

# Workers Want Militant Trade Union Body

(From our Johannesburg Correspondent)

At a meeting attended by officials of the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions and affiliated unions it was resolved fully to approve the creation of the provisional committee "charged with the task of organising a non-racial co-ordinating trade union centre."

Welcoming the new move "without reservations," the meeting declared:

"The existence of a democratic militant working class body is of the utmost necessity in these times of trade union crisis. The salvation of democratic trade unionism in this country lies solely in the unity of all workers, regardless of race or colour."

"The Government has unleashed a wave of repressive measures calculated to destroy the roots of democratic trade unionism in South Africa."

A further resolution condemning the "new apartheid-inspired co-ordinating body of trade unions," declared that the exist-

ence of the S.A. Trades Union Council was founded on the apartheid policy of the Nationalist Government.

## Metal Workers Back Non-Racial Council

Johannesburg.

Full support for the Preparatory Committee established to form a new non-racial co-ordinating council of trade unions has been pledged by the non-European Metal Workers' Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee was established in 1953 for the purpose of assisting in the organising of non-European workers in the engineering and motor industries. In a statement it welcomes the formation of a truly representative co-ordinating council "and is glad to note there will be no discrimination whatsoever against any trade union or trade unionists on the basis of colour, and hopes the shortcomings and mistakes of the dissolved Trades and Labour Council will be avoided."

# Congress of People Movement Active in Cape

CAPE TOWN.

"There is nothing treasonable or seditious about the Congress of the People, but the Government is frightened of it, and legal and peaceful gatherings are being interfered with by this fear-ridden Government," said Greenwood Ngoyana at the mass meeting called by the Cape Western Action Council of the Congress of the People on the Grand Parade here last Sunday afternoon.

There was loud applause when he added: "No matter what the Government does, it will never halt the march to freedom of the people. Today the time has come for everyone in South Africa to be free."

The meeting further protested against "the wicked plans of the Western powers to rearm Nazi Germany as part of their preparations for a third world war."

"We call on the Great Powers to get together and settle their differences by negotiation rather than war, and in particular to ban all weapons of mass destruction without delay," the resolution said.

Other speakers at the meeting were Mr. B. Turok of the Congress of Democrats, Mr. G. Peake of the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation and Mr. H. Gila of the A.N.C. There was also community singing led by the Sons and Daughters of Africa choir.

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## MEETING RAIDED

A meeting of Congress of the People volunteers and others held in the Mowbray Town Hall last Thursday evening was raided by the police, under the leadership of the chief of the Special Branch, Captain Rossouw. Some of the detectives appeared to be carrying arms in their hip pockets.

Producing a warrant, the police demanded the list of names of the volunteers. When the chairman said there was no list, the detectives took the names and addresses and places of work of all present.

Captain Rossouw then said he would remain until he was told who were volunteers. When an official left to get legal advice on whether the warrant authorised the demanding of this further information, the police left.

The meeting thereupon continued. A successful C.O.P. meeting was held at Blouville last week, and at Paarl a committee of ten was elected from a representative conference, to further the campaign of the Congress of the People.

# Prelude To Conversion Into Police State

## Protests on "Advance" Ban

JOHANNESBURG.

"The banning of Advance should be a warning to all individuals, groups and organisations of the dangerous situation confronting the country," the Jewish Democratic Association stated here last week.

"Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are two necessities without which the spiritual development of a people is impossible. The suppression of these freedoms is always a prelude to the conversion of a country into a police state," the statement continued.

"We Jews know too well from our own past and present what suppression and persecution mean."

The Jewish Democratic Association expressed the hope that the consciousness of the population will arise and that they would not allow such actions to be repeated in future.

"Has South Africa strayed so far from the ways of liberty that the suppression of a newspaper is accepted as a normal event?" asked Mr. Alex Hepple, M.P., Parliamentary leader of the Labour Party, commenting on the banning of Advance and expressing surprise that "this act of despotism has passed almost without comment."

"Let us realise that by remaining silent we condone this attack upon the freedom of the Press; to condone the banning of one newspaper is to concede the right of the Government to suppress all newspapers."

Declaring that Advance was no friend of the Labour Party, Mr. Hepple added: "If democracy means anything to us, we must reject the imposition of a political dictatorship and the suppression of unpopular views."

"I appeal to all those who desire to protect the freedom of the Press in South Africa to raise their voices and demand that the ban on Advance be lifted. The freedom of the Press is the life-blood of democracy. Let us not silently watch it being drained away."

In an editorial entitled "Freedom of the Press," the Labour newspaper Forward, declares: "When the suppression of Advance is tied up with recent reports about the Government's Commission of Inquiry into the Press, we see how grave a challenge the Nationalists are preparing. . . . It is all too obvious that the intention is to strip the Press of its freedom and restrict, by intimidation, its expression of opinion."

## C.O.D. PROTEST

Expressing their deep sense of dismay and loss at the banning of Advance, the Johannesburg Region of the S.A. Congress of Democrats declares:

"This malicious act perpetrated by that group of frightened men in the Government, is in keeping with their many other attempts to silence the voices of the liberation movement. But neither this act nor their repeated bannings, deportations, proscribing, etc., can still the heart of a people who are determined to stand up for their rights as human beings. Not all their attempts to herd people into ghettos, deprive them of the right to education, their right to skilled jobs, their right to freedom of movement and speech, can quench the spark that has been lit."

"In the name of justice and democracy, and for the sake of peace and harmony, we demand the lifting of the ban on the newspaper Advance," declares the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress in a statement which has been forwarded to the Minister of Justice.

## BLATANT

Protesting against this "blatant

attack" on the freedom of the Press, the statement adds:

"We have seen in this country the gradual whittling away of the last vestiges of democratic rights. One by one the juggernaut of Nationalist tyranny has removed the existing rights of the people. People are arbitrarily banned from organisations; people are banned from gatherings, they are apparently even banned from having a cup of tea with their friends. Now, for the second time, a newspaper is banned without so much as a warning."

## PROTEST FROM PORT ELIZABETH

"The toiling masses of South Africa have suffered a great injustice in the banning of Advance," writes T. T. Tshume, well-known African leader in Port Elizabeth.

"The Minister's intention is to ban all the people of South Africa from speaking freely, and the working class of South Africa calls upon all peace-loving citizens to halt this injustice and restore the freedom of the Press."

In an editorial entitled "A Silent Ban," the Rand Daily Mail warns the public that there is a "most important principle" involved, even though they may not like the views expressed by Advance.

The newspaper Torch, in an editorial, "protests most vigorously against this assault upon the freedom of the Press, demands the immediate and unconditional revoking of the ban, and joins its voice with those throughout the country who make the same protest and demand."

# GROUP AREA RACE MADNESS IN CAPE

CAPE TOWN.

The destructive effect of the Group Areas Act on race relations and family life in South Africa was once more demonstrated at the 34th meeting of the Western Cape Committee of the Land Tenure Advisory Board here last week.

A Malay had to apply for permission for his daughter to live in a house owned by him, which had been previously occupied by an Indian.

The owner of a house in Malmesbury had to apply for permission to sell it to her mother and brother. She was accepted socially as white, and in terms of the Group Areas Act would be regarded legally as white, while her mother and brother were Coloured.

An Indian shoemaker had to apply for a temporary permit to live and work in a hut which had been left him by a white man, and which was in a white area. When the chairman of the committee was told that the owner had been unaware that he was contravening the Group Areas Act, he said:

## WELL PUBLICISED

"The owner cannot possibly say he did not know about the law. If



Mr. Walter Sisulu, banned Secretary-General of the African National Congress, had a ready sale when he took out a bundle of the latest issue of New Age in the streets of Johannesburg last week.

# Leaders Back "New Age"

(Continued from page 1)

"We must be grateful that there are still those who courageously keep alive the tradition of a free press."

• The Transvaal Indian Youth Congress declared that the banning of Advance was a "most important principle" involved, even though they may not like the views expressed by Advance.

The newspaper Torch, in an editorial, "protests most vigorously against this assault upon the freedom of the Press, demands the immediate and unconditional revoking of the ban, and joins its voice with those throughout the country who make the same protest and demand."

# Youth in Chains

CAPE TOWN.

Coloured youths between the ages of 18 and 21 would be sent to the new farm jail at Goudini near Worcester, it has been reported here by the Nationalist Press.

This jail, which was built by 80 local farmers, was opened by the Minister of Justice, Mr. C. R. Swart, on Saturday at a ceremony attended by a number of ministers of religion, the Speaker of the House, and about 100 farmers and their wives. After the opening, the guests were entertained to lunch.

The Minister attended similar festivities the previous day when he opened the new farm jail at Simonium, near Paarl.

In a long defence of the farm jail system, Mr. Swart revealed that in the past year, 53,000 convicts had been hired out at 9d. a day from jails other than farm jails.

There were 16 farm jails in South Africa, said Mr. Swart, with 4,500 convicts. The farm jail system was a wonderful system since it helped to solve the big problem of what to do with the convicts in prison.

Also, the farmers who needed labourers, and the State which would otherwise have to build the prisons, helped each other.

# Enters "Free" World—Banned

(From our Johannesburg Correspondent.)

Within a few weeks of her return to South Africa from a tour of China and the Soviet Union, Miss Ruth First, the well-known progressive journalist, was served with banning notices forbidding her attendance at gatherings and participation in the work of a number of progressive organisations.

A member of the executive of the S.A. Peace Council and an active member of the Congress of Democrats, Miss First was noted for a series of vigorous press exposures of conditions at Bethal, the operations of the pass laws and other disgraceful features of colour bar society.

Also banned recently was Mr. Lewis Baker, a Benoni lawyer and courageous defender of democratic rights.

The National Executive Committee of the Congress of Democrats has issued a vigorous protest at the banning of Mr. Baker and Mr. Thorne, member of the Cape Town committee of the C.O.D.

# A FAIR DEAL

You are again reading New Age with only four small pages. This is not because there is too little news of interest to freedom-loving South Africans. We could fill the paper three times over, we could become a real voice for the millions who have no other medium of expression from end to end of this land. Help us do this. The need for finance is critically urgent. New Age has been forced to start from scratch without a penny behind it, and the struggle ahead will be hard and sore, we know. Readers, we were convinced that your great cause demanded the appearance of a free paper. That was our pledge to you. Your pledge to us must be to see the paper through, enable us to print more pages. Is that a fair deal? Remember to-day to support NEW AGE.

R. K. Cope.

# MORE BANS ON RAY ALEXANDER

CAPE TOWN.

Miss Ray Alexander, banned from the Food and Canning Workers' Union about a year ago, has now been banned also from the Federation of South African Women, of which she is secretary.

In a circular letter to all regional branches, Miss Alexander states that it is clear that the Minister of Justice wants to deprive her of an opportunity to take part in the struggle for freedom and justice.

"I know, however, that there will be others to carry on the cause," she states in the letter.

"The needs of women are so great that there will always be those like you who will find time amongst all the duties of mother and wife for the emancipation of our womenfolk and our people. I ask you to give even more of your time to our great cause, which can do so much to save South Africa from racial hatred and bitter strife."

# NO TEARS FOR MALAN

CAPE TOWN.

Die Kaapse Maleierbond has written a letter to Dr. Malan, expressing its shock at his resignation and wishing him health and happiness for the future.

The letter, signed by I. Berhardien, secretary, said:

"Just as so many other South Africans from all racial groups, also we learned with the years to leave our political and cultural destiny without worry in your hands. We were at ease, because we knew that you were leading, and that your lead did not exclude also our little group."

Condemning this fawning letter to Malan, Mr. M. A. Gierdien, chairman of the Azaviva Study Group, told New Age that the Maleierbond could be called a one-man organisation — it had hardly any membership to speak of.

"Mr. Berhardien has no influence with the people as he was one of the Harris deputation to Havenga and Donges, who betrayed the people on the Coloured vote question," said Mr. Gierdien. "The Malay community dissociates itself from the letter."

So far this "organisation" appears to be the only Non-European one to shed a tear at Malan's imminent departure.

# World Opinion Aroused Against Nat. Tyranny in S.A.

CAPE TOWN.

The last ten days have seen a sharp increase in international condemnation of South Africa. The U.N.O. Commission of Inquiry has once more warned that apartheid is a menace to the internal peace as well as to foreign relations of South Africa. High Church dignitaries in England have attacked particularly the Bantu Education Act, and American papers have marked the resignation of Dr. Malan with scathing comments on the Prime Minister and his policy.

The U.N. commission declared that many South African laws were incompatible with the human rights obligations of the United Nations Charter.

The commission singled out Dr. H. F. Verwoerd for special attack, recalling his notorious statement that if economic integration existed because Natives were employed in industry and on the farm, then "asses, oxen and tractors used by the farmers are also integrated into the economy, but they, too, are indispensable."

"Such words, which reduce human labour to the level of beasts of burden, are utterly revolting. Statements of this kind undoubtedly create trouble and tension," said the Commission.

## CHURCH STATEMENT

The British Council of Churches, meeting in conference in London last week, unanimously denounced the Malan Government's policy, as expressed in the Native Resettlement Act and the Bantu Education Act as an "offence not only against

In an editorial entitled "Fettering the Churches," the Manchester Guardian condemns the Native Affairs Department's recent circular, threatening mission churches which do not toe the line with eviction.

"South Africa is not yet a totalitarian country," said the Manchester Guardian. "But this year, with the Bantu Education Act, the Native Resettlement Act and now this circular, it has taken firm strides in that direction."

The new regulations governing the leasing of land by churches in African locations were also attacked by the Methodist Church in London last week.

The regulations were un-Christian, and irresponsible, a travesty of justice and an affront to the Gospel, said the Methodists of London.

## MOST HATED MAN

"The most hated man in Africa stepped down from his pedestal last week," said the U.S. magazine Time of October 25. This issue was held back for submission to the S.A. Board of Censors.

Calling Malan "the boer Moses," Time said:

In Malan's New Jerusalem, 8,000,000 Negroes mine the gold, herd the cattle, empty the garbage cans and dig the graves for 2,500,000 whites. Though the Negroes work, they may not vote; though they pay taxes, there are few schools for their children. They may live only in freedom of movement without any appeal to court, or even to Parliament," he said.

# DOCK STRIKERS' VICTORY

LONDON.

Through unity and determination to see their cause through to the end, the 50,000 British dockers who have been on strike for the last month have won a smashing victory.

Central issue in the strike, the biggest since 1926, was the men's protest against compulsory overtime, which meant longer hours, more intense exploitation of the men and injury to their health.

The strike, which was started by the 7,000-strong National Amalgamated Stevedoring and Dockers' Union, was denounced by the official Transport and General Workers' Union, but solidly supported by the latter's docker members. So far did official hostility towards the strikers go that the Executive Council of the Trade Union Congress suspended the National Amalgamated Stevedoring and Dockers' Union during the strike for alleged "poaching" of members of Mr. Deakin's union.

## NO SCABS

Nevertheless the men stood firm against both the employers and union officialdom, and such was their militancy that even the Government was unable to use its traditional strike-breaking tactic of sending troops to unload the ships for fear of the strike spreading to other sections of industry.

The men have gone back to work on the understanding that overtime will be voluntary while the other issues in the dispute are settled by negotiation. But after losing millions of pounds of export orders, the employers will think twice before trying to make overtime compulsory again.

# Natal Midlands Form C.O.P.

DURBAN.

The Midland Regional Committee of the Congress of the People was recently inaugurated at a meeting of the Pietermaritzburg branches of the African National Congress and the Natal Indian Congress.

A committee meeting was held last Wednesday and a plan of work drawn up.

# SWART BAN CANNOT DEFEAT WARDEN IN CAPE ELECTION

CAPE TOWN.

"Swart's banning order will not stop my election campaign, and cannot prevent me from taking my seat in Parliament if I am elected," said Mr. Len Warden, candidate of the Cape Western Vigilance Associations and Advisory Boards and also of the Congress of Democrats, in an interview with New Age.

Mr. Warden was served last Friday with a notice issued by the Minister of Justice under the Suppression of Communism Act, prohibiting him for a period of two years from attending any gathering in any part of the Union or South-West Africa.

"I have never been a member of the Communist Party," said Mr. Warden, "and I am not named. Therefore, despite this banning order, the Minister cannot prevent me from being elected, and once I am in the House, cannot expel me as he expelled Kahn, Bunting, Carneson and Ray Alexander."

"I will not be able to speak at public meetings, but I can certainly speak in Parliament, and I can assure the African people that I shall have a lot to say to the Minister of Justice when I get there."

"The Nationalists claimed they wanted the fascist powers of the Suppression of Communism Act in order to deal with the 'Communists' in South Africa. But they are using the Act against everybody, whether or no they belonged to the Communist Party."

## CARRY ON FIGHT

"The leaders of the African National Congress have been banned under this Act. Now I have been banned. Clearly, the Minister will ban anybody who fights against apartheid and stands for equal rights for all."

"Let me give Swart the assurance — and I am sure this goes for my African friends as well — that we will carry on the fight despite all

his banning orders until victory is ours and we have a decent South Africa to live in, without colour bars."

## AFRICAN PROTEST

"By banning Mr. Warden, the Minister of Justice perhaps hopes to see the Liberal candidate elected to Parliament," said Mr. Greenwood Ngoyana, secretary of the Cape Western Vigilance Associations and Advisory Boards, in an interview with New Age.

"Let me tell Mr. Swart he has made a big mistake. Now the African voters can see clearly that a vote for Gibson is a vote for Swart's man."

"The Liberals always talk big about standing for freedom and equality. But not even Swart believes their talk, otherwise Mr. Gibson would also have been banned."

"African voters, do not allow yourselves to be misled. Isolate and drive out of your ranks those who would sell you to the Liberals and to Swart. Stand firm and fight back against the Nationalist Government. Send to Parliament the man Swart doesn't want because he speaks for you."

Mr. Ngoyana said the African people were not taken in by the Liberal Party calling themselves the "Freedom" Party in Xosa.

"The word 'liberal' does not mean freedom," said Mr. Ngoyana, "and since the Liberal Party have clearly shown that they do not stand for freedom for all, they are misleading the voters by calling themselves the 'Freedom' Party."

## NEW AGE LETTERBOX

### SEVERE SHOCK

I received a severe shock at the banning of Advance, a paper that has been expressing the true living interests of all the oppressed peoples of South Africa.

I therefore now welcome New Age saying: "Forward New Age to the people's freedom in the hope that you will help bring this about in our lifetime!"

S. Z. XAMLASHE.  
Sigcawu Avenue, Langa.

### Democracy Forever

Welcome to New Age! We are with you. Democracy will never die.

C. D. MODI.  
Vrededorp.

### FUTURE IS OURS

The future belongs to the oppressed people.

Certainly, by banning Advance Mr. Swart showed that he is afraid of the people. Swart bans all our leaders because he is afraid of those heroes.

We welcome New Age in our struggle for freedom.

R. M. MOTSHENG.  
Elsie's River.

### FRIENDS OF PEACE

I am the organiser of a pen-friend club in England for young people who believe first and foremost in a lasting peace and friendship between young people in every part of the world no matter what their race, religion or political beliefs.

I and all the members of this club are deeply distressed when we read of the many sad things which have been happening in your country during the past year. We believe all the foreign interests who overrun your country should be removed and that you should govern yourselves.

I look forward to hearing from some young people who would like to correspond with their counterparts in Britain.

(Miss) ELIZABETH FROOD.  
36 South Drive, Victoria Park,  
Liverpool 15.

### THANK YOU MARK!

I am 12 years old and get 12s. per month pocket money. Hearing that your first edition was coming out soon, and remembering that your illfated predecessor, Advance, was always short of money, I decided to do my small bit towards seeing that the new peoples newspaper should not have the same difficulty. To that end I am enclosing 10s. out of this month's pocket money.

We were all very sad when we heard of the banning of Advance and angry to, at the Nat Government and its fascist laws. We must fight against this menace.

MARK WEINBERG.  
Gardens, Johannesburg.

### REFORM THROUGH PARLIAMENT

I hasten to congratulate you for launching New Age. I was a reader of the "New Age," published in London from 1921 and if you are going to conduct your paper on the same lines I shall be happy to support you. I suggest a frame of reference as follows:

Legislation through Parliament to achieve the highest standard of living and security for all the citizens without loss of freedom;

To bring the benefits of scientific progress, knowledge, leisure and self-expression within the reach of all;

To prevent any form of dictatorship, loss of personal or national rights or unnecessary poverty or suffering.

To establish industrial, commercial, farming and social conditions which will stimulate by inducement all sections of the citizens to serve the common weal.

This could be called "Democracy in Action" expressed as follows: The best possible results obtainable from the management of our national affairs.

J ROBERTSON.  
Cape Town.

## 37th Anniversary of the Soviet Union PUBLIC MEETING AND CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7th at 2 p.m.

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### DEATH

PHILLIPS, Patience Senka, aged 28, passed away on October 24, 1954, at Bensonvale, Herschel District. Deeply mourned by her family.

## WORLD STAGE by SPECTATOR

# NATIONS WISH TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE

### CHINA

The biggest crowd ever to have gathered at Peking airport assembled to welcome Pandit Nehru, Indian Premier, on his arrival from Hankow last week. The two miles of streets from the airport to the city were lined with tens of thousands of enthusiastic citizens, including members of the small Indian community. Chinese Premier Chou en Lai, Madame Sun Yat Sen and Cabinet Ministers were at the airport to receive Mr. Nehru.

Addressing the crowd, Mr. Nehru said: "It is my hope that as a result of my visit our relations will be strengthened and our two countries will help to establish peace. In the present-day world there is need for peace, and it should be our effort to strengthen peace through our co-operation and friendship."

To the extent that India and China developed friendly relations, to that extent they would affect "not only ourselves but the whole of Asia and the rest of the world," he said, adding: "I have been in this country for one day, but the warmth of friendliness shown me in Canton and Hankow touched me."

In the afternoon Nehru spent an hour and a half with President Mao Tse-tung. Then he went to a cocktail party held by Mr. Chou En-lai, where he met the Dalai and Panchen Lamas of Tibet. The Dalai, alleged by the West to have been forced to co-operate with the Chinese Government, joked and laughed with Nehru, who said: "I saw you as a boy. You have grown very tall."

Two nights later, at a banquet given by the Indian Ambassador, Mao Tse-tung arrived unexpectedly — it is most unusual for him to attend functions of this sort. As the wives of Indian Embassy officials served him with food, Mao repeatedly toasted Nehru and enthusiastically joined in Nehru's toast for the extension of the principles of co-existence as practised by India, China and Burma to all the countries of the world.

### VIET NAM

On the way to China, Premier Nehru had stopped at Hanoi, newly freed capital of Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, where he had talks with President Ho Chi Minh. A communique issued at the end of the talks said that President Ho had expressed his hope for a peaceful solution of the remaining problems of Indo-China, so that all peoples in Indo-China "may live in independence and prosperity without any external interference."

President Ho also pledged full co-operation with the International Commission which, under Indian chairmanship, is supervising the Indo-China armistice agreement. Up to the present the Commission has been greatly impressed with the spirit of calm and order which has descended on Hanoi since the arrival of the Viet Minh. Once a centre of vice and crime, Hanoi today enjoys peace and security. The pimps, prostitutes, cosh boys and their financiers have mostly fled to the south, where they are among what Press handouts describe as "democratic refugees from Communist totalitarianism."

In a statement on his arrival in Hanoi, President Ho called for unity between all sections of the population. "Our regime is a democratic one," he said. "The people are the masters and the Government is the servant. Your duty is to criticise the Government and help us correct mistakes. We count on you to help us accomplish our tasks."

These were, he said, to "build up our capital, Hanoi, defend peace, establish unity, and defend independence and democracy."

Meanwhile, in the south, the various political, religious and military factions are still quarrelling among themselves, and informed political observers see no chance of a stable government emerging. Saigon, according to an article by Lois Mitchison in the Manchester Guardian, has a prospect of only "six months of non-Communist independence."

### THE UNITED STATES

The new pattern of Western power politics was exemplified in the statement issued in Washington last week by President Eisenhower and West German Chancellor Adenauer unconditionally rejecting the latest Soviet call for four-power talks on Germany.

The Soviet Union had the previous week-end submitted notes to the Western powers proposing talks between Britain, France the Soviet Union and the United States on free all-German elections, the withdrawal of occupation troops from East and West Germany and for European collective security in which a united but disarmed Germany would play a part.

The Eisenhower-Adenauer statement was issued without reference to either Britain or France, and has aroused a great deal of resentment in Europe.

In Britain, top-level talks with the Soviet Union at once for peaceful co-existence have been urged by Mr. Ness Edwards, M.P., recently in the Soviet Union with the British Parliamentary delegation.

"I am convinced, having talked with the top men in Russia," he said, "that the time is ripe for top-level talks, and that the Russians are preparing to get down and settle for long-term commitments for peaceful co-existence."

"The time has come to act before an accident sets off the guns. Nobody wants war, but the military men are far too vocal and the statesmen far too silent."

### WEST GERMANY

Excited by the London agreement to rearm West Germany, the former Nazis decided the time is ripe for a celebration. Six great rallies of Hitler's soldiers have been planned in West Germany to be held within a period of ten days.

The Stahlhelm, led by war criminal Kesselring, planned a huge rally in West Berlin. The S.S. announced an "international rally" in Goettingen. Former members of the 22nd Reserve Corps were to meet in Charlottenberg, also in West Berlin. The 120th Grenadiers Motorised Division ex-soldiers were gathering in Essen. The 291st Infantry Division was to have a reunion at Hamburg. The former members of the crew of the Battleship Tirpitz were to meet in Dortmund.

All these rallies were announced in the Deutsche Soldatenzeitung, the paper of the Nazi ex-soldiers, which also printed in the same issue a report of a meeting of the "Elite" Hermann Goering Parachute Tank Division held in a beer cellar near Hanover.

There are now in Germany 30,000 members of an association of former Nazis "whose honour was insulted or who suffered economic damage" through internment or denazification.

Of the 150,000 West Germans who have already volunteered for service in the new army, 50 per

cent were professional soldiers of Hitler's army, ready to "have a go again."

### ATOM WARFARE

Two top Western military leaders spoke on atom warfare last week.

The first was Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery, lecturing on the subject: "A Look Through a Window at World War Three." The West would use thermo-nuclear weapons from the very beginning of the next war, he said. "We have reached the point of no return regarding the use of atomic weapons in war."

Although he said "a hot war would be mutual suicide for both sides," he added he was satisfied the West would win such a war.

The second was U.S. Supreme Commander in Europe, General Gruenther, who told a lunch party at the Mansion House in London that the Atlantic Pact "would use atomic weapons" in a future war. But he added: "We regret very seriously that we should be parties to an atomic war."

### COVENTRY-STALINGRAD

The Lord Mayor of Coventry, Alderman John Fennel, with five other Council members, left by air last week for a three-week tour of the Soviet Union. They were invited by the Mayor of Stalingrad in response to Coventry's request that both cities should discuss ways of combatting the H-bomb threat.

"Our primary object is to get a joint statement with Stalingrad ourselves on the agenda of the United Nations conference for outlawing atom and hydrogen bombs," said Alderman Fennel.

An old Labour Party member, Councillor Arthur James Waugh, said: "We intend to start a new chain reaction with the Russians and launch total peace fare."

### PAKISTAN

Mr. Mohammed Ali, Prime Minister of Pakistan, returned suddenly to Karachi from his United States visit to deal with another political crisis which had broken out in his absence. After reshuffling his Cabinet and denouncing the members of the Assembly as "meddlers," he banned all meetings of more than five persons and clamped down a gag on the Press.

Shortly afterwards, the United States announced it would grant him aid to the tune of £37 million, and promised to speed shipments of arms.

### ON THE CULTURAL FRONT

The British Broadcasting Corporation has invited the Soviet composer Aram Khachaturian to conduct a studio concert with the London Symphony Orchestra on Sunday, November 7—the anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

British poet and anti-Communist, Stephen Spender, touring Australia under the auspices of the Committee for Cultural Freedom, was given a hot reception at a Melbourne dinner staged by local writers. He had been handed a 12-verse poem of "welcome" satirising his early life and experiences during the Spanish civil war. When he rose to speak he was subjected to vigorous heckling. Nervous and agitated, he spoke for only 15 minutes, then declared he could not go on. He said afterwards: "I am conscious of criticism and what they feel about me."

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