

S. African Addresses Stockholm Peace Conference

The widest array of peace fighters ever assembled in one spot were at Stockholm for the Congress of Disarmament and for Co-operation which was held in the Swedish capital last month.

The Congress was held by a special broad committee set up for the purpose, and although it had the backing of the World Peace Council, it was not held under its auspices.

Messages of support for the Congress poured in from leading personalities from every continent, including a large number who had never associated themselves with peace activity before.

ON TRIAL

The South African delegate told the conference that the National Chairman and eight officials of the S.A. Peace Council were amongst the 91 persons facing a charge of high treason. The activities of the Peace Council were especially cited in the indictment against them.

She added: "Our potentialities are great and in South Africa we are highly industrialised but our resources seem always to be used to inhibit the development of our people and not to promote it. Our uranium is sold for warlike purposes. It does not bring houses, health services, education to the people who produce it."

"We live under the shadow of race domination which is as evil in its own way as any nuclear weapon because it corrodes the hearts of men; it destroys their will to co-operate; it robs their children of all these opportunities which would lead to the peaceful fulfilment of their lives; it sets one group of men against another and it breeds antagonism which may grow to warlike proportions."

"I speak from experience and from my heart when I tell you that there can be no peace where this shadow lies."

THOMPSON'S MESSAGE

A message from Rev. D. Thompson, one of the accused, was read to the Congress.

Canon Collins of St. Paul's Cathedral, in a message to the delegates said:

"I hope all who desire peace, whether Communist or non-Communist, Christian or non-Christian, Pacifist or non-Pacifist, will agree to do everything in their power to remove from the world the poisonous threat of nuclear weapons."

HUNGARY: Rajk's Widow not on Trial

THE Hungarian News Agency officially announced that no proceedings are in process against Mrs. Laszlo Rajk, widow of the former Foreign Minister, nor has she been executed.

The statement said: "Some Western news agencies and radios have been spreading rumours that Mrs. Rajk and other persons have been sentenced to capital punishment and executed in Hungary."

"These falsifications about Mrs. Rajk and other persons have no basis whatsoever, for there are no police investigations nor any judicial inquiry at all in process against Mrs. Rajk."

"The Western rumours have the sole aim of deliberately maintaining and bolstering up with false information the campaign which has been conducted against Hungary since the counter-revolution."

KERALA: COMMUNIST GOVT. ONE YEAR OLD—AND THRIVING

A LITTLE over a year ago the working people of Kerala—the most literate State in India—elected a Communist Government with a slender majority.

This was the first time in any capitalist country that the Communists had been elected to form a Government with an absolute majority, and the progress of this Government has been watched with great interest throughout the world.

The very fact that this government has been able to withstand the concerted attacks from all sides for one year is an achievement in itself that few previous Kerala governments could claim.

For the predictions were that it would fall within a year—especially if pushed. And the pushing is intensive.

SABOTAGE

Employers hire armed thugs to provoke strife and frame-ups. Attempts have been made to murder Communists, to kidnap their babies, to bribe them, to libel them and to discredit them in the eyes of the people.

The Catholic hierarchy has formed a group known as the Christophers, who give direct aid to the employing and landlord class by evicting peasants from lands they have tilled for years, by preventing agricultural workers from entering fields for harvesting (while scab labour is being used) and by deliberate sabotage.

But in spite of all these acts of terror and sabotage—probably because of them to a large extent—the Communist Party has succeeded in breaking the barrier between the Communists and the large mass of people belonging to other parties but having the same objective—socialism.

This is regarded by the Communists as their greatest achievement, but it is inseparable from the legislative reforms of the Government.

LEGISLATION

In brief, here are a few of these legislative measures:

- Landlords are now unable to use eviction as a threat.
- Indigent and landless families have access to land previously owned by the Government.
- For the first time in India, the minimum wages of agricultural workers have been statutorily fixed. Minimum wages have been set in all industries with substantial increases recommended.
- The police are no longer allowed to interfere with the trade unions and people struggling for improvements, nor with the legitimate activities of political parties (this gives all political parties more real democracy than they have ever had before).
- Industrial disputes are to be settled when possible by mutual consultation and negotiation (with equal representation).
- A network of fair price shops and proper distribution of rice on fairer terms than ever before.
- An anti-corruption department which investigates charges of corruption and irregularities against government officials.
- Development of irrigation, navigation and other water resources.
- Free education for all students till 14.
- Compulsory and free education for all children within five years.
- Midday meals for primary schoolchildren in three districts and to be extended.

● Development of technical education by starting a new medical school, an engineering college and the establishment of one polytechnic in each district and 18 junior technical schools.

● There is more religious freedom than in any other part of India (religious monopoly and restrictive practices have been broken).

● Advisory committees on most matters—definitely not "stacked with Communists."

ADMITTED FAULTS

The Communist Party of Kerala openly admits that it has not yet been able to tone up the administration as much as desired, cut through red-tapism, root out all official corruption and increase official efficiency greatly. But in all these faults it is less culpable than any other state government.

Initial enthusiasm also gave rise to some errors of judgment. For instance the government had planned to start new modern industrial units in the first year but this was not possible.

Nevertheless government aid has been given to 63 industries; shares have been taken in industrial concerns by the state; six new industrial co-operatives have

been helped develop small-scale industries; machinery and land have been acquired for a spinning mill; two big public works schemes have been given to labour contract societies; twenty-five similar societies have been registered.

The Communist Government declares that if it is allowed to work for its full five-year term of office it will be able to show that it has brought about more improvements within the capitalist system than any other state government, with less coercion than any other state government.

News Flashes

The East German Government is to make an all-out attempt to overtake West Germany in personal consumption by 1961.

The annual conference of the 700,000 strong British National Union of Mineworkers resolved to oppose the granting of permission for the building of U.S. rocket-launching sites in Britain.

More than 13,000 sugar workers in Hawaii won a great victory when their 126 day long strike for higher pay finally ended with the bosses capitulating.

CHINA'S GREAT "DO IT YOURSELF"

CHINA has set herself a terrific target for development within the next decade and a half, and the Chinese leaders are confident that it will be reached. 1958 is the year of the Great Leap Forward and emboldened by the tremendous rate of progress already achieved this year the plans for the future have been stepped up.

The slogan has changed from: Catch up with Britain in 15 years or more, to: Catch up with Britain in 15 years or less.

"Do it yourself" is what the people are being urged, as a new drive has been unleashed to allow for the greatest use of local initiative. Example of an immediate target: 2,000,000

new factories this year, some big, mostly small. "From none to some, small to big."

The face of China's countryside is being changed as the "Milky Way" of factories springs up, and with them a new sort of person is coming into being—a worker-peasant, bridging the gap between agriculture and industry.

Conservatism is being overcome in the Chinese style—mass debate followed by universal argument.

Commenting on China's challenge, the



London Times says: "We had better watch out. There may soon be a dragon close behind us."

● The above picture shows Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the People's Republic of China, greeting Mr. Diouf Mbagny Faby, leader of a Black Africa Youth delegation at present on a visit to China. The delegation is made up of youth leaders from various territories in French colonial Africa.

S. UNION HAS NOT GONE BACK ON YUGOSLAV AID AGREEMENT—

THE Soviet Union has NOT gone back on its agreement to give economic aid to Yugoslavia.

This is stated in an article signed by Observer which appeared recently in the Soviet newspaper Izvestia. The article was commenting on charges made in the Yugoslav press that the Soviet Union was unilaterally abrogating economic agreements entered into with Yugoslavia.

The article begins by referring to the exchange of Notes between the two countries.

The Soviet-Yugoslav agreements, says Observer, were in the nature of disinterested unilateral assistance rendered by the Soviet Union to Yugoslavia on conditions exceptionally favourable to Yugoslavia, but commercially unprofitable to the Soviet Union.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

The Soviet Notes point out that at the present time, in connection with the decision recently taken in the USSR to speed up the deve-

lopment of the chemical industry and the big capital investments involved in this, the Soviet Union has found it necessary to revise the dates set for granting credits to Yugoslavia.

In taking this decision about the dates, the Soviet Union took into account Yugoslavia's statements to the effect that relations between the USSR and Yugoslavia should be based on principles of mutual benefit.

"MUTUAL BENEFIT"

"Observer" goes on to say that it is clear from a study of the changes proposed by the Soviet Union that they tend to bring the terms of the agreements nearer to the principles on which mutually beneficial economic or commercial deals are usually concluded between states.

Even with the changes proposed by the Soviet Union, the Soviet-Yugoslav economic agreements differ considerably from agreements based on purely commercial relations of mutual benefit.

However, not only has the Yu-

goslav government refused even to discuss the substance of the Soviet proposal, but in addition, on the Yugoslav side entirely unfounded allegations are being made that the Soviet Union has torn up the economic agreements with Yugoslavia.

UNJUSTIFIED

Moreover, an attempt is being made to cast doubts on the Soviet Union's fulfilment of its commitments under international treaties.

"Observer" comments that these attempts have no justification. In its Note to Yugoslavia on May 27 the Soviet Union pointed out that Soviet organisations responsible for foreign trade could, should the government of Yugoslavia so desire, deliver to Yugoslav organisations equipment and industrial goods and carry out projecting and other types of work within the limits established in the agreements, not on a credit basis, however, but paid for in accordance with world prices or by way of current goods exchange.

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