

The function of the NALC, Mr. Randolph said, will be to disseminate educational and propaganda material among Negro unionists and to provide trained organisers to help Negroes fight for 'first class citizenship' within unions.

"The prospect of NALC organizers leading fights against established union leaders", i.e. against the white labor bureaucracy, "has not been looked on kindly within the AFL-CIO. Already the movement has been charged with "racism," "dual unionism" and a variety of other epithets," according to Seldin.

He concludes:

"Mr. Randolph, however, looks on the NALC not only as the one cure for existing wrongs, but as the only safeguard against a serious, growing threat. Automation he pointed out, finds its first victims among the Negroes, who are doubly vulnerable.

"In the first place, he said, Negroes are largely employed in kinds of work that automation is most likely to eliminate. In the second, because Negroes are barred from apprentice training, those displaced by automation have no other jobs to go to.

"For us," he said, "this is a life-and-death struggle — a question of survival. Nothing can stop it".

ALGERIA

DETERMINATION TO WIN COMPLETE FREEDOM

Cairo, February 11th (Hsinhua)—The Algerian Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Krim Belkacem said at a Press Conference here today that "The Algerian people want complete freedom to determine their destiny, they will never accept the 'self-determination', to be implemented under the supervision of French troops, nor will they accept the partition of Algeria.

Belkacem, who is concurrently head of the three-man Algerian Ministerial Defence Body, said that the Algerian Military capabilities and fighting technique had greatly developed and that the number of Algerian casualties had been reduced as against those of last year.

The Vice-Premier, said that at the All-African People's Conference, recently held in Tunis, the Algerian problem was given prominence because the African peoples were aware of the importance of the Algerian struggle.

Asked whether the recent Fascist mutiny in the French occupied part of Algeria had affected the Algerian revolution, the Vice-Premier said that such events called for the people's vigilance but the stand of the Algerian people remained unchanged and the Algerian people would stick to the principles made clear in the Algerian provisional government's statements of September 28th and November 20th last year.

Replying to another question, he said, "The Algerian Liberation Army would accept foreign volunteers to fight in its ranks".

Belkacem said that the Headquarters of the Algerian Liberation Army had already been set up in Algeria proper and the name of the Commander-in-Chief would be announced in due time.

Belkacem also stated that he would stay in Cairo to carry out his function as Foreign Minister.

FEDERATION OF BANK EMPLOYEES (FEB) CHOOSES MORE LEFT WING LEADERSHIP

Recently elections were held for a new leadership of the Federación de Empleados Bancarios (FEB). One of the lists of candidates, headed by Damonte, was supported by a united front of the left wing (C.P., The Trotskyist P.O.R. and Left wing nationalist), and declared itself for a class line and for joining the Confederation of Peruvian Trade Unions (C.T.P.). One of the candidates on this list was the Trotskyist comrade Manuel Zegarra.

By a series of manoeuvres, especially by the Stalinists, Cde. Zegarra was removed from the list, with the excuse that he is "very young and very extremist." Nevertheless, Cde. Zegarra was an individual candidate for the post of international secretary of the trade union, and obtained 560 votes, representing 11 per cent. of the total.

In the general elections for the leadership, the Damonte list obtained 2,443 votes, the list Arboleda (APRA, bourgeois nationalist) 1,440 and Ugarte (the resigning sectarian general sec-

retary of the FEB) 1,308. The vote for Damonte is a clear indication in favour of trade union unity. The Peruvian P.O.R. is constantly fighting for the re-establishment of such a unity.

MASSES WANT NATIONALISATION OF LA BREA AND PARINAS

There is much agitation now around the richest oil zones of the country, La Brea and Pariñas, which are in the hands of imperialism. In parliament and in the bourgeois press, much noise is being made about it, with the clear intention of obtaining a higher pay-off from the imperialist owners. Within the nationalist camp, only the Left wing of the APRA demands nationalisation, but only in a very vague way.

"Voz Obrera," the organ of the Trotskyist P.O.R., demands NATIONALISATION WITHOUT INDEMNIFICATION, AND UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL, of the oil industry.

MAURO.

IRAQ

SPLIT IN CP OF IRAQ

(by our Israeli Correspondent)

The Communist Party, led by Zeki al Hakairi and publishing a daily newspaper *Ittihad esh Shaab* (trans.: *Unity of the People*) is faced now with a rival group, led by Daud al Sayegh, publishing *Al Maabda* (Principle) which "has appealed to all Iraqi Communists to help eradicate 'opportunistic elements' from the party and uphold the international proletariat and Marxist-Leninist principles." According to the Iraqi Associations Law, promulgated at the New Year, political parties have to apply for a licence. Such applications have to be signed by at least ten founding members and fifty supporters. Both Communist groups have applied in this form, but according to *Ittihad esh Shaab* seven of the ten founding members of al Sayegh's group have withdrawn and afterwards one more founding member and four supporters withdrew likewise. *Al Maabda* reports that the Prime Minister Kassem told al Sayegh on 15th January that there could not be more than one Communist Party in Iraq. In all, four parties had so far applied for licence: Two Communist Parties, the "National Democratic Party" and the "Democratic Party of Kurdistan (Iraq)".

In order to give a clear idea of the completely opportunist, menshevik character of the Iraqi Communist Party, we publish below some extracts from the Introduction to the National Charter of the Iraqi Communist Party (Iraqi Review, January 18th, 1960):

"Those are in general the basic tasks of our current historical stage, they are liberal-democratic tasks which are not directed against the capitalist-bourgeois relations of production. Therefore, the accomplishment of these tasks is not in the interest of one class apart from the others, it is in fact in the interest of all national classes of the people—the workers, the peasants, the petty bourgeoisie (artisans, professionals, small farmers and intelligentsia), the middle bourgeoisie, i.e. the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal bourgeoisie (the industrialists, the merchants, farmers, entrepreneurs and national capitalists)."

"The working class—together with all the toiling masses—realise that their standard of living is bound up with the development of the economy of the country. That is why the workers co-operate with the businessmen and the peasants with the Governmental bodies and others for the welfare of the national independence, the increase of the national wealth and the reinforcement of the national economy. The same takes place in various sectors of production. The toiling masses make in this respect considerable sacrifices which ought to meet with the response of businessmen to the rights of the working class and toilers in increasing their wages, improving their working conditions, refraining from making them to do unpaid overtime work, and in applying a just social security."

INDONESIA

THE ACOMA PARTY AND THE P.K.I.

The ACOMA Party and the Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI) both call themselves Marxist-Leninist. However there are fundamental differences between them.

1.—The P.K.I. is quite satisfied when the national bourgeoisie falls in line with the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, and in order to achieve this the P.K.I. does not hesitate to sacrifice the interests and needs of the mass of Indonesian workers and peasants. In line with this policy the P.K.I. chose the path of liquidating the revolution of August 1945, with Linggardjati and Renville, because according to the P.K.I., at the time the Soviet Union was still weak. In the same context the PKI chose the path of the Madium revolt, because according to the PKI, in 1948 the Soviet Union was again strong. Basically the PKI took up its defensive, and then, offensive position by starting **not** from the capacities of the mass of the Indonesian people, but of those of the Soviet Union. Thus in the years that followed after the August revolution, the P.K.I., with its position of supporting Linggardjati-Renville, acted **below** the capacities of the mass of the people. In the Madium affair the P.K.I. on the contrary acted **above** the capacities of the people. The retreat of the P.K.I. caused damage, while its going forward caused damage too. The P.K.I. thus only caused damage in both situations.

PKI'S MODERATION

2.—At present the P.K.I. sees the possibility of a compromise between the Soviet Union and America. In order not to disturb this compromise the P.K.I. acts moderately and makes broad concessions to the national bourgeoisie. Treading this defensive path the P.K.I. is not averse to suppressing the dissatisfaction of its followers.

3.—The P.K.I. has a completely uncritical attitude towards the internal developments of the workers' states. Whatever Moscow dictates is law to the P.K.I. The P.K.I., for instance, *a priori* fights Trotskyism and Titoism, because that is the standpoint of those in power in the Soviet Union.

The ACOMA Party has to fulfil the task of changing the bonapartist national bourgeois government for a people's government without capitalism, while in this free choice the ACOMA Party leads the revolutionary development not from the viewpoint of the capacities of the Soviet

Union, but from those of the mass of the Indonesian people. It acknowledges that the Indonesian revolution is part of the world revolution, but it wants it known that the Indonesian revolution is an important part of the world revolution.

Our way is to lead this revolution and to wrench the revolutionary leadership from the hands of the national bourgeoisie. Of course we must accept what is good in the political co-ordination between the workers' states and the national bourgeoisies having become the government, but this is insufficient to cause us to accept the bonapartist national bourgeoisie placing itself as a revolutionary leadership, because as long as the revolutionary leadership is in the hands of that bonapartist national bourgeoisie, our revolution will not develop quickly, and counter revolution cannot be liquidated.

The ACOMA Party stands on the side of the workers states in the struggle against the pressure and the attacks of capitalism and imperialism. In these matters the ACOMA Party goes together with the P.K.I. But meanwhile the ACOMA Party has a critical and objective point of view concerning the developments and internal contradictions of the workers' states. Here the ACOMA Party differs from the P.K.I.

The fundamental differences between both parties cannot, in fact, be overcome by fusing the two parties. From our point of view the national bourgeoisie, which cannot overcome the fundamental differences of their parties in one party, so that the national bourgeoisie is compelled to struggle in the organisation of several parties, has no right to force a liquidation or simplification of parties which touches the position and the role of the ACOMA Party as a communist party.

(From the October, 1950 thesis of the Partai Acoma.)

Theoretical Education

The Partai Acoma, Indonesian section of the Fourth International has published for the theoretical education of its members, and the revolutionary vanguard in general:

DIBAWAH PANJI: MARXISM ALIRAN
LENIN DAN TROTSKY.

One chapter of the booklet of 26 pages is dedicated to the "Fourth International".

BOLIVIA

Armed Victory of the Workers' Militias

(By our Bolivian correspondent)

In April 1958, in the mining centre of Huanuni a jeep was detained, in which was travelling the general secretary of the Miners' Trade Union of Catavi, Florentino Calustro, leader of the POR (Bolivian section of the Fourth International), and other miners' leaders. The men of the military command of the bourgeois nationalist movement in power, the MNR, of Huanuni, led by Celestino Gutiérrez, Right wing leader of the MNR and (bureaucratically imposed) general secretary of the Huanuni trade union movement, arrested Calustro and brought him to the headquarters of the military command.

There Gutiérrez said to Calustro: "Prepare yourself, we are going to hang you." The leader of Catavi answered him: "Well, within half-an-hour they will know it in Catavi, and so let's see who hangs whom..." Gutiérrez and his men then changed their minds and let their prisoner go.

On January 23, 1960, Celestino Gutiérrez was hanged on a tree in the centre of Huanuni, punished for his various crimes by the same workers of Huanuni, who had triumphed over the military command of the MNR. They won this victory thanks also to the aid of the militias of Catavi—Siglo XX, mining district in Bolivia.

The mining proletariat had obtained their greatest success since the victory of the revolution of April 1952.

THE TERRORISM OF THE MNR IN HUANUNI

Since the middle of 1957 the MNR government had established in Huanuni (the second biggest mine of Bolivia, after Catavi-Siglo XX) a centre of provocation against the workers' and miners' movement. This centre was based in the military command of the local MNR, with more than 400 government-paid soldiers, armed with the most modern arms, and which controlled the leadership of the miners' trade union of Huanuni by a terrorist dictatorship.

From Huanuni armed gangs were constantly sent against all the important workers' and miners' movements; they acted as strike breakers and came to the aid of the government in moments of struggle. They attacked, in June 1958, the Miners' Congress of Colquiri, killing and wounding various miners. In Huanuni they jailed the miner leader Antenor Miranda, who was later shot.

This situation could have continued for some years, as the central trade union bureaucracy, headed by Lechín, supported on the Right wing by Gutiérrez, on the Left wing by the Stalinists, made use of it in order to suppress the working class rank and file. They even concluded an open alliance in June 1959 at the Miners' Congress of Telamayu, in order to silence the workers and to prevent the formation of a new leadership, among whom were Trotskyist militants.

THE WORKERS' INSURRECTION

In December 1959 elections were held in the trade union of Huanuni. In spite of the terrorism of the Military Command, the opposition list

triumphed, with 1,900 against 900 votes. But the MNR Command continued its terror, and the MNR-chief Sinani even killed one worker. The miners went on strike, and expelled Sinani from Huanuni. But on January 22 the MNR returned to Huanuni, and, after an armed struggle reoccupied the trade union headquarters.

The next day, in the morning, the miners from the surrounding villages came to the aid of the fighting miners, but they did not have the means to defeat the modern arms of the MNR gang. When this became known in other mining districts, immediately a column of trucks with 500 militia armed with guns, dynamite and Molotov cocktails, coming from Catavi-Siglo XX, surrounded Huanuni. Their arrival inspired the workers and led to a complete uprising of all miners of Huanuni.

The MNR military command was defeated, Gutiérrez hanged, and Huanuni was placed under the control of the armed miners. A great victory had been obtained which will have a profound influence on the course of the Bolivian revolution.—*La Paz, January 28, 1960.*

UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON COMMITTEE OF AFRICAN ORGANISATIONS CONDEMNS FRENCH TEST

London, February 15th (Hsinhua)—The Committee of African Organisations in London in a statement today condemned the French Atomic Test in Sahara as an outrageous criminal act against the people of Africa. "It is an act of war against the continent of Africa to pollute her soil with the foul leprosy of radiation. Africa will never forget this hostile act by France," the committee said.

"General De Gaulle and his Government can count on nothing from us Africans but implacable hatred and contempt until we drive French Imperialism from our coasts", the committee declared.

BELGIUM

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ployers, of the supplementary benefits obtained thanks to this progress. The employers, not wanting to make new concessions, refused to take part; the trade unions' action was to demand it. The Christian (CSC) and Socialist (FGT) trade unions have nearly reached an agreement on the actual demands and the pressure of the militants of the ranks in favour of united action of the trade unions was very strong at the January congress of the CSC.

The Christian trade unions, nevertheless, did not support the strike of 29th January and their leaders declared that it was a political strike, directed against the Christian Social/Liberal coalition government.

The FGT with its 700,000 members then decided upon a general strike for a guaranteed weekly wage, double pay for holidays, an increase of unemployment relief, a minimum hour's wage of 25 Belgian francs on one side and against the closing of workshops and for the creation of 100,000 jobs on the other hand. Finally the strike was directed against a government plan which reduced the benefits of the health insurance.

The strike was a success, clearly much greater than expected by its organisers. Some of them, the Right wing trade union leaders, had planned to organise only a one-hour strike mainly in the Flemish regions, but eventually they accepted the slogan of a 24-hour strike.

Being complete in Liege and in the industrial centres of Hainaut, the strike affected 75 per cent. of the workers of Brussels and Antwerp and 50 per cent. in Ghent, where however the CSC dominates: The trains did not run in the provinces of Liege and Hainaut, and were irregular at other places. There were no street cars or buses in Liege, and only a few in Brussels and Antwerp.

DEMONSTRATIONS

In these last two cities two big demonstrations took place, processions of strikers, led by the leaders of the FGT, the SP and the CP. These two demonstrations showed quite clearly the high level of class consciousness of thousands of workers, whose militancy was shown by the breaking of the windowpanes of big shops in Brussels. There were serious fights with the police in Antwerp, of whom more than 10 were wounded.

If the success of this general strike has already given certain employers something to think about (increase of the lowest wages of the workers of F.N. at Herstal-lez-Liege, in several important factories in the food sector, etc.) the employers' organisations have nevertheless not yet agreed to open general negotiations. Therefore on February 6th the trade unionist Renard, speaking on the radio, clearly said that this strike was only a warning and would be followed

by further actions if the employers continued to refuse to meet the unions. There is no doubt that the Right wing of the FGT themselves, surprised by the success of their movement, will use the same language and perhaps even prepare new action.

The problems of the Belgian economy: large scale unemployment, insufficiently varied industrial production, enormous distribution problems and the heavy burden of the petty-bourgeoisie in this sector, are far from being solved. They are, on the contrary, exacerbated by the entry into the Common Market. Under the pressure of its Left wing the Socialist workers' movement (FGT and SP) has adopted an economic programme which is putting the correct solutions. The strike of 29th January, the aims of which were not principally structural reforms but immediate demands of a social character, will have contributed to the reinforcement of the tendencies, which are most decidedly in favour of a struggle for basic economic reforms.

Above all, the spectacular success of this general strike will have perceptibly increased throughout the country, the consciousness which the Belgian working class has of its strength and its cohesion. **The year 1960 has begun well for it.**

PHILIPPE VAN DAMME.

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE POR

At the end of January, the conference of the P.O.R., Brazilian section of the Fourth International, was held. On the agenda there were the following points:

- 1—International situation; reporter Cde Pedro
- 2—National situation, characterised by the instability of the national bourgeoisie, the crisis of Stalinism, the rapid growth and politicalisation of the trade unions, and the workers' search for an independent class policy; reporter Cde. Claudio
- 3—Resolution of the discussion between the Marxist groups, reporter Cde. Campos.
Transformation of the P.O.R. into a Revolutionary Marxist Party
- 4—Tactics for the construction of the Party; Reporter Cde. Rossi

From the discussions, the important progress of the Party, above all since August 1959 Conference became very clear. The Conference was closed with the slogan — **LONG LIVE THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL.**

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- (f) set up a common fund to provide help and assistance to refugees and African Freedom Fighters.
- (g) admit freedom fighters when wounded into their hospitals, and rehabilitate them.