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800 DELEGATES GATHER TO BEGIN SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

THE mass conference held in Johannesburg last week-end to launch the Freedom Charter Signature Campaign in the Transvaal reached great heights of enthusiasm and was evidence of stirring fervour among people to get started with the collection of a million signatures. Conference hall was crowded out by 800 delegates who brought into the hall something of the spirit of the historic Congress of the People as they deliberated on ways and means to collect a million Freedom Charter signatures.

The crowd was unperturbed by the presence of a large group of Special Branch detectives who came armed with a warrant to search and seize all documents but who did not use it except to gain entrance to the hall and to search the pockets of one speaker, and to confiscate his speech. They also confiscated from a car parked outside the conference over six hundred copies of signature forms and over one hundred and fifty copies of "Workers' Unity," the SACTU bulletin.

Chairman Robert Resha summed up neatly the effect of police interference. "The more they interfere," he said, "the more determined the people become in the struggle."

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHT

One of the conference highlights was a graphic description of the Congress of the People by Alfred Hutchinson. His word pictures recreated those great days at Klip-town. "Was it treason," he asked, "for people to speak of better homes? Was it treason for men whose children were starving to demand higher wages?"

Introducing the signature campaign, Leslie Massina, SACTU secretary, said: "This is not just another conference. We have met here to carry forward a campaign born out of the struggles of the people. We freedom fighters must carry the message of the Charter everywhere we go; into trains, into the factories, on to farms and to reserves. There we must talk of more land and fat cattle. The Freedom Charter and Congress movement are inseparable. In our constant struggle to take up grievances and problems of the people we must explain and get people to accept the Freedom Charter. We shall canvass the streets with the Charter, visit our friends in the country with it and get them to sign it. We shall report back to the people who elected us and get them to sign."

"If while collecting our Transvaal quota of four hundred and fifty thousand signatures we lead the daily struggles of the oppressed there is no reason to doubt we could increase the membership of the Congresses by four hundred and fifty thousand."



One of the Floats that were entered in the Pietermaritzburg Azalea Festival Float Competition. The Float received no prize and no publicity whatsoever! The other inscriptions written on the Float were "Ban the A-Bomb and H-Bomb," "We want to Live."

CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE WILL WORK FOR CLEMENCY FOR JOHN ALWYN

SAYS BISHOP LAVIS

CAPE TOWN.—"The committee of the Civil Rights League will do everything it can to obtain clemency for John Alwyn," said Bishop Lavis when the case of the Worcester leader who is serving an eighteen-months sentence under the Suppression of Communism Act, was raised at the annual general meeting of the League last week.

After the facts of the case had been put to the meeting, Mr. Rex Visser, a Cape Town business man, urged strongly that the League should work energetically for clemency. He cited the cases of traitors to the country who had been released because they were "political prisoners." "This man is no traitor, but he certainly is a political prisoner and he too should be set free," said Mr. Visser.

MR. BERNARD GOSSCHALK, NEWLY-APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE EXECUTIVE TOLD 'NEW AGE' THAT ONE OF THE MAIN ISSUES WITH WHICH HE INTENDED TO CONCERN HIMSELF IN THE COMING MONTHS WAS TO WORK ON A SCHEME WHEREBY THE LEAGUE COULD BEST PULL ITS WEIGHT IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR ALWYN.

● When the matter came before the Appellate Division Judge van den Heever, with whom the other Appeal judges agreed, said that if he had been the magistrate he would have imposed a suspended sentence.

"I know the hardship that John Alwyn's family is suffering," said Mr. George Peake, national president of SACPO in an urgent appeal to the League to exert itself to its utmost. "He has four children for whom he was the main breadwinner. If not for the magnificent assistance of friends, they would be quite destitute."

Among the points put to the meeting were these:

● John Alwyn's crime was that during the Defiance Campaign against unjust laws in 1952 he had addressed two meetings and called upon the audience to volunteer to break post office and railway apartheid regulations.

● At the time many hundreds of such meetings were being held, and in the course of the campaign over 8,000 people volunteered and willingly served prison sentences for breaches of the apartheid regulations.

● The leaders of the campaign in the Transvaal and Eastern Province were arrested and charged under the Suppression of Communism Act. It was held that to break any law in order to bring about any change in the system prevailing in the Union amounted to Communism in terms of the Act.

● The leaders, on conviction were all given suspended sentences.

● Alwyn who was not charged at the time was one of thousands of leaders in other centres who had urged support for the campaign all over the country. For some reason, after the conviction, Alwyn alone was selected for prosecution—two years after the campaign ended.

Although the leaders of the campaign had received suspended sentences, the Worcester magistrate gave Alwyn an eighteen month prison sentence.

INDIANS WALK OUT OF GHETTO BOARD HEARING

JOHANNESBURG.—Rather than co-operate in their own economic ruin the Indian community of Wolmaransstad withdrew from the hearing of the Group Areas Board last week.

"The impression which my clients are gaining is that the inquiry is a mere formality, that the result is a foregone conclusion, and that the presence of the Indian community is serving only to create the illusion that they are being democratically consulted," their representative declared.

The Wolmaransstad Municipality's proposal to the Board, was that Indian citizens be moved from the town into the veld.

Their case in support of this consisted of one typed sheet composed mainly of a description of the area which was handed in to the Board. Without troubling to give any further argument in support of their plan to take away Indian homes and businesses, the Municipality closed its case.

"WHAT QUESTIONS?"

Mr. J. Slovo, on behalf of the Wolmaransstad Indian community, was then asked to state the case for the Indians. He asked for an opportunity to question either the Town Clerk or some other person responsible for the Council scheme.

The Chairman: What are the questions you wish to put?

Mr. Slovo: I want to know whether the proposers of the scheme took into account the assets which Indians in Wolmaransstad own, the length of time they have owned them, the losses which they will incur as the result of

removal, whether the desirability of group areas has been considered, whether there is any evidence of race friction in the town, what alternative provisions for trading and residential occupation will be provided, and similar matters.

"NOT NECESSARY"

The Chairman: I do not think it necessary for you to have this information in order to outline your case. You have the Council memorandum and you can address us on it.

Mr. Slovo: A scrap of paper has been placed before the Board containing not one shred of evidence to support a case for the declaration of group areas, and I am called upon to state my case.

The Chairman: Can you not give us just an outline of your clients' case?

Mr. Slovo: My clients' case is that they are opposed to the declaration of group areas on the

grounds that, firstly, this will result in their complete economic ruin . . .

"HAVE YOU EVIDENCE"

The Chairman: Have you any evidence to support that contention?

Mr. Slovo: I cannot understand why I am called upon at this stage to lead evidence in support of my contention when the proposers of the scheme are not required to do the same. After all, the onus is on the party which proposes the scheme to convince the Board of its suitability and desirability. The impression which my clients are gaining in view of the Board's attitude is that the inquiry is a mere formality, that the result is a foregone conclusion, and that the presence of the Indian community is serving only to create the illusion that they are being democratically consulted. I am not prepared to state my case in greater detail unless I am given an opportunity to examine the Town Clerk.

This request was refused.

Mr. Hiemstra for the Municipality, addressed the Board briefly on the advisability of group areas in Wolmaransstad. The case for desirability, he said, was the same as in other areas. The desirability was proved by "the mere fact that the Indians are in the middle of the town, and it is desirable to remove them to preserve the character of the town."

Mr. A. E. Patel of the Transvaal Indian Congress also attempted to put a question to the Town Clerk and was ruled out of order, so he announced that he too would withdraw.

All the Indians present rose in a body and left the hall.

The Board inquiry ended only 20 minutes later, and heard only representations from a farmer who objected to the proposed Indian group area on the grounds that it was situated too close to his property.

IN CONCLUDING THE INQUIRY THE CHAIRMAN SAID THE BOARD HAD ENOUGH INFORMATION ON WHICH TO DRAFT A REPORT AND MAKE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS!



NEW AGE LETTER BOX

Could Strijdom live on dry bread?

In the Delmas farm district we live under intolerable conditions. People live on a starvation wage with little food.

Labourers have to do a five weeks stretch before they get their monthly pay of £2 10s. to £3.

For two morgen allotted, one has to do six months' service. For that service you are rationed four tins of mealie meal.

Can a family of six live on a bag of mealies per year?

Working hours are from the dawn of day until after sunset. The food we eat is hard porridge and a bit of skimmed milk which is shared between pigs and labourers.

When you protest against that indignity, the farmer gives you the trek-pass and tells you that you have become a white man and a master.

Porridge is cooked without salt in it. There is hardly wood or sufficient fuel for our daily cooking. A family receives a bag of mealie meal after four months.

Could Strijdom live on dry bread without tea or mixed with skimmed milk which is good only for pigs? Would he like to have his lunch made of a dead hen or dead beast and be happy about it? That is the treatment meted out

By Next Winter?

Last winter when the rains came the Africans in the Cape slept in the water. The road to Langa was so flooded that buses could not get through and had to travel right round so that the journey took the tired workers in their wet clothes about thirty minutes.

The Red Cross did a lot because those who were in the floods were given blankets, and we thanked them. But prevention is better than cure. Blankets are not enough when houses are needed and this is the job of the Cape Town City Council. They should also take steps to widen the stream so that the roads won't be flooded and the buses can get through.

Will they do it before next winter, or will we suffer again?

J. T. DYUBENI.
Langa, Cape Town.

SHRUG OFF your BACKACHE!

Mag-Aspirin is better. It quickly ends the torture of backache. It is the ideal sedative for affected nerves, more than often the cause of rheumatic pains, including backache, lumbago and sciatica. Mag-Aspirin settles the nerves and soothes away the pain, brings welcome relief from headache, earache, toothache, bladder pain and neuritis. Get Mag-Aspirin to-day!

MAG-ASPIRIN is not ordinary aspirin

Mag-Aspirin Powders, 2/- per box. Also available in Tablets at 2/6 at all chemists and stores.

6560-4

Wake Them Up!

The Bloemfontein A.N.C. has planned to invite the Coloured people here to attend a public meeting against their re-classification under the Population Register.

We are not sure if they will come, because Coloured "leaders" in this city support apartheid, and do not permit Africans to come into their hall. They take no part in the liberation struggle and do not belong to SACPO.

On the day classification comes they will be standing in the streets crying like children who have lost their parents.

This branch of the A.N.C. will wake them up if they have ears to hear, eyes to see. The other provinces have all democrats together in SACPO, COD, SAIC and ANC. We want that here too!

GEORGE A. NYEZI
A.N.C., Bloemfontein.

Bury It!

I hear that Mr. P. Ngubane is asking for support for the so-called "Bantu National Congress" of which he is president. This organisation is only there to support Strijdom's government and we all remember that Bhengu, its former leader is now in jail for committing fraud.

The only thing Mr. Ngubane should do if he wants to please the people is dig a big hole and bury his organisation.

I would like also to draw attention from my place of exile to information I have received that people are collecting funds, supposedly for me, and not forwarding the money. No money should be sent to anyone except the following addresses: Mr. L. Baker, Box 69, Benoni; Messrs. Mandela and Tambo, Box 6045, Johannesburg; or to me c/o Post Office, Glen Red District, Vryburg.

KOREA MONARE.
(Exile) Glen Red.

FREEDOM'S SHADOW

Africans, let us unite behind the African National Congress, our only national political organisation. In it we learn, and see the shadow of our freedom.

Unless economic democracy is combined with political democracy things will get no better.

We don't want Bantu education; we want people's education.

W. G. D. LEKHONKHOBE.
Mafeking, Tvl.

to the African labourer on the farms.

We are not supposed to rear cattle or sheep on our land. All we have to do is to work until we die even if we are sick. There are no doctors to attend to the sick because we can't afford to pay for this service.

This is the kind of treatment African labourers suffer in the Delmas district. A hare lives a better life than the African in the land of his forefathers.

W. C. BOHOLO.
Delmas, Tvl.

African Progress Helps Whites

God did not create any man to be enslaved by another man because in the eyes of God all are equal.

Europeans are quick to show alarm as they come into increasing contact with urban Africans whose education and independent spirit negate the possibility of their being treated as oafs or imbeciles. As these Africans grow in number a more malevolent mood is showing itself among whites. We hear demands for harsher punishments. But violence is a sign of despair.

The difficulty is to persuade the whites that the progress of the Africans is to their advantage. Far from bringing about the whites' downfall African progress will guarantee their survival whereas a contrary policy of seeking to keep Non-Europeans in ignorance and degradation could lead to horrors and suffering.

J. G. MODIKWE.
Korsten, Port Elizabeth.

THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT

THREE miles from Wellington in proximity to the railway line and partly shielded by tall blue gum trees from the avaricious eyes of the platteland farmer and his family lies Wellington Emergency Camp, or, as it is commonly nicknamed, Sakkieskamp, the home of Wellington's African community.

Sakkieskamp (I prefer the more appropriate name) consists of hundreds of pondokkies constructed from flattened out paraffin tins, discarded oil drums and various other pieces of iron and tin all rusted beyond recognition by exposure to sun and rain.

The township has one tap and 5 communal lavatories. The squalor and cheerlessness characteristic of all slums pervades Sakkieskamp. Potbellied, malnourished, unwashed children and grown ups are forced to wear dirty clothing for days. Even in winter when water is more plentiful, keeping their houses clean is a nightmarish task with the village literally covered with mud.

Moreover, Sakkieskamp has no shops (in fact, trading in the location is prohibited) so the people have to rely on profiteers who bring the necessities at exorbitant prices.

Despite the drab and neglected appearance of the location it receives its full share of attention from the Administration. The superintendent, White, in his early twenties, who lives in a grand house in the centre of Wellington, conducts himself like a mediaeval feudal lord. No meet-

ing can be arranged unless he approves of it and moreover he must be present.

"Police raids are our worse nightmare," one African told me. On these occasions the location that always seems lifeless suddenly becomes alive as men and women, often improperly clad owing to the unexpectedness of the raid, rush to the nearby bushes to escape the wrath of the oppressor.

The police, often young men, move about staring with gloating contempt at the discomfort obviously suffered by the people. There are jeers, insults and even assaults. Wives, whose only crime is to be with their husbands, bear the brunt of these raids. Scores have been arrested, fined and forced to return to the reserves.

Yet when I see my sturdy brothers braving the adversity thrust upon them by an inhuman government, and when I note that eager shine in their eyes, not one of despair, since this trait is alien to our people—but a look of expectation, I know that the day is dawning when **THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN**, and look forward to it.

ERNEST ABRAHAM.
Wellington, Cape.

EDITORIAL

LESSON OF HILLBROW

THE European middle-class and working-class voters of Hillbrow have chosen a right-wing member of the United Party in preference to Dr. Friedman. This is the same constituency—and its class composition is not much changed—which, during the war, elected a Communist to the City Council.

Clearly, Dr. Friedman and the enthusiastic United Party "liberals" who backed him made a mistake, for they confidently believed that in a constituency which Dr. Friedman had represented for many years and where he was well-known and popular—a constituency thought to be the most liberal-minded in the Transvaal—he would be swept to victory. Instead, the United Party policy, which Friedman himself described as "becoming empty as a vacuum," has been strong enough to suck him right out of the safest seat in parliament.

It is almost certain that the "liberals" of the United Party will learn the wrong lesson from Hillbrow. Those who kept quiet will mop a thankful brow and decide that the Suzmans and Copes who jumped back into line when the whip cracked were right after all.

Of course, in a way, they were right. For years and years Dr. Friedman has fully identified himself with the racist, undemocratic, white supremacy policy of the United Party every time it came to a vote on an important issue. He has lent all his prestige to the indoctrination of the electorate with the rotten policies of the United Party. It would hardly be fair of him to be surprised that they continue to vote in the way he has always urged them to vote—for the United Party candidate.

Nevertheless, the fact that 2,658 voters did express their disgust with the United Party policy is of considerable significance, for the party leaders threw all the power of their machine into the battle. A substantial number of U.P. supporters are shown to be ready to take a more militant stand on the retention of the Coloured vote and to condemn the party's spineless hesitancy.

For those who are so blind as to see the future of our country determined for all time by the European electorate, the lesson of Hillbrow can only be one of despair. But the great majority of people are not blind. And to them can be brought home the real lesson of Hillbrow.

South Africa's future belongs to all its people. Progressive Europeans who want to see an end to the viciousness of Nationalist rule—there are many of them and the number is growing—can work effectively for that end in one way only. And that is by allying themselves with the only force which challenges the Nationalists—the Non-European people and their mass organisations, the Congresses.

MAKING ANGELS WEEP

COMMENTING on the Bloemfontein City Council's decision to refuse admission to Non-Europeans at the rugby match between the British Lions and the Junior Springboks, the London Times recently declared editorially: "It is enough to make the angels weep."

Last week's press reports showed a state of affairs which should make the angels howl torrents.

Farmer delegates to the Nationalist Party Congress appealed to the government to force their African labourers to stay with them. "We must have laws to stop this business of labour going to the highest bidder," one declared. Which, of course, is just another way of saying: "Slavery must be made legal in South Africa."

And a Supreme Court judge—Mr. Acting Justice Beyers—after a remarkable display of Afrikaner nationalism—has declared that emotion is a better guide than reason! A judge, mind you, a judge.

While in the boxing world, a Mr. Ludwig Japhet has seriously recommended to the world that apartheid be introduced in sport internationally. Non-White countries shouldn't be invited to the Olympics, says he. Not because of any idea of white supremacy, but quite the converse. Mr. Japhet considers that Africans are better athletes than their white brothers and it is unfair on the whites to have to compete with them.

Truly the angels have cause to weep. Future generations of South Africans will collect prize sayings such as these and laugh and wonder. But for us they are too close for laughter. They reflect the distorted ideas of a racist society, and serve as a spur to all democratic South Africans to create a new South Africa based on friendship and co-operation, where there will be no men in high places who think as these men think.

SOVIET-YUGOSLAV FRIENDSHIP SHAKES BALKAN WAR PACT

Arab Countries Move To Neutrality

LONDON.—The Yugoslav-Greece-Turkey pact—one of the links in the war chain which the Western Powers are trying to build round the socialist countries—is rapidly disintegrating.

First blow at the pact was delivered by the visit of Soviet leaders to Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia, and the joint declaration that both countries desired closer relations and would work to achieve them. After this visit, Marshal Tito informed a group of visiting American Congressmen that he did not feel the Yugoslav-Greece-Turkey pact was really necessary, as he was convinced the Russians desired peace.

There followed several exchanges of cultural and sporting delegations between the two countries, and between Yugoslavia and the People's Democracies. In the last week of August a top-ranking Yugoslav economic delegation visited Moscow, and came back with an agreement for a Soviet loan and credits totalling £30 million, and another, the amount of which was not stated, for credits to finance Yugoslav construction of three plants forming part of the plan for agricultural development.

ATOMIC PLANT

A new air agreement has been reached, providing for air lines of both countries to travel between Moscow and Belgrade. The Soviet Union has also offered Yugoslavia a reactor and a cyclotron, as well as other atomic materials, on the sole condition that they are paid for within two years of delivery.

According to the Belgrade correspondent of the London Times: "The Yugoslavs have not concealed their satisfaction with the conditions attached to the Soviet credits, which . . . they regard as 'far more favourable' than those which Yugoslavia has received or been offered elsewhere."

GREEK-TURKISH FRICTION

Second blow at the Yugoslav-Greece-Turkey pact has been delivered by the British imperialists themselves, who, by deciding to turn Cyprus into their main military base in the Middle East and refusing the Cypriot demand for self-determination, have antagonised the Greeks, and caused friction between Greece and Turkey.

The recent Britain-Greece-Turkey talks in London were a resounding failure. The Greeks want the Cypriots to have the right of self-determination, believing that the majority of the population, who are of Greek origin, would choose union with Greece. One-third of the inhabitants of Cyprus are of Turkish origin, and the Turks prefer the island to remain under British control rather than have it pass to the control of Greece.

In consequence, friction between all parties has never been so intense, and the riots in Greece and Turkey over the issue have done nothing to improve matters. Comment in the Greek and Turkish press has been unrestrained, and the more extreme papers in

both countries have called for outright declarations of war.

"EVEN WAR"

The Athens paper Vima, for example, noting the failure of the London talks, declared: "Greece will go ahead and struggle in the United Nations for Cypriots whether the Turks like it or not. It is Turkey's right, therefore, to put an end to Greek-Turkish friendship, to abrogate the defence alliance, sever diplomatic relations, or even declare war against us, laying claim to the Aegean Isles, Crete, and Western Thrace. But Greece will hold Turkey responsible for reviving an historical enmity between our two countries which we thought had been forgotten."

Anyone in the West who still thinks that a workable military alliance between Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey could stand the strain of action at the present moment is completely ignoring the realities of the situation. The Times comments sadly: "The tripartite Balkan alliance seems to be undermined by Russian 'peace manoeuvring' as well as by the Turkish attitude in the Cyprus dispute."

MIDDLE EAST NEUTRALITY

The Western position in the Middle East has been further weakened by the failure to draw into the Turkey-Iraq pact the remaining nations of the Arab League, who are moving ever closer to a policy of neutrality between East and West. Arab coolness to the West—the result of a long struggle to free themselves from the shackles of imperialism—flared into outright hostility on two occasions recently—once when Britain succeeded in outmanoeuvring the Egyptians in the Sudan, and a second time when Western pressure put an end to the fighting on the Israeli-Egyptian border. The Arab rulers have never forgiven the West for the part it played in establishing the State of Israel in the first place.

Diplomatic quarters in London and Washington have been greatly disturbed by the acceptance by the Shah of Persia and Col. Nasser of Egypt of invitations to visit Moscow, and also by the recent announcement that a trade agreement had been signed between Egypt and People's China. The Arab countries see great possibilities of increased trade with the socialist countries, whereas in

the West the markets for their products, particularly Egyptian cotton, are glutted.

SOVIET SUPPORT

The Soviet paper Pravda recently answered the argument that the aggressive plans of the West in the Middle East were necessary to guard against the possibility of a Soviet invasion. Pravda stated categorically that the Soviet Union constituted no threat to any country in the Middle East, or elsewhere for that matter.

"The Soviet Union takes a determined stand against the policy of imperialist encroachment and colonial enslavement. Its attitude to the national aspirations of the peoples of the East to consolidate their independence and sovereignty is one of full understanding and sympathy.

"This Soviet attitude finds a warm response among the peoples of the Near and Middle Eastern countries where a movement favouring a policy of neutrality and non-participation in military blocs and coalitions is developing."

In this connection, the importance of the Afro-Asian conference at Bandung in breaking down anti-Soviet and anti-Chinese hostility in the Arab countries cannot be over-estimated.

Huge British Profits in India . . .

BOMBAY.—Foreign capital, especially British capital, is damaging India's national reconstruction, says an article in a recent issue of the Economic Review of India, the fortnightly organ of the All-India Congress Committee.

Written by the editor, H. D. Malaviya, the article says: "Foreign business concerns—tea estates, textile mills and managing agents—in India, especially the British, have been making huge profits out of their commercial enterprises here."

Profits of British firms in the last seven years, the article says, were out of proportion to the capital invested. One firm of managing agents was quoted as having earned a profit of nearly 11 million rupees in this period on a capital investment of only 3,658,000 rupees.

In many joint Anglo-Indian concerns as much as 45 per cent of the profits was drawn off by British interests.

The article stated that this thirst for profits by the imperialists was insatiable and harmful. British capi-

LONDON.—Both the United States and Britain are holding back from full co-operation with the Soviet Union in the sphere of atomic research and the exchange of information on existing technical processes.

The managing director of Britain's Atomic Energy Authority, Sir Christopher Hinton, told the Geneva conference of atomic scientists that Britain has commercial atomic secrets which she is unwilling to share with other countries because of their value in the future race for the world's atomic markets. He refused to tell delegates some details

of the Calder Hall atom power station which is in course of construction.

Britain has, however, recently shown a party of Soviet scientists over the British atomic research laboratories at Harwell. And, in reply, the Ambassadors of Britain, the United States, Sweden, Italy, Argentina, Mexico and Burma were recently shown over Soviet Russia's atomic power station. They said they saw the station under operating conditions "with needles flickering on the dials and turbines humming, and wires and pylons feeding electricity into the grid."

The British Ambassador said: "The Russians were very co-operative and friendly. They showed great interest in British atomic progress, which they knew quite a lot about."

COSMIC RAY CO-OPERATION

Soviet scientists want to co-operate with the West in unravelling the mysteries of cosmic rays, it was announced at the conference of the British Association in Bristol recently. Professor Powell, of Bristol University, said he had been approached by Moscow University with a view to liaison in this type of research, and is to visit Moscow before the end of the year. (Cosmic rays are described as "a thin rain of atomic nuclei" beating down into the earth's atmosphere. Their origin is unknown.)

The United States, however, is refusing to take up a co-operative attitude. Admiral Strauss, head of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, said on his return to the United States from the Geneva conference that it was "premature" to invite Russian atomic scientists to America.

Asked how the U.S. had compared with the rest of the world at Geneva, Strauss claimed the U.S. was well ahead of any other country in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. He admitted, though, that Russia had surpassed the U.S. in building atomic accelerators and "might be ahead" in working with high energy particles.

One of the weaknesses of the U.S., he said, was the serious shortage of scientists, technicians and engineers. "Scholarships in this field are going begging," he said.

CHINA. Construction of a third strategic railway in south-east China—described by Peng Teh-huai, Minister of Defence, as destined to "complete the route to Quemoy and Formosa"—has been announced by Peking. The new line, 260 miles long, will link Amoy, the Chinese port opposite the island of Quemoy, with both Shanghai and Canton.

U.S. Bases in Japan

TOKYO.—The Japanese Government is planning to expropriate land to expand United States military bases it has disclosed in reply to a written question by a Left Socialist member of the Upper House.

The Government said this would be done to carry out the terms of the Japan-U.S. "security" treaty.

Shintaro Fukushima, Director of the Procurement Board, told the Budget Committee of the Upper House that the U.S. had asked the Japanese Government for another 377,300 acres of land to expand U.S. manoeuvring grounds and air bases.

These American plans have met with stiff opposition from the Japanese people everywhere, and demonstrations have been held in a number of centres. As a result, the U.S. has expressed its dissatisfaction with the Japanese Government and demanded that action be taken to implement the treaty.

MICKEY ROONEY WALKS OUT WHEN NEGRO FRIEND IS INSULTED

MICKEY Rooney, the well-known White film and television star; Sammy Davis, a leading Negro comedian; and Herb Jeffries, a well-known Negro singer, were all involved in a colour-bar incident at the United States gambling town of Las Vegas recently.

Rooney invited Jeffries to join him in the gaming room of the Club Riviera where he was appearing "to talk about old times." They have been friends for many years.

Jeffries went to the Club Ri-

vier's gaming room where he joined Rooney. The manager spied him, came over and ordered him to leave.

Rooney told the manager he had invited Jeffries to the gaming room. "He is my guest and I demand an apology for your insulting attitude," he said.

But the manager stood by his decision to bar Jeffries from the gaming room.

Rooney was equally adamant. "If my guest isn't permitted to enjoy the same rights as others in this hotel, my show doesn't go on

tonight." And it didn't.

However, the manager succeeded in getting a substitute for Rooney—the Negro comedian Sammy Davis. Asked by other Negroes why he had permitted himself to be used in such a situation, Davis explained he had been tricked.

"I was told by the manager that Rooney had taken ill and they wanted me to substitute one show for him," he said. He insisted that had he known the facts he would never have performed in Mickey Rooney's place, as he wasn't interested in tightening the "jim-crow noose" round his own neck.

tal "will have to beat a retreat," the article concluded.

. . . And Kenya

NAIROBI.—Despite the "emergency" and the killing of Africans at the rate of 100 a week, the Kenya Whites are making boom profits. The report of the British Colonial Office on Kenya for 1954, just issued, proudly announces that a Stock Exchange was opened in Nairobi, and "during 1954 markets continued to recover from the setback resulting from the emergency."

It is only much later that the report gives details of the civil war. "At the end of the year under review 50 prisons, 40 prison camps and 32 detention camps were established in the colony," it says. Africans sent to prison totalled 55,028 and a further 29,442 were placed under detention. The daily average prison population increased from 20,000 in 1953 to nearly 29,000 in 1954.

DAILY DEATHS

In the detention camps, the daily number of sick increased from 52 in 1953 to 62 in 1954, and the number of deaths from 24 to 45 daily.

The report announces that African wages in Kenya "rose sharply during 1954"—to the magnificent sum of £1 a week, inclusive of rations and housing allowance. The report does not indicate that the increase in wages did not compensate for the steep increase in the cost of living for the period.

ARAB LEAGUE, representing all the Arab countries, will back the unification of Cyprus with Greece if the matter is raised in the United Nations, a spokesman announced in Cairo recently.

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