

# Advance

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## TAYLOR STRIKES DEPORTATION AT UNIONISM

### Protests at Fascist Measures Against Railmen

JOHANNESBURG.

WHEN CHARLES ROBERT (BOB) TAYLOR WAS SECRETLY RUSHED ON BOARD THE STIRLING CASTLE LAST FRIDAY ON THE LAST STAGE OF HIS DEPORTATION, TRADE UNIONISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HAD SUFFERED A SEVERE BLOW. THROUGHOUT RHODESIA AND THE UNION, WORKING-CLASS AND DEMOCRATIC OPINION WAS SHOCKED AT THE FASCIST HANDLING OF THE WHOLE CASE IN WHICH THE SALISBURY AND SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONALIST GOVERNMENTS WORKED HAND-IN-GLOVE.

Mr. Taylor, an ordinary British rank-and-file railwayman, told Advance in an exclusive interview that he had "no regrets" for what he had done; he paid a tribute to the solidarity of the strikers he led and said he was coming back to continue the fight if he wins his appeal against the deportation order.

At the Jan Smuts Airport Mr. Bob Taylor attacked the right-wing union leaders for their policy which in his opinion was responsible for the illegality and defeat of the strike.

"The Union's dispute over wages and conditions was dealt with at a voluntary arbitration court, whose decisions were legally binding," Mr. Taylor said. "In electing to go to voluntary arbitration, the leadership of the Rhodesian Railway Workers' Union proved that either

activities. "I was not faced with any charges by the Rhodesian Government," he said, "nor given any opportunity to reply to charges."

#### JUSTIFIED CONFLICT

"Once the Union leadership had accepted voluntary arbitration and bound the members in advance, it was inevitable that action against the terms of the award meant conflict with the law.

"The men felt, nevertheless, that action was justified, and I feel that my actions were justified, as proved by the number of men who came out—almost 100 per cent. in both Southern and Northern Rhodesia, although, as chairman of the strike committee, I did not have an opportunity to speak to the men in Northern Rhodesia.

(Continued on page 4)

## GOVT. COMMITTEE TRIES TO SABOTAGE WAGE TALKS

### Abuses T.U. Leaders

DURBAN.

AFRICAN textile workers who struck recently here against starvation wages had a foretaste last week of the bullying and dictatorial activities of a "Regional Committee" appointed in terms of the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act to investigate the dispute. Instead of assisting in clearing up issues between employers and workers, the committee tried to prevent negotiations which both sides wanted and it refused to recognise the elected officials of the African Textile Workers' Union, abusing and insulting them at a meeting.

The African officials who were refused recognition by the committee were Mr. S. Dhlamini, chairman of the Durban branch of the union, and Mr. A. Zeni, its national organiser.

According to Messrs. Dhlamini and Zeni, who were interviewed by Advance, the 250 Africans involved in the walk-out were circularised by the Regional Committee to attend a meeting at the factory.

The workers decided that their trade union officials, as well as three workers, should attend the meeting to put forward their grievances. Messrs. Zeni and Dhlamini, together with the three workers, arrived at the factory at the appointed time.

Mr. Dhlamini and Mr. Zeni were called into the office where the committee sat, but the three workers were not allowed in.

The Regional Committee consisted of the chairman, Mr. S. R. Smith, and three African members, Messrs. A. F. Matibela, C. Mtshali and Rev. C. V. Uvusi.

"The committee asked Mr. Zeni and me what we wanted, as we had not been invited," said Mr. Dhlamini. "I replied that, as officials of the union, the workers had asked us to represent them at this meeting.

#### EAGER TO SETTLE

"The committee members said they wished to speak to the workers but would have nothing to do with the union.

"Mr. Zeni and I explained that the workers were eager to settle the dispute so that the factory could start working as soon as possible; that all the workers demanded was that they should be granted the

rates of pay they received before their wages had been reduced four months ago when they were promised an increase two months later.

"The chairman said he was closing the meeting, which he did."

"He and the three African members then began to shout at us, abusing and insulting Mr. Zeni and me. We were called agitators and trouble-makers and accused of being responsible for the walk-out, in spite of the fact, as everybody knows, that the union knew nothing about the dispute until after the workers had downed tools."

#### WANTS NO SLAVES

Shortly afterwards, added Mr. Dhlamini, the owner of Natal Spinners arrived from Johannesburg. "He said he wanted no slaves and no police in his factory and he was quite prepared to hold discussions with the committee and with us.

"The committee members again proceeded to abuse Mr. Zeni and me, and refused to permit any discussions to take place. At this stage we walked out.

"The owner followed us into the passage and asked us to return on the following day to discuss the matter with him. He said it was clear the committee was not prepared to settle the dispute. We agreed to meet him."

Discussions are now taking place between the owner and the officials of the Textile Workers' Union.

The 38 workers who were charged under the Natives Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act appeared in court last week. After the Crown had led certain evidence the case was adjourned until June 24.

## Apartheid Blow At Indians

DURBAN.

The Native Affairs Department is sending letters to manufacturers asking them to employ only African labour, which means discrimination against Indians.

Mr. B. Nair, secretary of the Food and Canning Workers' Union, Durban, was informed by the management of Maple Leaf Products that when the factory moves to Pinetown shortly only a few of the Indian workers will be retained but all the Africans will be kept on.

The manager said a letter had been received from the Department of Native Affairs requesting that the factory employ only African labour when it moves to the new premises.

"This interference on the part of the Government is most serious and demands an immediate investigation by the trade unions and the Trades and Labour Council," Mr. Nair told Advance.

## GERMAN BLOOD FOR DIRTY WAR

BERLIN.

Recruitment of Germans into the French Foreign Legion has been stepped up over recent weeks, says the Frankfurter Abendpost. The reason is the French losses and setbacks in Indo-China.

The West German "Evangelical Aid" has accused the recruiters of using press-gang methods. Most of the recruits are reported to enrol into the Legion because they are unable to find employment in West Germany.

In the early stages of the recruiting drives after the war many members of the Whermacht and former Nazi S.S. joined the Legion.

A large number of Germans have accepted a pardon by the E. German Republic. After handing themselves over to the Viet Nam Army they have proceeded to Eastern Germany where they have been given employment.

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Mr. C. R. Taylor (centre) being interviewed at Jan Smuts Airport.

it had sold the men, or it was entirely incompetent.

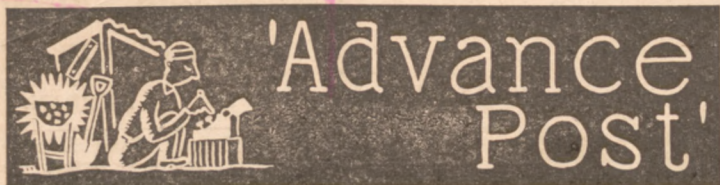
"My parting advice is that it is imperative to elect trade union leaders, both national and local. If they will examine all the factors involved in the strike, the very treacherous and hypocritical nature of our leaders will be revealed to them."

Mr. Taylor, who leaves a wife and three children ("There's another on the way") in Rhodesia, is appealing

Sixteen years a fireman, Bob Taylor received a presentation from his Union (the Amalgamated Society of Railway Engineers and Firemen) for his work on behalf of trade unionism, when he left Britain a year ago for Rhodesia—lured by the glowing and rather inaccurate picture given him by the recruiting officer in the United Kingdom.

As a loyal union man, he naturally threw himself into the work of the R.R.W.U., and feels no regrets at his





### BAN THESE EVIL CREATIONS

From George Sokopo, 142 Gqamlama Street, New Brighton:

I believe that everything has a purpose on earth. Definitely if the atom bomb's destructive action on the composition of the air is not repaired or combated something must go out of balance. I am sure we cannot yet tell what this aftermath of the atom bomb explosions is going to be. As it is, in Port Elizabeth we have violent and frequent winds, which in my experience are unprecedented. It is possible these queer changes have something to do with the atom bombs.

I therefore wholeheartedly join those people of the world who demand the banning of these evil creations. I think the so-called savage with his assegai is, by comparison, a civilised fighter.

### WEST MAY LOSE RACE

From W. Elephant, De Villiers Street, Vasco:

In his "Geography of Imperial Defence" the writer, Dr. Cornish, points out there is no ground for the assumption that European supremacy in modern science and applied knowledge is inherent. Disparity dates only from the beginning of ocean voyages and the stimulus which these gave to study and invention.

If sea transport should become outstripped in importance by that of land or air, Asian and African peoples, who are quite as favourably situated for their development as those of the West, may alter the present placings in the race of civilisation.

There is no inherent superiority of the White, and his progress, apart from the causes stated by Dr. Cornish, has in recent times been largely due to the accidental discovery of the energy locked up in coal. It should not be forgotten that in the days of our grandfathers Japan was a hermetically sealed island with a civilisation, judged by modern standards, very backward.

### WHO ARE THE AFRIKANERS?

From M. Smith, Port Elizabeth:

Having recently arrived from England, I am anxious to acquaint

myself with certain facts prevailing in South Africa. Dr. Malan and his Cabinet Ministers stress the point about keeping the Afrikaner race pure.

Tell me, how did the Afrikaners originate? Surely all their ancestors were not from Holland. Wouldn't you think that apartheid should be practised amongst their own black-white-skinned Afrikaners?

### Points From Letters

Letters too long for publication in full, for reasons of space, but containing points of vital interest to Advance readers:

**Mr. M. Ngubenchuka, Box 335, Standerton,** writes as a supporter of the A.N.C. boycott decision on elections to criticise Advance editorial policy on the election of Ray Alexander. He makes four points: (a) The Indian Congress opposed communal representation proposed for Indians under the "Ghetto Acts"; (b) Support of the A.N.C. boycott policy cannot be reconciled with support of "bogus representation" in an election; (c) Support of any candidate in a communal election implies support for the principle of such separate representation and, logically, must imply acceptance of the removal of the Coloured voters from the common roll; (d) Advance violated the boycott decision in the face of solid opposition from the African people as suggested by a vote of 5,369 on a roll of 15,500. The correspondent asks whether Advance wished to further the cause of the liberatory movement "or are you, in truth, anxious to reward the White 'professional friends' of the African for services rendered."

### A VOTE WHEN YOU DIE

**Mr. Michael Moore, 21 Meyer Street, Germiston,** writes on the same subject—Miss Alexander's election—to criticise the critics. He quotes the Rand Daily Mail, which gives very little encouragement to the liberation movement, but which commented: "The electors retained their independence and self-respect. Their decision shows that they were not prepared to take orders." To correspondents who complained that one representative could not do much and that it was futile to continue the fight he points out that political changes are often sudden and this is not a time for meek and barren martyrdom.

Another point arising from the

### "UNITY" LEADERS HESITATE

JOHANNESBURG.

The Press report to the effect that the Trades and Labour Council has agreed to merge with other trade union federations "on the understanding that African unions will be shut out" is denied in a statement issued last week by the "Trade Union Unity Committee."

"It is impossible at this stage to say what provision will be made in a proposed constitution in regard to Native trade unions," says the statement.

Asked to comment on this statement, Mr. Morris Kagan, who condemned the reported merger scheme in Advance last week, said the Unity Committee had not explained how the original report came to be issued. Pointing out that the report had been taken seriously enough to bring forth congratulatory statements by Schoeman and Strauss, he added: "There's no smoke without fire!"

### RESTS WITH UNIONS

"The 'denial' does not repudiate the idea of a fusion based on the exclusion of African unions," said Mr. Kagan. "It merely says it is still an open question, which is exactly what I pointed out last week when I said the last word still rested with the affiliated unions."

"At the same time I have no doubt that the 'indiscreet' report in the newspapers reflects the real feelings of certain leaders of the Trades and Labour Council. The S.A. Federation Unions broke away from the T.L.C. precisely on the issue that they did not want to associate with African unions."

"It is quite obvious that any agreement with these elements can only be based on an abandonment of trade union principles."

election, says the correspondent, is that the Liberal Party has very little chance of achieving anything worth-while for it lacks popular support. Its policy of "You'll get a vote—when you die" is unpopular.

(To conclude from the Cape Western election figures that the boycott had any appreciable effect on the voting is misleading. The electoral roll was old and most of it quite out of date. Election workers discovered that more than half the registered voters were nowhere to be found; thousands had moved to employment in other parts of the Union or returned to the reserves, and even a considerable number were dead. Of those available, a high proportion cast their votes. In supporting Miss Alexander's candidature Advance was not out of step with African opinion. On the contrary, our paper accurately reflected the political feelings of the Cape voters based on long experience. Whether Advance faithfully serves the cause of liberation can safely be left to our readers. Advance has no self-interest and could not exist without its readers' support.—Ed.)

### UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

**Mr. Thomas Nwanya, 45 Mount Street, Cape Town,** warns that representation of the Africans since the 1936 Act has proved a failure as far as the Africans are concerned, and one cannot see how it will work successfully for the Coloured people. All freedom-loving people must stand firm to fight for universal suffrage.

The correspondent attacks Minister Verwoerd's Western Areas Bill and warns that this legislation is not intended for Johannesburg only but is "part and parcel of the Government's policy of apartheid, and as such will affect in time every area in South Africa."

"To prevent this, all freedom-loving people must stand firm in their opposition to these measures and for human rights, the right to speak freely, the right to organise freely and the right to live wherever they please."

### Editorial

## McCARTHYISM OVER AFRICA

An event took place in Southern Africa last week that threw a flash of light on the dangerous and ugly development of politics in this part of the continent. It was the deportation of Mr. Charles Taylor, the Rhodesian railway fireman and strike leader.

The Rhodesian Railways have long been rife with discontent and the scene of many a dispute. The reason is obvious—the men are not properly represented and there is no genuine collective bargaining. This goes for the European and still more for the non-white workers. True, there is a "company" or yellow union. And therefore it is scarcely a union at all. Yellow unions are notorious in every capitalist country as a means by which the employers manipulate a handful of deserters willing to sell their fellow wage-earners for the sweets of office.

To defend themselves, the only course of the workers is to organise on the job and take rank-and-file action. They inevitably expect to find themselves not only against the employer and the State machinery of police, propaganda and prisons but against the yellow leaders as well. It takes determined men with a real and burning sense of grievance to join an industrial fight against these odds, and yet nearly all of the Rhodesian firemen struck work and many of the other grades came out in support. In the nature of the world-wide working-class, there are seldom wanting brave, unselfish and steadfast leaders to stand at the head of the ranks. Such a man, it seems, is Charles Robert Taylor.

### FORCE AND THREATS

To break the strike the Rhodesian Government used force, threats and misrepresentation. It is true the Salisbury Ministry is a petty affair standing for a White population hardly more than that of a rural district council in any European country. But they are diligent students of arbitrary rule and their respect for law is, we can now see, suited to their own self-interest.

Mr. Taylor, with another rank and file leader, was arrested. After a hasty and deplorable process in a local court he was hustled out of the country under police escort. The evidence against him? None was given. The Government came to the court with nothing but insinuations from a secret document. What did this dossier say? Who was the spy? Who was he paid by—the British M.I.5, or the American F.B.I., or perhaps Senator McCarthy's Senate Investigating Committee? We do not know. But we know the court swallowed the story. It connived at the attack on Mr. Taylor's character on "proof" from an undisclosed source, suggesting the stamp of political police.

### PREMIER SOWS PREJUDICE

That this court did not act in an atmosphere of complete impartiality was made certain by the Southern Rhodesia Premier, Mr. Garfield Todd. The holier-than-thou missionary of Christian civilisation stumped about making hysterical insinuations against the strikers. McCarthyism, the cult of the big lie, the smear and the spy at the keyhole, played its part in beating the firemen to their knees.

Mr. Swart, Dr. Malan's Minister of Justice, is reported to have received the news of these events with glee: "Now we have a police State for a neighbour!" But Swart could not be outdone by the little men in Salisbury. He was an accessory in the unjust treatment of Mr. Taylor and outdid the Rhodesians in heaving insult on him. Swart's strong-arm men were there at the Cape Town airport, and rushed the workers' leader, without justification, into the bug-infested local prison, where he was accommodated in a locked cell with a sanitary bucket for company. So much for the "free world."

South African workers of all colours can take note from this. The mass of Non-Europeans are only too familiar with the type of insult and injustice handed out to Mr. Taylor. They are kicked down to keep them in the position of cheap labour, from whom quick, easy profits can be squeezed. But the White workers, too, if they dare stand against the employer and his stooges, can also expect the same medicine.

### KIDNAPPING OF "THE NINE"

Forty years ago, in 1914, the Smuts-Botha Government kidnapped and deported nine White labour leaders who backed a railway strike. The whole country, the Labour movement of Britain and of every civilised land protested furiously. But, apart from a few stalwarts, no one has raised a voice against the kidnapping of Charles Taylor.

Workers, what has happened? Are you too harassed yourselves to take action? The dangers to-day, as well as the opportunities, are infinitely greater than in 1914. The exploiters and their tools in Government office are to-day frightened and uncertain men. They act in a panic-stricken way because they see, inevitably, that their game is up.

But the victory of the workers will not come automatically. It will only be achieved by defending every right and fighting every inch forward. Eternal vigilance, determined struggle!

## STUDENT HOOLIGANS BACK APARTHEID

JOHANNESBURG.

The struggle of the Witwatersrand University students against apartheid at the university entered a new phase last week with the appearance of a group of well-organised pro-Nationalists among the students who are attempting to frustrate democratic activities.

A meeting called by the S.R.C. to discuss the threat to student rights from the university authorities was disrupted by a minority group, who came to the meeting armed with rattles, trumpets and hooters and defied the repeated appeals of the chairman for order. When a member of the S.R.C. attempted to confiscate a rattle from one of the rowdies a scuffle broke out in the hall and the meeting had to be closed.

A resolution outlining the rights of the students and expressing concern at the principal's interference with those rights could not be put or even read out, but a further meeting was called for last Monday, at which it is understood democratic students prepared counter-measures to preserve order.

In a Press interview the principal, Professor Sutton, is reported as saying that he was "not interested in student affairs."

Nevertheless, the S.R.C. dutifully presented him with the names of some of the mischief-makers at last week's meeting, and interest is felt as to his reactions, especially as university property was damaged in the course of the hooligans' activities.



# FRENCH PEOPLE DEMAND END DIRTY WAR

## Fall of Govt. is defeat for U.S.

LONDON.

THE behaviour of Mr. Bedell Smith, United States delegate at the Geneva Conference, and the intrigues of the United States Government, were directly responsible for the crises which developed at the Conference last week. As confidence in the capacity of the French to hold the Red River Delta and Hanoi dwindled, the United States increased its pressure on the French Government to continue the Indo-China war. The demand of the French people to end the war was reflected in the fall of the French Government.

The crisis was brought to a head because of refusals by the Western powers led by Bedell Smith to meet the proposals put forward by the democratic powers represented at the Conference. The proposals were, firstly, that the Commission to supervise an armistice in Indo-China should include at least one neutral power from the democratic group. Second, that the conference discuss details which would result in the granting of independence to the three Indo-Chinese states of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia and the holding of democratic elections in those three countries.

Mr. Eden, the British delegate, has acted during the conference as a conciliator between the democratic and Western groups but his effort has never amounted to more than support for the policy laid down by Mr. Bedell Smith.

The French delegate, Mr. Bidault, at times showed an attitude of compromise but was always brought round to the viewpoint of the U.S. whose officials have been in constant contact with the French Cabinet and have demanded a "firm stand".

The pro-Western puppet delegations have been used throughout to raise issues which hampered the progress of the conference and so aided American efforts to wreck it.

### U.S. MILITARY PLANS

It was this that led Mr. Molotov to say, "we cannot ignore the plans with which the State Department of the United States has the closest connection".

He was referring to the military conference taking place in Washington in which the U.S.A., Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand are participants. The conference is reported by Washington officials to be considering the use of planes in the Indo-China war.

"Akin to these facts," Mr. Molotov said, "is the attempt by the Government in Siam to prevent the settlement of the Indo-China question at the Geneva Conference, which is clearly made on the order of foreign circles."

### PEACE MOVE

Mr. Bidault's latest instructions before his Government fell were to propose a cease fire on the basis of existing troop positions. The Conference agreed that contact be made between the two high commands in Indo-China and instructions were reported later to have been sent to the French Commander, General Paul Ely, to make contact with the Viet Nam high command.

Suddenly and unexpectedly when the hopes of the world had been raised that peace in Indo-China was near, events took a dramatic turn for the worse in Paris when, under United States pressure, the French Government switched its policy.

Heavy troop reinforcements were ordered to Indo-China and eight-thousand French youths were to be called up four months earlier than schedule to replace them.

Mr. Bidault said: "France is not

going to lie down in Indo-China." General Ely was ordered to work out a plan to try and maintain a hold on the Delta in spite of his grave doubts of success.

Urging a political settlement, Mr. Molotov said: "One cannot overlook the fact that in all of the three Indo-Chinese states . . . the events are due to one and the same principle cause . . . the national liberation struggle against foreign rule."

### SOVIET PROPOSAL

He proposed therefore that the conference should consider the sovereignty and independence of the three Indo-Chinese states and the organisation of free elections within them. All foreign troops should be withdrawn from the country. France would have to establish new relations with the three states.

In reply Mr. Bedell Smith once again rejected the proposal of the democratic group. He did not want issues such as democratic rights and the independence of the three states to be discussed. He accused the Russian, Viet Nam and Chinese delegations of being unreasonable. Mr. Eden rose in support of him and spoke of deepened differences between the two sides at Geneva and that if these differences could not be resolved then we "must admit failure".

### NATS BACK TRIBAL BENONI TOWNSHIP

BENONI.

Forty thousand inhabitants of Apex Emergency Camp, Benoni, are seriously alarmed at the prospect that they will now be moved by the Town Council and Government to the new "Daveyton Township," where the full evil measures of Verwoerd's apartheid and Bantu tribal policy will be applied to them.

In order to obtain the Government grant of £500,000 towards the erection of the proposed Daveyton Township the Benoni Town Council had to send a deputation to Cape Town to accept in full the grouping of the Africans who will reside there according to their tribe. This is the price the people of Apex Camp will have to pay in return for a "model township."

The Daveyton site meets the present apartheid policy of the Government by being far out of town. It cannot be regarded as a "black spot." Vast sums of money are to be spent to provide railway and bus transport for the population, and the Government had promised to back the project throughout.

In an interview with Advance a leading member of the Advisory Board complained that the Council had pressed ahead with the scheme against the expressed wishes of the people through their Advisory Board.

"The Council is sacrificing the people of Apex to the Government's ideological legislation as a cheap way out of its housing problems," he said. "The wishes of the people are being contemptuously ignored, whereas every penny of the housing scheme will come from the pockets of the Africans."

### Have Kenya Bosses Gone Crazy?

NAIROBI.

"This is a land of freedom," said Sir Alfred Vincent, settlers' spokesman and former leader of Kenya's European elected Members. He was speaking about Kenya and had just demanded a stepping up of the terror against the bulk of the country's population. Although he was speaking after a dinner of the South African Society, he was not reported to have drunk more than usual.

Mr. George Gascoine echoed these words when he said Kenya was a "free country where free expression was allowed."

The statements came after General Sir George Erskine, commander of British operations in Kenya, had walked out of the dinner because he could not bear to hear the British Government being "abused" for not being brutal enough in its assassination of the African population in Kenya.

### BEVAN DEFENDS CHINA

LONDON.

China was not conspiring with the Soviet Union to unleash a third world war against the West, left-Labour, leader Mr. Aneurin Bevan, told Somerset miners last week. He said the Labour Party delegation was going to China because, being a party of working people of Great Britain it consisted of people who could "talk the same language as the peasants and workers of China."

## NURSE SCREENED FOR PEACE LETTER TO HO CHI-MINH

LONDON.

FRENCH front-line nurse and daughter of an aristocratic family, Mlle. Genevieve de Gallard, was "investigated" by the French authorities to discover whether she had been "indoctrinated" by the Vietnam People's Liberation Army, but the investigation was soon dropped in the face of her world-wide popularity.

Reason for this blundering conduct was that Genevieve respected highly the humanity and kindness of the Vietnam Army and before leaving captivity for freedom without conditions she sent a warm-hearted message to Ho Chi-minh thanking him, supporting peace and promising on her return to France to promote understanding between the French and Vietnam peoples.

Nurse Genevieve has already arrived back in Paris, and was met there by her mother, who paid a high tribute to the soldiers of the Vietnam Army.

Mme. de Gallard said: "In freeing my daughter, she who has seen so much, there is no doubt the Vietnam Army are not afraid of her testimony. That is, the soldiers have behaved correctly. It is very encouraging for our poor wounded and prisoners."

### VIETNAM WOMEN THANKED

In her letter to President Ho, sent on his 64th birthday, the 29-year-old nurse thanked him for his

## U.S. AGGRESSION GROWS AGAINST GUATEMALA

AMERICAN coercion on the small Central American democratic republic of Guatemala with its population of scarcely one million people came near to open aggression last week when the U.S. poured arms into neighbouring states, incited attacks on the country and staged ominous military demonstrations with atom-bombers around its borders.

Despite the correct conciliatory attitude of Guatemala's government leaders towards the U.S. representatives, it was clear from statements by Mr. John Foster Dulles and in the American Press that Washington was out for nothing short of the overthrow of the Government and its replacement with a reactionary junta on the lines of so many other Central and South American states.

"U.S. air force Globemasters and C-47s dropped down with emergency plane loads of arms and equipment for Guatemala's neighbours and the U.S. sent three B-36 inter-continental bombers to rumble over Managua as part of Nicaragua's armed forces day parade," reported "Time."

Simultaneously an armed plot was being prepared under the shelter of the Honduran government by reactionary Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas. A C-47 flew over Guatemala city last week and called upon all "true patriots" to rise to his support.

### RED BOGEY

"Time" added that in face of these United States instigated demonstrations of strength, the "communist infiltrated Guatemalan government . . . backed-peddled on its red line."

Guatemalan foreign minister Guillermo Toriello called in U.S. ambassador John E. Peurifoy and told him that one ship-load of arms was not intended, as Mr. Dulles would have, to dominate the central American area or endanger the Panama canal zone. The arms were needed for internal security reasons.

Later the Guatemalan government offered Honduras a non-aggression and mutual assistance pact.

But the United States indicated that she was not satisfied with these efforts of the Guatemalan government to settle differences by peaceful negotiation. The U.S. virtually demanded a change of government.

No matter what the Guatemalan government did the U.S. would not "be one whit less concerned about the danger of communism in Guatemala," said a U.S. State Department spokesman.

This view was emphasised by Mr. Dulles last week when he said that it was untrue that the only issues between the United States Government and that of Guatemala were those connected with the complaints of the U.S. United Fruit Company.

So serious was the situation created by the all-round hostility of the United States and her central American satellites, that the Guatemalan government was forced to declare an emergency last week.

### UNEQUAL JUSTICE

A former Nationalist M.P. for Bethal and a member of Groblersdal Town Council, Coenraad Johannes van den Berg, aged 61, charged under the Immorality Act with having relations with an African woman, was acquitted last Saturday. The woman concerned in the case, Katrina Mashifame, was found guilty on April 26 and sentenced to four months.

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Hoera, Garfield! A good blow for White civilisation!

# "HALT INHUMAN LAWS OF DR. VERWOERD"

## East Rand Peoples to Meet

BENONI.

IN an important move to "halt the inhuman laws of Dr. Verwoerd" preparations are being made for summoning a conference of all African interests on the East Rand. This area has been chosen by the Nationalist Government and the local authorities as an experimental region for the implementation of the Bantu Authorities and Bantu Education Acts. The conference will also take up the struggle against the extension of the Pass and Influx Control Laws to women.

The conference will also discuss the application of economic and sub-economic housing schemes for urban Africans.

The executive committee of the African National Congress, Kwa-Thema Branch, in a widely distributed circular letter to the heads of all organisations on the East Rand states:

(a) The Bantu Authorities Act and the Bantu Education Act seek to divide urban Africans in locations into tribal zoning groups.

(b) Different schools are to be built for different tribes and tribal teachers and pupils in every urban location.

(c) Inter-marriage existing and practised normally among urbanised Africans is to be banned

under the combined machinery of the Pass and Influx Control Laws, the Bantu Authorities and Immorality Acts. For instance, in future it may be illegal for Mosotho to marry Nguni and vice versa. It will also become illegal for a Nguni-speaking teacher to teach in a Sesutho-speaking school.

In an interview with Advance last week Mr. S. M. Maboe, chairman of the Kwa-Thema Branch of the African National Congress, said:

### A.N.C. WILL FIGHT

"The A.N.C. will fight tooth and nail against all the undemocratic measures to be introduced. I am looking forward to see the people of the East Rand responding well to a 'Conference of the People of the East Rand,' where they will demonstrate their opposition to increases of rentals and take a step to halt the inhuman laws of Dr. Verwoerd."

On the issue of rentals, a series of meetings in Wattville Township has already raised strong protests. The meetings were held under the auspices of the Advisory Board, the Vigilance Association and the A.N.C. branch.

### DISASTER TO FAMILIES

Residents contend that Wattville has all along been an economic scheme, and the conversion of sub-economic to economic schemes does not apply to them. The present rentals of £2 10s. a month are very high, and the proposed increase of 10s. will cause disaster to the families.

The Advisory Board has reported that the Council intends selling the houses to residents. While agreeing to buy the houses, the residents maintain that their durability has not been tested. The cement blocks used to build the 3,000 houses are easily destructible.

## DURBAN ACTION ON SCHOEMAN BILL

DURBAN.

A provisional committee of the Workers' Action Council (Natal) was formed last week for the purpose of convening a conference of workers' delegates to be held on June 27 to discuss action against Schoeman's fascist labour legislation.

In a statement to Advance, Miss P. Bean, secretary of the provisional committee, calls on all trade unions and workers to support the conference as the first step in the organisation of opposition to Schoeman's slave Bills to destroy the trade unions.

"It is imperative for workers to call meetings at their factories and to elect delegates to attend this conference. They must demand to know from their respective trade unions what they intend to do to stop the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill from being passed," declared Miss Bean.



## Africans Covered By New Agreement

JOHANNESBURG.

The Garment Workers' Union has negotiated a new agreement with employers in the industry which, for the first time, covers African men in the industry in addition to African women who were left unprotected as a result of the promulgation of the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act last year.

This important step forward, bringing the clothing industry into line with most other important industries employing a mixed labour force, is warmly welcomed by old stalwarts in the union, who have for many years fought for an agreement covering all workers.

### AFRICANS BENEFIT

The immediate effect will be to reduce the hours of work for African men in the industry by over an hour per week, and to compel employers who had opened "cheap labour" factories employing only African men to bring their rates of pay into line with the other factories. Africans will now also be covered by the Medical Benefit Society.

Although rates of pay remain substantially unaltered, the new agreement also provides for a slack fund in the industry to provide for workers on short time. The fund will be established on the basis of equal contributions by employers and workers.

One of the factors contributing to the extension of the new agreement to cover all workers was the growing concern felt by many employers at the competition from "cheap labour" factories employing only African men.

## A.N.C. Women's League at Spies In Factories

JOHANNESBURG.

Over 600 women delegates representing 22 districts attended a conference in Port Elizabeth last week to form a Regional Committee of the Women's League of the African National Congress. The delegates adopted a pledge of full support for the programme of action of the A.N.C.

A leaflet issued by Mr. Isaac Moumakoe, secretary of the African Milling Workers' Union, warns workers to be on guard against the Native Labour Act, which he calls the Slave Labour Act. Under this law, he says, "the Native Affairs Department will appoint informers in your factory to watch you."



Eisenhower

U.S. assumed any mandate to run the world, declared nevertheless: "America realises it has world responsibilities that accompany its power."

### Mental Unbalance

This is a sketch diary of a few recent events and statements of American world leaders. It does give a picture of hysteria and mental unbalance. The picture is thrown into still sharper focus when it is realised that all this while the United States Government has been solemnly taking part in a series of meetings in London on the so-called "Eisenhower Plan" to achieve international atomic control. The meetings are of a sub-committee of the United Nations Disarmament Committee, consisting of Britain, the Soviet Union, the U.S., France and Canada. Private talks are also taking place between the Soviet Union and the U.S. direct on the "Eisenhower Plan."

A key to an understanding of the question of atomic control is the fact that the American statesmen have from the beginning nursed two fallacies: Firstly, that they had a decisive lead over other countries in atomic development. Secondly, about the military effectiveness of the A-bomb and, consequently, of push-button strategy.

A fallacy or delusion always has its reverse side. Not everybody believes in it, and therefore those at the top are haunted with the terrible suspicion that their trump card will fail.

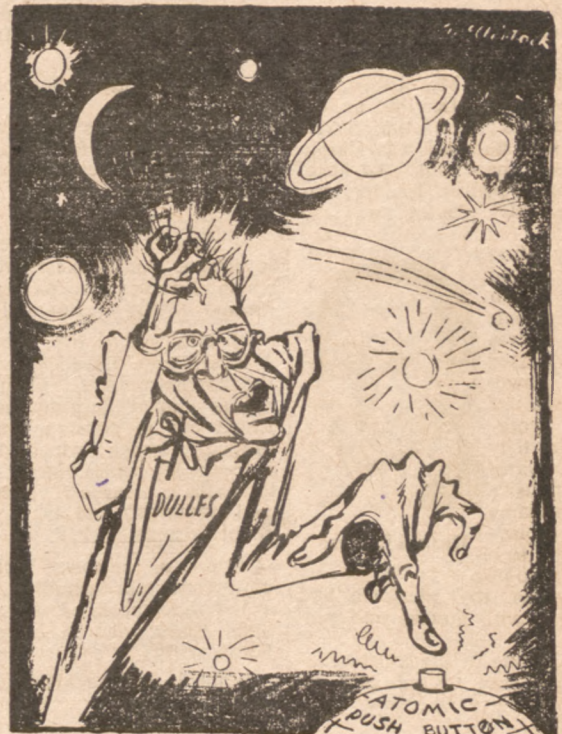
In 1946, when the Americans still believed they had 10 to 15 years' lead in atomic development but at the same time had nightmares about Soviet progress, they put forward the Baruch Plan for atomic control.

### Baruch Plan

The two features of this plan were: (a) An international atomic development authority should be set up, entrusted with all phases of development of atomic energy; (b) When control was considered effective and a scheme of punishments had been worked out for infringements, only then would the U.S. agree to stop making bombs, dispose of stocks and disclose her knowledge of atomic energy.

Thus the Soviet Union would, under the Baruch Plan, be in a minority on an international body dominated by America. This authority would control and supervise all and any mines, plants and laboratories in the Soviet Union concerned with atomic energy. There would be no right of veto, and so Russia would be without safeguards of any kind in the event of the majority deciding to punish her for any alleged breach.

Among punishable offences under the Baruch Plan would have been: "Illegal possession or separation of atomic material suitable for use in an atomic bomb. Wilful interference with the activity of the Authority."



Dulles: We'll blow up the whole goddam show if they don't do what we say.

The same atomic material used in a bomb is the basis of peaceful industrial power. So it means that the control organisation would be able to prevent peaceful use of atom power in any country in the world, while the Americans were left to dangle the A-bomb over the heads of their rivals.

### Soviet Stand

Naturally, the Soviet Union refused to walk into such an obvious trap. The Soviet stand was, in effect: First, agree to prohibit the use of atomic weapons; Second, destroy all existing stocks of bombs; Third, international agreement on inspection, control and everything else.

The Soviet Union has agreed to every reasonable American proposal, including inspection teams with full authority on her territory.

In 1949 the Soviet Union gave notice to the world that there was no American A-bomb monopoly by exploding such a bomb themselves. The Americans comforted themselves with dreams of bigger, better and more monstrous bombs and turned with frenzy, despite warnings to the contrary by Dr. Oppenheimer and others, to making the H-bomb.

Then this dream went up in dust. The Soviet Union made and detonated an H-bomb.

In a state of morbid fear the American statesmen began to strike out viciously at their own top atomic scientists. Dr. Oppenheimer, Dr. Condon and even the mighty Albert Einstein were attacked. Their sin was that they doubted America's atomic strategy and pointed out its fallacy.

Eisenhower's hopes of a world monopoly in atomic power were dashed, and in December last year he proposed to the United Nations his plan for an "Atomic Pool." Atomic materials from all countries would be contributed to the pool to assist different countries of the world in the peaceful use of atomic energy. Eisenhower invited the Soviet Union to take part in private talks on the plan. Russia agreed.

But the Soviet statesmen pointed out the plan does not deal with the main problem—the banning of the use and manufacture of A- and H-bombs. Not all materials would go into the pool, and so the U.S. could go on busily piling up bombs.

Once again it was plain the American plan was to get control of the peaceful uses of atomic energy while the bomb makers are left free.

So the talks on atomic control are seen as a mere sideline in the U.S. craze to control the world or else blow it to pieces. World opinion is against them. The International Red Cross has called for the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction as a "first essential step." The French Socialist leader, Jules Moch, declared recently:

"It is not unlikely that before long nobody will dare to continue experiments with the H-bomb. From this it is but a step to the prohibition of its use, which would be the first move towards disarmament."

# A VERY FISHY STORY

Let us review the story of the Coloured Vote Bill so far. It is very interesting.

Until last year both the Parliamentary Opposition and the Coloured People's National Union were opposed to the Bill. Then, at the end of the Parliamentary session in September the Bekker branch of the Nationalist Party hinted that it was ready to accept the Bill.

The next step was the appointment of a commission. About half a dozen stooge organisations trooped dutifully up and told the commission that apartheid was wonderful.

But most of the Coloured organisations in Cape Town said they were strongly opposed to the Bill and its apartheid contents. Of these organisations, the C.P.N.U. was loudest in its protests. The president, Mr. George Golding, declared separate representation was unthinkable. Surrender to the Nationalist demands? Not George Golding! He would never surrender. Good old George.

But since then Mr. Golding has been thinking—always a dangerous thing.

### MR. JOSHUA NOT INTERESTED

We will now let Mr. F. P. Joshua, a member of the executive committee of the C.P.N.U., continue the

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent

story (as reported in newspaper interviews):

According to Mr. Joshua, Mr. Golding went to see him to discuss the Coloured Vote Bill. Mr. Joshua told him he was not interested in a compromise and that a Coloured convention should be called to show that the Coloured people did not want the Bill. So George went away looking worried, and he called a meeting of his executive committee to help him straighten out the tangle in his mind.

The meeting agreed there should be a convention. But—and here the newspaper reports are emphatic—they definitely did not agree to propose a compromise to the Prime Minister. It seems they told Mr. Golding to write to the Prime Minister and suggest a convention. It also seems they wanted worried George to consult Mr. Joshua when he drew up the letter (or so Mr. Joshua claims).

But George was so worried that he did not consult Mr. Joshua. He wrote the letter, two members of the executive committee added their signatures to his, and two copies were put in the post—one to Dr. Malan, who received it with delight, and one to Mr. Strauss, who received it with dismay. The reason? The letter contained a couple of paragraphs proposing a compromise (or at least outlining a possible basis for a compromise).

Now comes the interesting part: The proposal was exactly the same as the one proposed by the Bekker group in Parliament. Mr. Strauss, I presume, sat back and said: Phew!

### A CASE OF TELEPATHY

The newspapers, of course, asked Mr. Golding to say a few words on the matter, and Worried George declared he had never seen Mr. Bekker in his life, nor was he interested in his amendment. At the very least it was an interesting case of telepathy.

## RHEUMATISM?

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## S.A. PIANIST FOUND PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AMONG CZECHS

CAPE TOWN.

"WHAT really struck me about my visit to Czechoslovakia was the vital feeling for peace, co-operation and cultural exchanges with other countries," said Mr. Harold Rubens, famous South African pianist, on his return last week from Czechoslovakia after taking part in the International Spring Festival of Music in Prague.

The first concert Mr. Rubens attended in Prague after his arrival was by artists from the Soviet Union. "The standard was simply tremendous," he told Advance. "Their greatest pianist, Richter, was so frightening, his playing was so wonderful."

"In my first concert I played with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. I was deeply impressed with the crowded audience of ordinary working people, they were so warm and responsive that they became part of my playing. After the recital people rushed up to the platform and showered me with flowers and presents.



Harold Rubens

"Prague is one of the most beautiful cities I have visited, and its

people are justly proud of it. The Czech National Theatre and the two opera houses in Prague are open every night for 10 months of the year and they are packed at every performance."

A replica of the original 16th century Globe Theatre is being built in Prague for Shakespeare's plays, which at present are frequently performed at the National Theatre.

"I also visited the province of Moravia and played in several of the country towns. Each has its well-developed cultural institutions, which are in constant touch with Prague, through which they are able to get artists. Many of these towns have their own opera, ballet and orchestra, and here, too, my concerts were packed.

"At one of the towns I played for children in the schools. After my recital they showered me with questions about what is happening in South Africa."

While in Prague Mr. Rubens saw

the Dvorak opera "Rusalka" performed by the opera cast and orchestra of the Czech Army. The vocal scores and recorded material of this opera have been offered free of charge to the University of Cape Town, which is considering producing it next year, Advance was told by Dr. Chisolm, Professor of Music at the S.A. College of Music.

Dr. Chisolm said the university had been in touch with the Ministry of Culture in Czechoslovakia for several years, and already had about 800 items in the library which had been presented by the Czech Government.

"We are anxious to extend this co-operation which has developed between our two countries to include visits to South Africa by Czech artists," said Dr. Chisolm.

Mr. Rubens has been invited to play at the Spring Festival in Prague again next year, and he has also been invited to visit China.



The Indian Government follows a liberal policy in granting scholarships to hundreds of students from territories abroad to study for varying periods in Indian universities. Others are brought to India on tours as guests of the Indian people. In this picture a group of visiting students from territories in Africa are seen chatting with the President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at Rashtrapati Bhavan (New Delhi) last month.

## NEW WAVE OF BANNING ORDERS

A WAVE of banning orders and restrictive measures signed by Mr. C. R. Swart hit the democratic movement last weekend. Prominent leaders of the people in Johannesburg and Cape Town were banned from gatherings and from organisations including the Congresses, trade unions and the Peace movement.

Mr. George Maeka, President of the Transvaal Council of non-European Trade Unions, and secretary of the Furniture, Mattress and Bedding Workers' Union, has been issued with an order forbidding him to attend any gatherings for the next two years.

Detectives attached to the special branch of the police were busy running round Johannesburg last week handing out similar banning orders. Among the recipients were:

Mr. J. B. Marks and Mr. David Bopape, whose original banning orders, issued in June, 1952, had expired, and who were provincial president and secretary of the African National Congress prior to being ordered by Swart to resign; Mr. S. Rosenblatt, who was forbidden to attend gatherings for two years by a similar notice issued only last September. Mr. Rosenblatt was chairman of the Baking Workers' Union before being banned.

In Cape Town Mr. Johnson Ngwevela, whose original banning order had expired, was served with a similar order on Monday.

"The action of the Government in prohibiting me from attending any gatherings is a reflection of its weakness and its nervousness in the face of the growing strength of the African trade union movement," said Mr. Maeka. "It should not be regarded as an attack on me as an individual, but as an attempt to crush the leadership of the trade union movement and to get the workers to submit to such tyrannical laws as the Native

### MASS MOVE AGAINST NAT. LAWS

JOHANNESBURG.

A mass conference of delegates from organisations, factories, streets and areas, to discuss plans for opposing the Western Areas Removal Scheme, the Native Labour Act and I.C. Bill, and the Bantu Education Act, has been convened at the Trades Hall for next Sunday, June 27. The conference is being called jointly by five bodies: the Transvaal executives of the African and Indian Congresses, the Council of Non-European Trade Unions, and the Johannesburg branches of the Congress of Democrats and the Coloured Peoples' Organisation.

A large number of organisations, including the Southern Transvaal local committee of the S.A. Trades and Labour Council, will, it is believed, be sending delegates to the conference.

Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act.

"These attempts are bound to fail. Long after Minister Swart and his Nationalist henchmen have disappeared from the scene the workers of this country will lead the people of this country towards the triumphant building of a new South Africa where all the working people shall be guaranteed essential freedom of movement, association and speech."

Latest recipients of letters from Mr. Swart instructing them to resign from organisations are Mr. L.

Bernstein, member of the N.E.C.s of the S.A. Congress of Democrats and the Springbok Legion. Mr. N. Thandray, Joint Secretary of the Transvaal Indian Congress, whose co-secretary, Moulvi Cachalia, was banned last week; Mr. R. H. Desai, chairman of the Transvaal Indian Youth Congress, who was re-elected at the annual general meeting of his organisation last Sunday.

The letters prohibit the recipients from participating in the activities of a large number of organisations aiming at democratic rights for non-Europeans or the establishment of world peace.

Dr. Delisa Mji, member of the N.E.C. of the African National Congress also received a banning letter.

## AFRICAN ART—EUROPEAN PREJUDICE

CAPE TOWN.

For some years a small art centre has been run by a French artist at Poto-Poto, near the French colonial capital of Brazzaville, on the Congo River. At this centre Africans have been encouraged to tackle the problems of creating paintings—a technique new to their culture. Some of the work of these African artists was put on show last week at the attractive little gallery of the University of Cape Town Michaelis School of Art in Orange Street, where it can be seen by all and sundry without discrimination.

Unfortunately, the show has been introduced to the Cape Town public in rather an insulting and patronising manner and with a profound lack of understanding by one of the lecturers of the Michaelis School, Mr. Van Essche. Writing in the Cape Times, Mr. Van Essche goes out of his way to stress repeatedly that the attitudes of the Congo students are those of a child, that the paintings have little or no aesthetic (artistic) importance and that they are a dead end beyond which there is no possible further development.

LAUGHABLE

All these statements are so wide of the mark that they would be laughable if they did not reveal an acute bias, which has already prejudiced the minds of the public coming to see the pictures.

There is no doubt the Poto-Poto art centre influences the African students with modern European ideas along with the European techniques of the brush and paint. In matters of art the so-called "School of Paris" represents an advanced tendency to-

wards decadence and lowering standards.

JOYFULNESS AND HUMOUR

What these few African paintings show is the tremendous vigour, joyfulness and humour of the students. With such a fund of natural virility, they seem to leap over the obstacles of European decay in art and arrive at a fresh and individual outlook. In the harmonies of colour and decorative design they show excellent taste and even originality.

Most of the paintings are student work and are, therefore, either modest in aim or give a sense that the artist is still developing technical mastery before being able to reach full expression. This is a different thing altogether from "child art."

I was most struck by the humour in these pictures. Africa has played many a joke throughout history on the outside world, and it seems that the young Congo Africans, coming to picture painting for the first time, cannot resist poking fun at life in general. And the joke is on the colonial-minded aesthetes who come with preconceived ideas of what African art should be.

Although painting is a new technique to them, other forms of art play a profound part in their culture, and this can be seen clearly. Decorative skill and design come from their ancient folk crafts and sculpture; rhythm is influenced by their musical traditions. There are good foundations and there is no reason why a fine and flourishing art should not arise, assisting the development of African consciousness on the road towards freedom.

C.J.

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"WHAT I SAW IN THE SOVIET UNION" By Brian Bunting

# Energy, Enthusiasm, Peace

## The Mausoleum

Looking out of our hotel window after we arrived in Moscow, we saw a long queue stretching across the Red Square and round the corner along the walls of the Kremlin. It must have been fully half a mile long, and consisted of men, women and children moving slowly forward two abreast. A few days later we ourselves were to join this queue.

It consists of people who have come to visit the Mausoleum on the Red Square, in which lie the embalmed bodies of Lenin and Stalin. The queue has been in existence ever since the death of Lenin. After the death of Stalin last year the crowds wishing to visit the Mausoleum became so unmanageable that the authorities were forced to control admission by the issue of tickets.

Anyone wishing to visit the Mausoleum to-day must apply to his trade union or one or other of the workers' organisations, which have a certain number of tickets available for each day the Mausoleum is open. Preference is given to people, both Soviet citizens and foreigners, who come to Moscow from other areas, and we met some Muscovites who had applied for tickets and had still not received them several months later.

The Mausoleum is a building of very simple, even austere, design. In the central inner chamber the queue moves slowly past the illuminated glass cases in which Lenin and Stalin lie. The bodies are very life-like, both lying in attitudes of repose as if the two leaders were merely asleep. Lenin looks exactly like all the portraits and busts which have made his visage familiar to the world—the high forehead, the determined chin; only the bright eyes are closed. Stalin, who has been a giant figure on the international scene in the life-time of



The Red Square in Moscow. Left foreground is portion of the huge new department store recently opened. Left background is one of the new skyscraper blocks of apartments. Centre is St. Basil's Cathedral. Right foreground is the Mausoleum in which lie the embalmed bodies of Lenin and Stalin, and behind it is the wall of the Kremlin, where other Soviet leaders lie buried.

all of us, now rests side by side with his old leader.

As the queue moves out of the Mausoleum it passes down the wall of the Kremlin, where lie buried other Soviet leaders and many international figures, like McMahon and John Reed, who played their part in the events of 1917.

We remarked to ourselves afterwards that people can't be forced to stand in a queue. This never-ending procession of people who have come to pay their respects to their departed leaders is something which has to be seen to be believed.

## Peace and Friendship

It will by now have become

apparent to all who have read our account of our visit to the Soviet Union that we were deeply impressed by what we saw. We make no apology for this. Any fair-minded visitor must be impressed by the energy and enthusiasm with which the Soviet people are building up their society, by their friendliness and hospitality, by their repeatedly-expressed desire to be left in peace to continue with their tasks.

While we were travelling to and from Europe both Sonia and I read the new complete version of the autobiography of Maxim Gorky, which was recently published in Britain. It is an astonishing story of the poverty, ignorance and brutishness of the life of the Russian people under the

Tsar. At one stage Gorky remarks:

"Often, recording such atrocious memories of our bestial Russian life, I wonder whether there is any point in recalling them. And, with revived assurance, I tell myself: 'The point is that this continues to be the actual, loathsome fact to this very day, that this fact must be traced back to its source and uprooted from our memories, from the souls of our people, from our confined and squalid lives.'

"And there is another point in recording these brutalities. Repellent though they are, and though many beautiful souls are burdened and crushed to death by them, yet the Russian remains spiritually so young and sound that he can, and

does, transcend them. In this extraordinary Russian life not only does our animal self thrive and fatten, but along with it, and triumphant despite it, grows a brilliant, creative, wholesome human type which encourages us to seek our regeneration, a future of peace and humane living for all."

This section of Gorky's autobiography was written about 1914. It is in the light of what he says that one must really look at the Soviet Union to-day. Out of the past which he describes has come the present.

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK

## Book Review

### THE CROOKED RAIN

What is it that makes the difference between the great war novel and just another war story?

Mr. Gerald Gordon's hero embarks for the Abyssinian campaign after a hastily consummated marriage of one night in a Durban hotel. His baptism of fire comes almost immediately; friends fall and he turns his bayonet in Italian stomachs. Now he is a tough soldier. Then on to the Western Desert, more campaigning and leave in Palestine, where he meets Maureen, with her European culture and exotic attraction. He returns to the front and is taken prisoner, escapes and makes his way back to his own lines. His wife divorces him, and he gets his commission. Then El Alamein, where he loses a leg—and the war is over for him.

For all this the main characters do not come alive. The girl friend in Palestine is the only one with any positive faith, but Mr. Gordon is so coy about it that he defines it rather vaguely as "her great ideals." Her dialogue, however, is that of the heroine of a girls' school story — "Congrats." and "Gosh."

With his minor characters Mr. Gordon has more success.

In its attitude to war and fascism war is made beastly enough, but the contrast between the comradeship of the army and the isolation and selfishness of civilian life gives the army a false glow. Fascism and Nazism are mentioned, but any connection between them and the war seems purely coincidental. L.W.

# THE BEND IN THE ROAD

## SYNOPSIS

On holiday in Basutoland, Katie discovers a new and pleasant world. From a young African teacher, Adam, she learns of some problems of changing tribal life.

This sounded like a specious argument to me and I looked at Father Alexander to note his reaction to Adam's wierd reasoning.

"It is a difficult thing," the Father said surprisingly. He started the engine of the Ford and steered over the bare track towards the distant group of huts.

"Yes, it is a difficult thing." Adam said relieved that the cudgels had been taken up for him.

"What is so difficult?" I said a little scornfully.

Adam looked around for help, but Father Alexander was absorbed in his driving, although I could see he was listening intently to the trend of the argument.

"It is this question of education," Adam said. "I think that the only way that the African people can be great once more is by education. And I am a little afraid, I suppose."

"What are you afraid of? They can do you no harm," I said obstusely.

"No, I don't mean that. I mean that I am afraid they will take something away from me. It is difficult to explain." Adam blinked more furiously than ever. The huts were fifty yards ahead of us and Adam floundered and then ploughed on in his attempt to jus-

By KATIE HENDRICKS.

tify his attitude. "I am afraid that if I mix with them then I will once more become like them." He shook his large head apologetically; "I suppose my fear amounts to the fact that I am not sure of myself; the Father is sure of himself and so are you because you are going back to Cape Town in two weeks. It is not easy. One can only build a new nation by teaching the children. If the grown men and women want to learn I will teach them as well, but I will not go into their huts. One can only remember what one practices; if I don't practise the civilisation and the education I have learned, then I will forget them. That is easy in the Herschel district."

"Yes, that is easy," Father Alexander murmured as he ducked out of the car. "Coming in for some beer?" he said to me. He did not ask Adam.

It was only years later that I learned to understand the principles underlying Adam's reasoning.

The first time I tasted kaffir beer I wrinkled my nose with disgust and excused myself by saying I would rather take some home with me; then I poured it behind the first bush I came to. I never really got to like it. But Father Alexander had acquired a taste for the insipid-looking brew. He explained to me that he had to accept their

hospitality graciously to keep on the best terms with his flock. But I suspected that it suited his palate well.

To brew the beer in South Africa is a criminal offence. But in Basutoland, the natives enjoy their kaffir beer openly, preparing it from mealie meal, the African's staple food.

Near the mission station is a shop run by the sisters and I helped them for several days behind the counter. But the vast majority of the Basutos who came into the shop did not buy anything. They simply came to stare. They would spend the whole day squatting on their haunches, gazing at us and at the neatly stacked shelves.

I asked a Xosa girl why she did not buy some of our face creams instead of smearing her face with red clay, like most of the women of her tribe. Wrinkling her full, broad face in disgust, she indicated that she had no use for face creams. She pointed to her face and explained in halting English that she beat the yellow of an egg and mixed it with clay and that, indeed, was the finest cream.

It was mostly the men who hung around the little shop, smoking their pipes. The women were busy in the fields, for the Basuto husband does not believe in doing anything his wife can do. They sat around the shop wrapped in their huge, vividly coloured blankets, talking volubly among

themselves, or playing their musical instruments. These are shaped like a bow and arrow; when the stick is drawn across the taut string, it emits a sharp piercing note, which is repeated over and over. The Basutos love music of any kind, the noisier the better, and the sisters never dared to sell whistles in the store.

I got to know several of the Basutos who came to the store well enough to be on teasing terms with them, although the teasing was all on my part. The Basuto male is an aristocrat; his dignity and nobility of bearing are well suited to his life of idleness and ample leisure; never is his majesty ruffled by industry.

A tall, well-built man called Tswana, was one of our customers, whose contribution to the turnover was nil. But, unlike the others, he never asked for a sweet, although the temptation must have been a severe strain on his dignity. His hair was curled in tight little ringlets, barely showing beneath his headcloth; this was a dirty rag wound round his head and tied in two knots in front of his left ear. Not until the day I left Basutoland were the knots untied in the mission shop.

From each of his ears were suspended three curtain rings and on each arm were a dozen rubber bands from preserve jars. His great deep chest and back were bare but around his neck hung several strings of beads. Around his middle he wore a very small white cloth fastened with two very large safety pins like a baby's napkin, and in front and behind was hung a wild cat skin. His legs, from his

ankles nearly up to his knees, were bedecked with rubber bands and bangles which jingled as he walked, and gave him great pleasure.

One day I asked him why he dressed like that. He fixed me with a steady gaze as if summing up my qualifications for addressing him. Then he replied that he was poor and had no money.

"But why don't you comb your hair? Here is a good comb for sixpence."

"Miss," he explained in his deep chesty growl, "I go to sleep like this and get up the same way every day. I do not have to trouble with combing my hair and dressing."

"And why do you wear so many rings on your fingers?"

He gave a great grin and a little chuckle.

"It is because I am liked by the girls and they bring me these little things to put on my fingers."

"But you have a wife, haven't you?"

"I have two wives, Miss," he corrected me impressively.

One day I became bolder and teased him by pulling the cat skin. He raised the enormous stick he had in his hand threateningly, and I was afterwards told that if he had not liked me, I would have been struck senseless on the spot. I calmed him with some sweets and two pennies. He was proud of his two pennies, and just before I left Basutoland he untied the knots in his headcloth and showed me that he still had the coins—yet another trophy from yet another girl friend.

(To be continued next week)



# From Ring And Track

BY GUS



## BOXING

In a fight that never reached championship class, Jolting Joe Maseko retained his South African middleweight title by beating Cape Town's Julius Caesar on points in a Tiger Kid Shaik promotion.

The fight started off on a slow note, with the sluggish Caesar taking the fight to his man. In the third round Joe answered Caesar's persistent attacks with rapid-fire lefts and rights to the mid-section. Caesar was foolish enough to resort to in-fighting, at which the champ excels.

All through the fight Joe's face was unprotected and he appeared to be holding himself back for an all-out onslaught at an opportune moment. I felt he could have knocked out his man before the sixth. If Caesar had a heavier punch and more polish he could have won the fight.

It was only from the seventh round onwards that Joe showed anything like championship form. The last round was the most exciting. Caesar, far behind on points, rushed out of his corner to finish the fight. Joe had the same intentions, and both met in

a toe-to-toe exchange in the centre of the ring.

Suddenly Joe stepped back. For a split second it looked as if the end had come. He was about to administer the coup-de-grace, when Caesar, summoning up the last shred of his remaining strength, pounced on him with a doe-or-die two-fisted attack.

## HAIR-RAISING

In a hair-raising shindig, which was easily the best fight of the evening, Johnny Stansfield beat Aaron Selepe on points to win the Cape Province welterweight championship.

From the very first gong both boys rushed to the attack. Johnny landed freely on Selepe's face and body. The latter, possessing one of the crudest styles I have seen in a long time, just did not seem to bother about Stansfield's punches.

The next four rounds kept the crowd on its feet as Selepe and Johnny mixed it in the centre of the ring. In the fifth round Stansfield seemed to be in trouble.

Johnny rushed out for the sixth and almost floored his man, who at once resorted to clinching to save himself from further punishment.

Aaron was fresh enough for the next stanza, but he was not able to protect himself from punches which rained on him from all angles. The eighth, ninth and tenth rounds went to Stansfield, who kept up the attack against an opponent who refused to give in.

## DULL FIGHT

In a very dull fight Young Roberts beat Pete Makonca on points to win the Cape Province lightweight championship. Roberts has a long way to go if he ever hopes to win a national crown.

Other results were:—Enxo Malopo outpointed Alfie Bagget over four rounds in a welterweight encounter, whilst Gerry Naidoo lost to Jonathan Kid Kussie over four rounds in a featherweight match.

## RACING

### CLAIRWOOD

The following are Tudor's selections for the Clairwood meeting on Saturday:

First Race: 1 HIGH CAPE, 2 Scottish Dance, 3 Rockfast.  
Second Race: 1 C'est si Bon, 2 Decanter, 3 Facepack.  
Third Race: 1 MEDAL, 2 Happy-same, 3 Old Glory.  
Fourth Race: 1 GALICIA, 2 Thalasa, 3 Shiner.  
Fifth Race: 1 NORSEL, 2 Lord Louis, 3 Cosmic.  
Sixth Race: 1 WAYFARER, 2 Persevs, 3 Gullistan.  
Seventh Race: 1 SENATOR, 2 Almond Ice, 3 Saint Easton.  
Eighth Race: 1 SLIDING, 2 Caston, 3 Nobility.  
Ninth Race: 1 PEER GYNT, 2 Tripplerd, 3 Norfolk.

## CHINA MUST ENTER UNITED NATIONS

### NEW DELHI.

If the United Nations Organisation was to play a useful role in the future it was essential that New China be admitted into it, said Ananathasayanam Ayyangar, Deputy Speaker of the House of the People of the Indian Parliament, at a public meeting in Bombay recently. He also referred to the U.S.-Pakistan military pact as an unfriendly act which could easily lead to war.

## TRADE UNION COLUMN By RAY ALEXANDER

# NATIONAL UNITY FOR GARMENT WORKERS



Few people who read the statements of the officials of the Garment Workers' Union of South Africa and the Cape Peninsula Garment Workers' Union realise that the present issue has a history going back to the early thirties.

I am going to describe some of the early events because I believe they will help readers to understand the present problem.

I joined the Cape Garment Workers' Union in 1930 and found that it had barely a hundred members, drawn from three or four factories and from the bespoke tailoring trade. Members were seldom called to meetings. The then existing Wage Determination was hardly enforced. The late Henry Evans (the secretary) gave most of his time to the many other unions in which he held an official position.

During 1931 a new union, the S.A. Garment Workers' Union, was formed in Cape Town to organise all garment workers and to fight in co-operation with the Garment Workers' Union in Johannesburg against the wage cuts and dismissals which were taking place during the depression of that period. The Cape Garment Workers' Union, I should add, had not made any attempt to protect the garment workers. In fact the late Bob Stuart as secretary of the Cape Federation of Trade Unions to which the Cape Garment Workers' Union was affiliated, appealed to the workers to accept wage cuts. The employers, he said, "are having a crisis, are doing with less profits and the workers too must sacrifice and do with less wages."

I together with some of the more active members of the Cape Union joined the newly formed S.A. Garment Workers' Union because we felt the need for a live organisation which would put up a struggle for the workers in the industry.

## 1931 STRIKE

In August and September, 1931, the workers of the African Clothing Factory came out on strike under the leadership of our union—S.A. Garment Workers' Union—against wage cuts and dismissals. The strikers received no support from the Cape Garment Workers' in fact, they were attacked and criticised. But the strikers received generous support from the Garment Workers' Union, Transvaal.

Trade unionism had suffered a set-back in the depression and the S.A. Garment Workers' Union made no headway.

In 1935, when economic conditions had improved an attempt was made to revive the S.A. Garment Workers' Union and this time it met with success. The union forced a number of employers to refund large sums of underpaid wages and the membership grew by leaps and bounds. Eli Weinberg was the secretary and the union in its struggle to bring about improvements received the wholehearted support from the Garment Workers', Transvaal, particularly Mr. E. S. Sacks, Miss Johanna Cornelius the general secretary and President of the Union.

When the S.A. Garment Workers' Union applied for registration in terms of the I.C. Act, some of the clothing employers and the leaders of the Cape Garment Workers' Union came to an understanding. The employers gave the Cape Garment Workers' Union a stop-order with a "closed

shop" agreement so that all the garment workers were forced to belong to the union whether they liked it or not, and the S.A. Garment Workers' Union application for registration was rejected by the Department of Labour.

## NO CO-OPERATION

Since then the Cape Garment Workers' Union has been able to resist all attempts made to establish unity and co-operation with the garment workers elsewhere, particularly with the Transvaal workers. The officials have time and again taken part in many conferences with the Transvaal Union called to bring about unity, but nothing has come of these attempts.

My own impression is that a fair number of the members want unity on a national basis but it is difficult to judge the extent of the support for this policy. The union officials have been inclined to frown upon members who oppose official policy and in some cases disciplinary action has followed, the constitution being such as to place wide powers in the hands of the Executive.

The case for a national trade union rests upon the fact that the Cape Workers' wages and conditions are far inferior to those of garment workers elsewhere, particularly in the Transvaal. The figures quoted by Miss Anna Scheepers, President of the Garment Workers' Union of South Africa, show that wages in Cape Town for a trouser machinist are 40 per cent. (8s. in the £1) less than a Johannesburg machinist, and the Cape Town workers have a 4½ hour week and two weeks' annual leave whilst the Transvaal workers have a 40 hour week and three weeks' annual leave.

What is it that has prevented the formation of a national union such as has been achieved in other industries? As far as I know, the main obstacle has been the Cape clothing employers who, quite naturally from their point of view, have always fought hard against anything that will bring wages in Cape Town up to the Transvaal level.

Secondly, the Cape union official policy has been to maintain the present position. All is well as long as the stop-order is in existence and peace prevails in the industry.

## FEEBLE ATTITUDE

The union leadership has been inclined to adopt a feeble attitude in the matter of wage increases. That is one of the reasons why garment workers' wages are lower than those in the other big centres exclusive of Durban.

The Cape union's policy has been unprogressive not only as regards wages, but also on all the broader issues affecting the workers. The union leadership has not encouraged its membership, to play any part in the trade union or national liberatory movement, they have not joined in any campaign to fight against the Government's attempt to remove the Coloured people from the common roll. The union's representatives at the recent Unity Conference on Schoeman's Trade Union Destruction Bill sided with the right-wing section throughout the conference.

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As regards the unity issue, an additional obstacle exists in the doubts of many of the Cape workers themselves—doubts that are bound up with South Africa's common diseases of race prejudice and segregation practices.

## FAVOUR NATIONAL UNION

About 90 per cent. of the garment workers in the Cape are Coloureds. As far as I know, they are in favour of a national union but resent the segregation policies of the Transvaal union.

A large section of the workers are afraid that if a national union is brought about their union leadership will be dominated by Europeans and the Non-European workers will be in the same subordinate position as are the Non-European workers in many national unions. One source of this fear is the division of the union in the Transvaal into European and Non-European branches.

Clearly the important thing is for the Cape garment workers to bring up their wages and standards to the Transvaal level. But they will not be able to do this until they themselves have achieved democracy in their union and made a stand for a policy in the workers' interests, independently of other influences and considerations. They can receive encouragement from other workers but they themselves must do the job of improving their conditions.

I am certain in the process of a struggle along these lines a basis will be laid for national unity of a kind which will strengthen and not weaken the position of the Coloured workers. It must not be forgotten that Coloureds, Africans and Indians form the overwhelming majority of the workers, skilled as well as unskilled, in the industry throughout the Union. In this respect the clothing industry is quite unique. If the Non-European workers were to come together they would and could provide the necessary leadership and prevent any discrimination against them on racial lines.

Such a national organisation may be expected to play an active and positive role in the struggle of the working and oppressed people for a democratic and happy South Africa.

## BRITISH YOUTH FOR LIBERATION

### LONDON.

Growing support by British youth for independence, democratic rights and an end to the colour bar is indicated in a recent Youth Charter launched by the 600,000 strong British Assembly of Youth.

The Charter pledges aid to Colonial Youth who demand national independence; opposition to the colour bar, and the ending of colonial wars. It also demanded educational, housing, wage, cultural and sporting improvements for youth and the banning of the H-Bomb.

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## IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, innocent martyrs to American fascism, who were electrocuted on June 19, 1953.

Inserted by Herby Pillay, A. M. Kathrada, Babla Saloojee, Mosy Moola, Paul Joseph, Ebrahim Moola, Peter Joseph, Daso Joseph.



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