

MASS RETURN TO U.S.S.R.

Argentine Authorities "Uneasy"

RIO DE JANEIRO.—One of the most remarkable South American developments of recent times is a mass "return of the exiles" which is now taking place.

Over three thousand Russian emigres, most of whom have been living in the Argentine and neighbouring countries for decades, have packed up and returned to the Soviet Union in recent months.

A packed Argentine liner, chartered by the Soviet Union, left here last week bound for Odessa. It carried over 1,000 people, many of them Argentine citizens of long standing, returning to a homeland which they know they will find changed almost beyond recognition.

A substantial proportion are Jews who fled before the pre-revolutionary pogroms.

The people returning are not misfits who have been unable to make a livelihood in Argentina. Many of them are fairly prosperous and there is a fair sprinkling of professional people. This fact has alarmed the Argentine authorities who have issued a statement saying they are "uneasy about the continued departures for Russia of people who are useful to Argentina."

He Wouldn't Give A Dime For South Africa

NEW YORK.

An American business man said he would not invest "a dime" in South Africa because of its racial and monopolistic policies, according to a report in the New York Times recently.

Walter Kreiger, president of the Chicago Tool and Die Institute, expressed his opinion just before returning to the United States. He represented some 500 United States businessmen on a fact finding tour to judge investment prospects in South Africa.

"I wouldn't invest a dime in your country in its present circumstances," he said.

He added that South Africa had lost "millions of dollars" in potential American investments because of its policies of racial separation and monopolies. "People should be as one, not fighting one another," he said.

ICELAND HAS POPULAR FRONT CABINET

REJKJAVIK.

ICELAND HAS A POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENT WITH COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE CABINET.

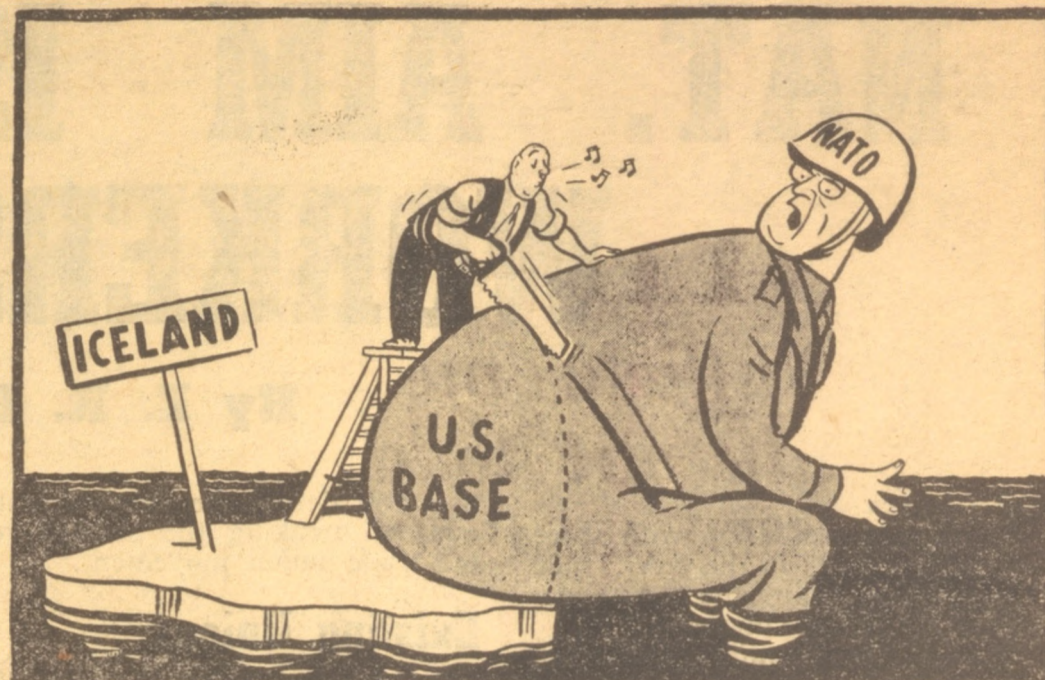
The new Prime Minister of the Althing, Europe's oldest parliament, Mr. Herman Jonasson, announced last week that he will draw his ministers from the People's Front (an alliance of Communists and left Socialists), the Farmers (or Progressive) Party and the Social Democrats.

The Premier is himself the leader of the Farmers' Party.

For the first time since May 1947, when the French Premier succumbed to U.S. pressure and excluded the Communist Party from his Cabinet, Western Europe again has a country in which Communists and Social-Democrats are co-operating.

The new government is pledged to carry out the decisions of the parliament and the electorate to secure the speedy withdrawal of American forces from the country.

The six-man Cabinet is equally divided among the Front, the Farmers' and the Social-Democrats. With the backing of 31 M.P.s it has a decisive majority over the right-wing Independent Party which was



THE UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL

the former government but which was able to hold only 19 seats in the last election.

ISRAEL is to receive about 19 million dollars worth of crude oil from the Soviet Union during the next two years, the Israel Finance Ministry has announced. The USSR will receive oranges in exchange. The Israelis are also hoping to purchase oil-drilling equipment which will be set up by Soviet technicians, who will then train Israelis to operate it.

JUST LIKE HERE!

VALPARAISO.

Acting in terms of its Anti-Communist Law the Government of Chile has refused to permit Dr. Jaime Barros to take his seat in parliament following his defeat of the Government candidate in the Valparaiso district in the recent elections.

Valparaiso is Chile's main port and one of the world's great harbours, and Dr. Barros had the overwhelming support of the dock-workers.

The reason for the expulsion was that in his election address he had "expressed opinions which were clearly Communistic," and that as a member of the Partisans for Peace he had attended several world peace conferences.

"I wonder how it is that we could have been so patient and understanding of the long, long night—and then have no patience with the sunrise."

HOWARD FAST ON RUSSIA

I AM not old, and flashes of my memory can recall my second and third year of life; and I mention this only to relate the existence of a nation and a society and, indeed, a world to the span of one individual's memory.

I speak of the Soviet Union and of the mighty enclave of nations of which it is a part, but particularly of the Soviet Union; and perhaps it is necessary to do so in these very terms every so often, for it is easy to forget.

* * *

Across the soil of France and Belgium there was a gashed network of dug trenches, torn earth and blasted trees—where a million gallons of blood had been poured out in a filthy and monstrous war.

The stink of death and hopelessness permeated the air of the world, and the hopelessness was greatest where the untold millions of colonial people lived.

In Russia itself hunger and disease marched hand in hand with hopelessness, and the whole broad land was such a pit of sorrow and suffering as had hardly been known on this earth before. Millions of illiterate peasants walked barefoot and in rags; they watched their children die of starvation; and without medicine or doctors or hospitals; they died with their children of dread diseases that are only names today, of typhus and malaria and smallpox and typhoid and pneumonia and consumption and diphtheria.

In the same hellish comradeship the working class of Russia worked 12 and 14 hours a day, coughed out their lungs in dank and rotten factories and listened to the hunger wail from their own children. In the trenches and prison camps workers and peasants died in other ways, died of brutality and cold, of misleadership and barbarism. They faced German machine guns when their own guns would misfire, German tanks when they had no tanks, German planes when they had no planes.

And within all this was the darkness of feudal thought, of superstition and ignorance, of the primitive, the brutal, the desperate.

This was Russia in 1917—this was the dark and terrible land where a handful of the wealthy ruled the millions of poor and sorrowful; and this was the land that stood up in October of that year and burst its chains asunder and cried out for all the heavens to hear that it was free and would never be enslaved again.

* * *

Thus there came into being, out of blood and misery and darkness, the beginnings of the brotherhood of man. So it will be recorded, make no mistake, in the histories of the 10,000 unborn generations; and in that still undreamed of time, when all the stars and the edge of the universe itself will know the wisdom and majesty of mankind, they will still look back upon what happened then as the beginning of the end of the darkness.

I don't know whether it is our good fortune or misfortune to be living our brief lives at this particular moment. Life is a precious gift, and once made to us we must perforce accept it and use it as best we can.

We can properly complain that we sit in the midst of mankind's most turbulent explosion and thereby lose much from the smoke and thunder and fury, but I think we have a great advantage over those millions of men and women, each of them with the same spark of divinity we carry, who never saw the future, not even the thin edge of the rising sun.

We are a generation like Moses, a generation that moves, acts, struggles and is rewarded by only a glimpse of the answer; and we are similarly obligated to understand. We have unfettered reason, science and logic, a higher mountain top than Nebo—and perhaps a greater vision too.

And since, all other things aside, we are properly a generation of human beings, we are a generation that exercises petulance as only human beings can. We have waited all the years of man for justice, and yet tomorrow is not soon enough; not soon enough for utopia either—not even soon enough for old wounds to heal.

* * *

The other night I sat until late reading Nikita Khrushchev's report to the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet

Union. It's the story of proud and happy people who have done away with hunger, wretchedness and disease. It's the story of shining railroads built, of mighty grids of electrical power, of vast industries, of new roads and new cities, of great fleets of airplanes, of tractors and penicillin and hospitals, of schools and universities, of rippling wheat-fields and herds of cattle—but most of all, of millions of human minds set free, of the right, the holy right, of man to knowledge.

It is also the record of mistakes, large and small, of dead-end roads, of wrong turnings and unhappy waystops. It is a record of the old mixed with the new, of saints and villains, of good men and bad men, of the weak and the strong—indeed of all the strange, incredible mixture that comprises mankind in its march forward toward the future.

It says, not in so many words but by its total implication, that you do not easily remake a world. Human progress is not a picnic but a fact, and men will be like gods, but not all at once. It takes time and it takes doing, and the true wonder of the miracle is that it is done by men and women like you and me.

I wonder how it is that we could have been so patient and understanding of the long, long night—and then have so little patience with the sunrise. Perhaps we have lost sight of something basic—so well put by Lincoln Steffens when he said: "I have seen the future, and it works."

Flare-up in Nigeria

ENUGU.

A veto by the British Government on the investment by the East Nigerian Government of its money in a Nigerian Bank in preference to a British one has led to a flare-up here.

The East Nigerian Government is determined to stamp out the British banking monopoly and will not take dictation from the Colonial Office, declared the Premier, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe last week.

Rather than submit to dictatorship he and all his ministers were ready to resign, the Premier said.

His statement resulted in mass demonstrations urging the Cabinet not to resign and calling for the removal of the Governor.

Gone Home For Lunch

BONN.

The U.S. "International Rescue Committee" here reported last week that a two-month study in Western Europe revealed that over the past year an average of one hundred people who had left the People's Democracies as "refugees" were going back each month. Among the reasons given was "failure to make a living in the West."

Complained General William Donovan, chief of the U.S. Office of Strategic Service which runs the Committee: "Each return is not only propaganda value to the Communists, but also has an unsettling effect among the refugees."

TRADE UNIONS AND THE I.C. ACT

NAT. AIM IS TO SMASH WORKERS' UNITY

By E. R. BRAVERMAN

THE new I.C. Act was drawn up in consultation with some of the big shots in the S.A. Trade Union Council and the S.A. Federation of Trade Unions.

George McCormick, Chairman of the S.A. Federation of Trade Unions and a member of the Ministerial Committee, said to the "Unity Conference" held in Cape Town in May 1954:—

"We accepted the responsibility to assist the Minister in drafting the Bill. The Minister could be excused for thinking that the representatives on the Ministerial Committee expressed the views of their organisations. We made it clear that we were against certain clauses, including Section 77 of the Bill. It could be interpreted that we were in agreement with the rest."

Mr. T. C. Rutherford, President of the S.A. Trade Union Council, had rather a different story to tell when giving evidence to the Select Committee on the Bill on March 8, 1955 (see Page 214 of minutes of evidence taken before Select Committee):

"Clause 77 was inserted in the Bill as a result of a memorandum sent in at the time by our Co-ordinating body of Trade Unions. That Co-ordinating body represented inter alia, the S.A. Federation of Trade Unions and the South African Trades and Labour Council. I was the Chairman."

Whatever the truth may be, it is clear that the Act is a joint product of the Nationalist Party and the right-wing leaders of the Trade Union movement—the same combination that produced the first I.C. Act with its discrimination against the African workers.

Against Majority

The official policy of the SATLC had always been to oppose the discrimination against the Africans. At the big "Unity" Conference in May 1954, the overwhelming majority of delegates repudiated apartheid and demanded that the leadership embark upon a vigorous campaign for the rejection of the I.C. Bill.

It can be said, therefore, that the Act has been imposed by the Nationalists and the right-wing leaders against the wishes of the great majority of organised workers exclusive of the white miners.

Further evidence of this can be found in the report of the Botha Commission on industrial laws 1951. Although strongly biased in favour of complete segregation, the Commission had to admit that it found almost no support in the trade unions for racial separation.

To understand this opposition to apartheid we must examine the provisions of the I.C. Act and its consequences. This means that we must discuss rules and requirements drawn up in the usual complicated legal language. Nevertheless, every trade unionist must try to understand what this law lays down. For only by understanding can we hope to work out a policy

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that will defeat the Government's aim of breaking the strength of the trade union movement.

Existing Unions

I must repeat that the Act will not come into force until a specified date has been fixed and gazetted. According to Mr. Hannah, the Secretary for Labour, this will be done early in 1957.

Thereafter existing unions will have 12 months in which to make up their minds about the future.

All trade unions and industrial councils registered under the old I.C. Act will automatically be registered under the new Act. If the union's constitution is open to Coloured, Indian and European workers it must in terms of Section 8 be amended within the 12 months to provide:—

1. Separate branches for White and Coloured or Indian workers.
2. Separate meetings for each branch.
3. An executive committee to consist of White members only.

Note, these provisions must be put into the constitution even if the union in fact consists only of White workers or Indian and Coloured workers.

The Crime of Unity

The most advanced and democratic members of the working class have tried hard to overcome the divisions created by prejudice based on national, religious or racial differences everywhere. "Workers of the World Unite" has been the goal of the movement in all countries since the formation of the first Workers' International in 1864.

For the first time in history, this has been made a crime. It will stand to the eternal discredit of the Nationalist Government that in the year 1956 it passed a law making it a crime for workers of different races to come together in one room or hall to discuss matters of common interest to them all.

Section 8 provides that after the 12 months are up no Non-European worker will be allowed to attend a branch of White members, and no White worker will be allowed to attend a branch of Non-European members.

Further, no Non-European worker will be allowed to attend or take part in a meeting of the executive committee of a mixed union except to answer a complaint against him.

The penalty for breaking this law is £100 fine or 12 months in jail, or both fine and imprisonment.

Can A Union Refuse?

What happens if a union refuses to introduce apartheid into its constitution? The Registrar is given the right under section 2(4) to call upon the union to amend its constitution; if the union refuses it commits an offence in terms of Section 15. The officials, members of the executive committee who are responsible in law, will be liable under Section 82(b) to a maximum fine of £100 or 12 months imprisonment or both.

It is clear, if the executive is prepared to undergo this punishment, the same punishment can

be imposed upon every succeeding executive as long as the constitution remains unamended. And as we have seen, members of the union who attend branch or committee meetings from which they are debarred make themselves liable to the same penalty.

It should be noted that even if the Union has only Coloured or Indian members, the executive committee commits an offence merely by refusing to put an apartheid clause into its constitution.

Exemption

Some trade unions have already applied or decided to apply for exemption under section 8(3)(b) even though the Act is not yet in force!

This section allows the Minister to exempt a union from all or any

of the apartheid clauses. He may at any time he chooses withdraw the exemption. An exempted union will therefore be completely at the Minister's mercy, like the independent African schools which are allowed to exist only as long as the Minister of Native Affairs permits.

If a registered trade union of mixed membership of Coloured or Indian and European workers does not obtain exemption, it will be able to function only under an all-White executive and with separate racial branches even if the Whites are only a small minority.

Coloured and Indian workers will not put up with this humiliation and injustice.

The Nationalists are determined to break up and split mixed unions. Provision for this is made

HOW MANY EXILES? GOVT. DOES NOT KNOW

(Continued from page 1)

partment told New Age last week. Since the clamour over the camps the N.A.D. has written to all the Chief Native Commissioners in the country asking them which exiles they have in their districts.

So in a week or two we may know officially. The trouble is, Mr. Prinsloo said, that "our records go back to 1927." It's a difficult job this, keeping records of men who have been thrown into limbo!

The banishment methods are ingeniously cruel too. It is policy, we are told, for the men plucked from their homes, their families and communities to be sent into areas where the people do not speak their language ("sending a man to another ethnic group meant that he was regarded by the other Natives as a foreigner and his circle of undesirable ties was broken"—N.A.D. hand-out). A calculated callousness, this.

NO SUPPORT

And harsher even than confinement in prison has been the practice of dumping exiles in bleak areas without food rations, or grants, furniture or utensils in the empty huts. They are left to fend for themselves, and to starve if they can't.

One thing this outcry has forced the Government into is to pay the exiles a monthly allowance of £2. The Government would have it that they have received grants all along, but the men should know! New Age long ago carried the reports of Gwentshe and Lengisi, old Mopeli in Nebo and others destitute and abandoned by the State that had banished them, living on the charity of friends and the sale of their cattle back home.

Now we are told each man will receive £2 a month.

It should not be overlooked, too, that a number of the banished men were spirited away and detained illegally. The judgement in the case of one of the exiles, Saliwa, established that the Government had to give a deportee removed under the 1927 Native Administration Act the reasons for the action against him, and a chance to reply. With indecent haste the Government

in Sections 4 and 6.

Any group of White or Coloured, including the Indian members, of a mixed union, may break away and apply for the registration of a uni-racial union. The mixed union may of course object. But the Registrar is bound to ignore the objection if the breakaway union shows that it includes more than one half of the total number of White (or Coloured) members as the case may be in the industry or occupation and area for which registration is applied for.

If the split takes place and the mixed union operated under a "closed shop" agreement, the breakaway union is entitled to demand a share of assets and retain rights in any sick or provident fund. If agreement cannot be reached within 12 months the Registrar may divide the assets between the two unions.

What happens to the mixed union after the split takes place? This depends upon the size of the new breakaway union. If it includes more than half of the White or Coloured workers, as the case may be, employed in the industry, the Registrar must compel the mixed union to amend the constitution so as to exclude the remaining workers belonging to the same racial group as that of the new union (Section 7).

From this it is clear that a minority group in the union will be able to force a split, divide the union's assets and compel it to introduce a racial constitution. (To be continued next week)

amended the Act last session to close this loophole and though the Mabe tribesmen won their appeal against their deportation a revised notice was served on them the day after their court victory.

To this day possibly others are also held illegally.

Not The Only One

(Continued from page 1)

victed of any crime. They are simply men who have fallen into the bad books of the Government for one reason or another—ANC leaders, men who refused to cull cattle and repair fences, men who have quarrelled with their chiefs, even religious fanatics.

Yet they are sent to a life of exile from which there is no return. For them there is no appeal, no redress — UNLESS THE MIGHTY PROTEST OF THE PEOPLE PUTS A STOP TO IT.

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