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Gasson Praises Chinese, Supports Korea Peace

PRISONER EXCHANGE EXPOSES U.S. PROPAGANDA HOAX

LONDON.

A SINCERE tribute to the Chinese people and whole-hearted support for the common desire for peace formed the parting message of the South African wounded pilot, Lt. R. E. Gasson, who was among the United Nations prisoners of war repatriated by the Chinese People's Volunteers under the exchange agreement with the U.N. forces. He is due to return home this week.

Lt. Gasson has been a prisoner since early 1952. Speaking at the collecting centre of Pyoktong, he is quoted by a Chinese News Agency as saying:

"I have been a captive for over one year and I know something about the Chinese people. No matter how different our beliefs or opinions, we have a common desire for peace.

"From newspapers, magazines and pictorials, I have learnt how several hundred million of your people are enthusiastically building your country and love peace."

U.S. "ATROCITY" FARCE

Efforts are still being made by the more sensational American Press to build up a case of Korean and Chinese "atrocities" against

American and other U.N. prisoners of war by distorting the words of returned men, by sheer fabrications and the suppression of factual denials. But the overwhelming force of evidence from returning prisoners that they were well treated and humanely cared for is smashing through the barrier of lies and has already forced the "wild men" of the U.S. Senate to climb down.

The inquiry started by the Senate Appropriations Committee into alleged atrocities against American prisoners has been hastily dropped. The committee soon realised that public hearings would boomerang against them if returning prisoners broke through the present censorship and told the truth about the fair treatment they received.

American journalists had a special word for the method by which the "atrocities" barrage was created. They called it a "rat race". The military authorities in Korea took care to produce a number of the more stupid types from among the wounded prisoners returned and these unfortunate men were faced with scores of pressmen, popping cameras and a blaze of klieg lights.

They were admitted by the older and more responsible correspondents to be in a nervous condition and answered highly-coloured leading questions in a bewildered way. Merely on an uncertain "Yes" or "No" from these men the reporters built up their screaming stories of death marches, tortures, the murder of prisoners in boiling oil, starvation and a lot more besides.

In no instances were the names, localities, dates or any other confirmation given. But the stories were good enough to hit the headlines and to serve the purpose of those financial circles still aiming at wrecking the truce talks. Even if the stories themselves are such that not a child would believe them, they serve the propaganda purpose of creating a background mood of suspicion and doubt.

But what of the hundreds of American prisoners who have nothing but good to say of their treatment in captivity? Here it is that the true face of the American authorities can be seen. These prisoners are being quarantined from all contact with

S.A. Workers Celebrate May Day

May Day was celebrated by workers in many of the larger centres of the Union last Friday. About 10 per cent. of the industrial workers are entitled to a holiday on May Day but as it is not a paid holiday in most industries, many workers did not stay away from work as it meant losing a day's pay.

Johannesburg

Several hundred workers gathered on the steps of the Johannesburg city hall to hear prominent trade union leaders speak on the significance of May Day, at a meeting organised by the United May Day Committee.

The chairman, Mr. D. C. Thompson, chairman of the Transvaal Peace Council and a member of the World Peace Council, said the municipal authorities had given permission for the demonstration to be held but the use of loudspeakers had been banned.

Posters bearing slogans such as "Fight for trade union unity", "Repeal oppressive laws", "Work for world peace", "Cut profits", and "Recall the S.A.A.F. from Korea", were displayed.

The meeting called on the Government to support the formation of a Five-Power Peace Pact, and demanded that atomic and germ warfare should be outlawed. It also called on the Government "to strive for a cease-fire in Korea, and bring back the South Africans".

Another resolution asked all governments to allow unrestricted trade throughout the world especially between East and West "in order to promote the full production of consumer goods and ensure full employment for all".

Other resolutions passed were:

That all workers in trade unions should fight for trade union unity in South Africa and "defeat the forces aiming at the destruction of the free trade union movement".

That the Government should incorporate the cost-of-living allowance into the basic salaries of all workers.

(Continued on page 5)

JEWISH CENTRE IN U.S. WRECKED

NEW YORK.

The Jewish Cultural Centre in Pittsburgh, U.S., dedicated to the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, has been looted and wrecked.

The attack followed a campaign by the Americans Battling Communism society, which tried to brand the centre as Communist.

Seven men entered the building. Some stood guard over the Negro caretaker, Mrs. Minnie Brown, while the others broke open desks and offices and wrecked every room.

They ripped down pictures of the noted author Sholem Aleichim and other Jewish cultural leaders, and looted the files, throwing Jewish classics on the floor and trampling them underfoot.

They stole the contents of the Warsaw Ghetto file containing irreplaceable letters and poems from surviving heroes of the Warsaw uprising.



Naga Burmese girls, bare except for brief sarongs around the hips, present flowers to visiting Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru during the latter's trip to Burma recently.

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(Continued on page 4)

Sportsmen Refused Passport

DURBAN.

Seventeen players in an Indian soccer team, scheduled to leave Durban last week for the first South African Indian sporting tour of India, were notified 3 days before their date of departure that their applications for passports had been refused. The Immigration Department gave no reason for the refusal.

The South African Indian Football Association, which is sponsoring the tour in conjunction with the football authorities in India, appealed to Dr. Vernon Shearer, M.P. to see the Minister of the Interior, Dr. T. E. Donges, on their behalf. In addition the association sent a deputation to Maritzburg to request the Administrator, Mr. D. G. Shepstone, to intervene.

At a mass meeting held on May Day in Durban a resolution was passed deploring the unjust actions of the Minister of the Interior in refusing passports to the Indian football team.

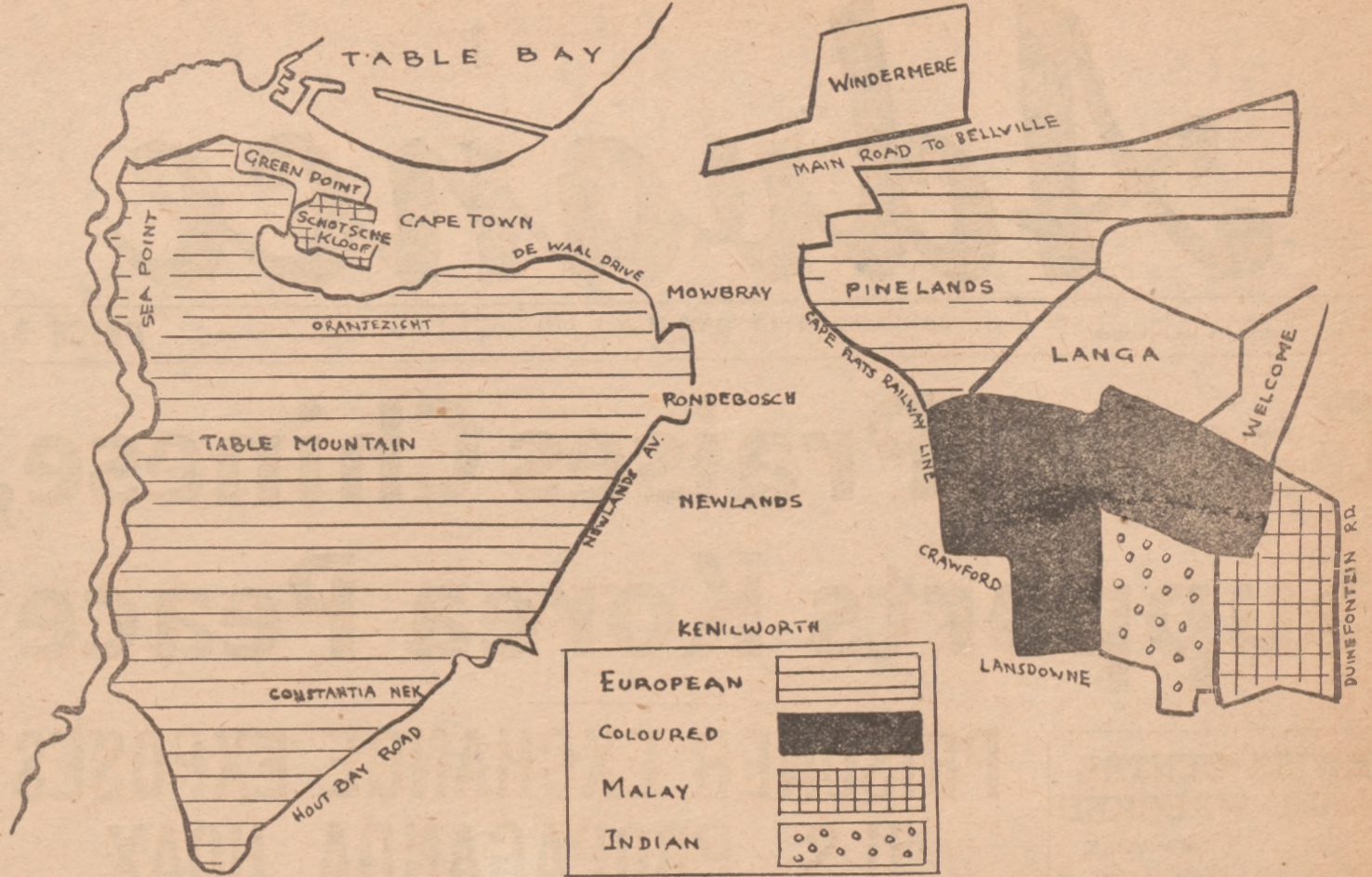
"Whilst this meeting does not want to go into the merits or demerits of a purely Indian team going to India, it expresses the hope that the South African Indian Football Association and all sportsmen will take serious note of this trend in South African politics and will realise that only a united people can stem the tide of this vicious totalitarianism that wants to engulf our country.

"Those who still talk glibly of sports being non-political should realise that in a country like South Africa, issues in almost every walk of life are decided on the basis of the colour of a person's skin."

What Race Are The Twins?

CAPE TOWN.

When a Cape Town mother took her twins to be enrolled at a European school one was accepted as a European and the other was declared by the headmaster to be a Non-European, and refused admission. The parents of the children are appealing to the Cape School Board against the headmaster's decision. If the decision is upheld legal action is likely to be taken.



NATS' GHETTO PLAN FOR CAPE TOWN

This map shows the preliminary recommendations of the Land Tenure Board for Cape Town. Note the enormous area set aside for Europeans, including in the central area, Sea Point, Three Anchor Bay, Clifton, Camps Bay, Oranjezicht, Gardens, Tamboers Kloof, Vredehoek, and the whole of the Table Mountain area stretching right down to the Hout Bay Valley and the outskirts of Constantia. The only part of central Cape Town which has been set aside for Non-Europeans is Schotsche Kloof, which has been given to the Malays. The Europeans have also been given the huge area of Pinelands in the Cape Flats.

The only other Non-European areas so far demarcated are the Athlone-Crawford area beyond the Cape Flats railway line for

Coloureds, with two enclaves for Indians and Malays respectively.

The rest of Cape Town has been left blank; but that does not mean the Land Tenure Board is going to leave it alone. The fact that such overwhelmingly Non-European areas as District Six and Windermere have been left blank instead of awarded to the Non-Europeans shows it is the intention of the authorities at some stage to expel the Non-Europeans from those areas and settle Europeans there. The Minister of the Interior, Dr. T. E. Donges, indicated during the 1950 debate on the Group Areas Act that this was what the Nationalist Government proposed to do in District Six.

Similarly Langa Native Township has been left blank, indicating it is the intention of the authorities at some stage to shift all Africans out of the location and rehouse them at Nyanga.

Taking Shape

The plan of the Government for Cape Town is thus slowly taking shape. First of all, Non-Europeans will be moved out of the predominantly European areas, like Sea Point and Oranjezicht, as marked on the above map. Just how many people will be affected in this first stage can only be guessed at, as the City Council does not keep records of ownership and occupation of property on a racial basis. Although thousands of people will be uprooted, however, it will be a minority of the Non-European population to start with. The Government no doubt hopes that the majority, because they themselves will not be directly affected at this preliminary stage, will accept the imposition of the Group Areas Act on their less fortunate fellow citizens in the "white" areas.

Once having started with the transfer of populations, however, the Government hopes it will be easier to continue. The first shock will wear off; the people will get used to the idea. It is at this stage that the Land Tenure Board can be expected to come forward with its most far-reaching and drastic proposals.

Second Stage

The second stage will see District Six, Salt River, Woodstock,

Newlands, Claremont, Lansdowne, Wynberg, Plumstead and all the mixed areas down to Muizenberg declared "white" either for ownership or occupation. Non-Europeans will be prevented from settling or buying property there and, if already there, compelled in course of time to move to the Non-European areas.

It is clearly the intention of the Government to compel all shades of Non-Europeans to clear out of central Cape Town and live in their "own" ghettos on the other side of the Cape Flats line. Perhaps the Malay area in Schotsche Kloof will remain as a sort of curiosity, to attract visitors. But for the rest there will not be a single Non-European family living on the wrong side of the line which separates the Cape Flats from Cape Town proper.

Too Little Land

It is already evident, too, that the amount of land to be made available to the Non-Europeans will be far smaller than that made available to Europeans, despite the fact that the Non-European population of greater Cape Town, according to the last census, is roughly equal in number to the European population. Furthermore the Non-European ghettos will be situated in the least desirable areas, far away from the sea and the beaches, far away from the centres of work, so that transport costs alone for the Non-Europeans will rise to staggering proportions once the transfer has taken place. The Coloured wash-woman, for example, who at present spends 1s. on bus fare from District Six to Bantry Bay and back will in future have to spend 2s. 10d. on fares if she lives in Athlone, more if she stays further out, going to and from the same job.

Financial Losses

The Non-Europeans will also lose millions of pounds in property values as a result of their forced transfer; a man who is compelled by law to sell his home and get out can never hope to get a good price on the market. If it is argued that Europeans who have to leave Non-European areas will

suffer in the same way, the reply is that the number of Europeans to be uprooted will be infinitely smaller than the number of Non-Europeans. In either event, there is no provision in the Group Areas Act for compensation to those who suffer losses in this way.

Nats. Beaten in Garment Union Elections

JOHANNESBURG.

The Nationalists bid to capture leading positions in the Garment Workers' Union in the recent elections for the positions of president and general secretary has been overwhelmingly defeated.

Miss Anna Scheepers and Miss Johanna Cornelius were returned with large majorities to the posts of president and general secretary respectively in the union's first ballot under the amended constitution. Miss Scheepers, the president, polled 12,570 votes against her opponent, Mr. C. Meyer, who received 3,569 votes.

Miss Cornelius, who had acted as general secretary of the union since the middle of last year when Solly Sachs was ordered by the Minister of Justice to resign his position, received 12,970 votes; her opponent Mr. G. L. H. van Niekerk received 3,679 votes.

There were about 500 spoilt papers. The union's membership is about 18,500.

Miss Scheepers told the press after the elections: "Since 1936 Nationalist-inspired organisations have been trying to take over the union, and the figures of the ballot show them the final result.

"We hope that they will now leave us alone to carry on with our trade union work and stop trying to disrupt the trade union movement."

Quick Win for Mahlangu

LIVERPOOL.

Johnny Mahlangu knocked out Gerry Hasset in the third round at the Stadium here.

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Clarion Call

Murders in Kenya today appear to be automatically ascribed to the Mau Mau, whose every atrocity is blazoned in huge headlines in our daily press. The news that the British imperialists and their stooges have killed more men than they have lost during the "emergency" is not so widely publicised.

The white settlers in Kenya have adopted an attitude which may make their eventual expulsion from Africa inevitable. Not satisfied with what they've got, they are out to use this crisis to grab the rest if they can. They are not prepared to live and let live except on their own terms.

At a meeting of the new Kenya Empire Party held in Nairobi last week, hundreds of Europeans cheered to the echo the pronouncement of 75-year-old Kenya pioneer Col. Ewart Grogan that: "We Europeans have to go on ruling this country, and rule it with iron discipline, tempered by our own hearts."

Heartless

As the news comes in of British planes bombing and machine-gunning the African people in the Kenya mountains, one might well ask: "What hearts?"

Seventeen years ago the bombing raids of Mussolini's fascist pilots in Abyssinia roused the whole civilised world to horror. Now it is Britain's turn. In Malaya and Kenya, she is committing revolting crimes against humanity which will not be forgotten.

The same Colonel Grogan said later on in his speech: "If the whole of the Kikuyu land is reverted to the Crown then every Kikuyu would know that our little Queen is a Great Bwana."

Gallant fellow, by Gad, this Colonel Grogan. Would do anything for Queen and country. Absolutely anything.

Equally typical of the attitude of the imperialists was the statement of Major F. S. Scovil in Cape Town last week. Major Scovil was on his way back to England after a holiday in Kenya.

He told the Press he could not see the "Mau Mau menace" being stamped out by troops. "They clear one section of the country and de-oath many Mau Mau. When the troops move away, back come the Kikuyu and take the oath again."

In Malaya the British resort to chemical warfare to destroy the crops of the people in guerilla areas. In Kenya, Major Scovil says, the only hope for the British is famine.

"As squatters have been driven off European farms, and Kikuyu have been sent from their farms to the reserves, famine may finally eradicate the menace."

Extermination Squad

Bomb and machine-gun the ———s, take their land away, chase them into the mountains and starve them to death—this is the treatment the settlers are meting out in Kenya. And after all that they complain that the Kikuyu are not grateful!

No wonder Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, British Colonial Secretary, complained in the House of Commons last week that he could not find a single African or Asian willing to serve on the Kenya Government's Emergency Committee. And Sir Evelyn Baring, Governor of Kenya, confesses he has no idea when the emergency can be brought to an end.

The British claim that they are only concerned with "restoring law and order" in Kenya is obviously poppycock. There is a full-scale colonial war on the go in Kenya today.

Burying The Wrong Hatchet

"To keep alive hatred is one of the worst injuries that can be done to the peace of the world and the popularity gained thereby is a shame on the member who attempts to gather it."

These fine words were uttered by Sir Winston Churchill in the Commons last week.

Was he pleading for a rapprochement with Russia to settle peacefully the differences between the two countries? Or a new approach to end the war in Korea? Or an end to the anti-Communist witch-hunt?

No, he was asking the British people to stop being so beastly to the Nazis. Labour members of Parliament had protested against the visit to Britain of Dr. Hans Speidel, former Chief of Staff to General Rommel, to inspect Britain's armament factories and military establishments as German representative of the European Defence Community.

Sir Winston said if the Labour Party line was taken that Dr. Speidel's visit was an affront to the men who fought in North Africa, no peace would be possible "between these great branches of the human family."

What about the other branches of the human family, Sir Winston? Especially your allies in the last war? Or don't Russians, Chinese, Koreans, Malaysians, Africans rate as human beings in your eyes?

Origin of the Colour Bar

Now we know.

It was during a debate on the colour bar in the House of Commons last week that Mr. George Craddock, Conservative, gave the game away. In his opinion "the colour bar arose from differences in outlook and because of the habits of a large number of Africans."

"Ninety-five per cent. of them were primitive people and one reason why they were not generally invited into hotels was that their sanitary habits were not all that could be desired."

"Large numbers of East and Central African peoples were riddled with disease of a most unfortunate kind and their attitude to sex and biology was entirely different from that of the general run of Europeans."

Well, this is really an advance. Now the average African knows what he must do to gain admittance to the portals of civilisation. Let him only get cured of syphilis and stop wetting the lavatory seats, and not even Mr. Craddock can refuse to treat him as an equal.

I don't suppose Mr. Craddock has thought about it, but both syphilis and lavatory seats were brought to Africa by the Europeans. And really, if it comes to that, does Mr. Craddock not know of any white man who either (a) has syphilis or (b) wets lavatory seats?

These are the disgusting arguments of the imperialist, uttered in the so-called home of democracy, the British House of Commons, to justify the continuation of colonial exploitation and race discrimination. Far from convincing one of the justice of his case, however, Mr. Craddock's revolting crudity of thought and expression could only rouse one against the whole rotten concept of imperialism.

CHANTICLEER.

DECISION ON ROSENBERG APPEAL THIS WEEK

NEW YORK.

THE U.S. Supreme Court was expected this week to give its ruling as to whether or not it would intervene in the Rosenberg case and order a retrial, but the decision may be delayed. Meanwhile the campaign for clemency for the two frame-up victims has produced an unassailable case for a retrial and has mobilised such wide public support that the Government's position in demanding the execution has been gravely compromised.

The great danger at present is that the rejection of the appeal to the Supreme Court may be followed by snap measures to send the young couple to the electric chair. The Court has already refused two appeals by the Rosenbergs. The new appeal, however, produces evidence of "perjury and fraud" used to secure a conviction and has the important ruling of the Appeals Court that there are "substantial questions" warranting a high court review.

POPE INTERCEDES AGAIN

The Government's cruel persecution of the Rosenbergs was again shown last week by the revelation that a third intervention by the Pope has been made but hushed up in official quarters. The Catholic Church took the unusual step of publishing with large headlines on the main page of the official L'Osservatore Romano the full documentation of the Pope's intercession for the couple.

Possibly the Pope's action is influenced by the coming Italian elections and the Church sees that the execution of these two in circumstances so similar to the martyrdom of the Italian workers Sacco and Vanzetti, would lose millions of votes for the Right. On the other hand the reprieve of the Rosenbergs would be useful to the Catholic Christian Democrats and would reflect credit on the Pope.

Whatever the case, the Catholic Church declares: "Father of all men his appeal for the Rosenbergs, rendered more solemn by the suffering of the illness which struck him at that time, admirably fits in with the entire work of his Pontificate, which coincides with one of the unhappiest periods in all history."

Terror Against Greek Unions

LONDON.

Mass arrests, terror and intimidation were the prelude to the assembly of the 11th Congress of the Greek Confederation of Labour which opened in Athens last week.

At the time of the fascist seizure of power in 1946 hundreds of Greek trade union leaders were arrested and many died in prison camps or were executed. The unions were placed under the control of Government nominees and became instruments of the fascist regime. But in many instances the workers have succeeded in putting a democratic leadership in their unions.

Typical of the events last week was the arrest of K. Papanikolaou, president of the Athens Union of Restaurant employees, who was elected as delegate of the Union. He was arrested and exiled to the prison island of Agios Efstratios. His executive committee protested, as a result of which every member of the executive was arrested and sent to a concentration camp.

Democratic representatives of the Greek Unions in Britain have appealed to the trade union movement everywhere to demand the release of political prisoners and the restoration of the rights of organisation.

Send a Consul to Russia

JOHANNESBURG.

A resolution calling upon the South African Government to establish closer cultural and trade relations with the U.S.S.R. and reciprocate the friendly intentions of the U.S.S.R. by sending a consular representative to the Soviet Union was passed at a meeting held in the Selborne Hall under the auspices of the S.A. Society for Peace and Friendship with the U.S.S.R.

The meeting was addressed by Adv. V. C. Berrange, who recently returned to South Africa from a visit to the Soviet Union.

RACING DURBAN

Following are Owen Tudor's selections for Greyville meeting on Saturday:

First race: 1. Sun Feast, 2. Overjoyed, 3. Idyllic.

Second race: 1. Congregator, 2. Floral Saint, 3. St. Diana.

Third race: 1. Sunuki, 2. Speedway, 3. Storm Hawk.

Fourth race: 1. David, 2. Blue Mantle, 3. Silver Chimes, 4. Serial Abbey.

Fifth race: 1. Rapsallion, 2. Muscet, 3. Jewellery.

Sixth race: 1. Percipice, 2. Air-Phibion, 3. Jefferson.

Seventh race: 1. Medal, 2. Puccini, 3. Anvil Top.

Eighth race: 1. Matinee, 2. Upset, 3. Tyneside.

Ninth race: 1. Harvest Mate, 2. Famous Feast, 3. Royal Boy.

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BRITAIN LOOKING HOPEFULLY FOR EAST-WEST TRADE WAY OUT OF AMERICAN DEPRESSION

SIGNS are increasing that the British Government is looking favourably towards the prospect of increased East-West trade as a means of offsetting the crippling effects of the economic crisis now threatening the entire Western world. There have also been indications in the past week that Britain is trying to show a slightly more independent line in the face of American political domination.

Policeman Charged

CAPE TOWN.

A constable in the South African Police, Joseph Erasmus Johannes Griebenow, appeared in the Cape Town magistrate's court last week charged with inciting a Non-European woman to commit misconduct with him.

Mr. Cecil Rabinowitz (defending) said that Griebenow was so drunk on the evening the offences were alleged to have occurred that he had no recollection of anything.

Elsie Robinson, a Coloured woman, said in evidence that while walking in a Cape Town Street on the evening of March 17 she was approached by Griebenow wearing civilian clothes. He put his arm around her and kissed her. "I struggled," she said. "He suggested I should go with him to his room in the police barracks. When I said it was not allowed, he replied, 'The law does not affect me as I am a policeman.'" She ran away but Griebenow caught her. Then the police arrived.

Constable Jooster said that after receiving a radio report he went to Weltevreden Street with Constable Gerber where they arrested Griebenow and Elsie Robinson. Both constables said that Griebenow was not drunk but he smelt of liquor. The case is proceeding.

"LILIOM"

JOHANNESBURG.

"Liliom" a play by Ferenc Molnar, the celebrated Hungarian playwright, is to be presented at the Library Theatre, Johannesburg by the Regent Players on May 13. It will run until May 23. The title role will be played by Leon Gluckman. It will be the first time this play has been presented in Johannesburg.

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LONDON.

In the first two months of this year British trade with China took a sharp upward turn after dwindling last year almost to vanishing point. Mainly as a result of contracts negotiated at the unofficial Economic Conference in Moscow last year, exports to China jumped from £120,000 in the first two months of 1952 to well over £2 million, and imports from China more than doubled. Britain's exports mainly consisted of textiles, textile machinery, chemicals and fertilisers.

SENSATIONALLY BIG TRADE

These developments in trade are considered only a beginning and a sensationally big field of trade is foreseen by interested business men, precisely at a time when Britain's exports are shrinking on the world's capitalist markets in the face of fierce foreign competition.

Inside the Conservative Party an influential committee of M.P.'s, the Trade and Industry Committee, decided at a meeting in favour of an extension of East-West trade. A deputation led by Messrs. F. J. Erol and A. H. Jones met the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Peter Thorneycroft, to press for more trade with the Soviet Union, the East European countries and China.

At the present stage the Conservative back-benchers, out of respect for the United States, are basing their plan of extended trade on items which are at present not banned by the American Battle Act. But there is already a move among them in favour of speedily dropping the ban and bringing British trade once again within the discretion of the Board of Trade.

The Conservatives are not only uneasy about the shrinking of British overseas trade which demands an immediate remedy. They foresee that with the lessening of international tension there will develop tremendous competition from all quarters for the markets

of the Eastern countries, and they want Britain to get in early on this business.

JAPAN STEPS IN

Already there is a straw in the wind in the shape of the first Japanese trading ship to resume direct commerce with the Chinese mainland. She was the 10,000 ton freighter Yamagame Maru which sailed last week with a cargo of textiles and machinery. The Japanese officials tried to smooth over the fact that this ship was driving a hole through America's blockade by saying the cargo did not include any "strategic materials". They said they would make no attempt to stop the ship.

On the Labour side in Britain, the former President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Harold Wilson, who negotiated the 1947 Anglo-Soviet timber and grain agreement, is leaving for Moscow next week for unofficial talks on increasing trade. On his way he will stop in Berlin for discussions with an important Chinese trade delegation. Mr. Wilson is, among other things, the adviser to a big firm of London timber merchants who are directly interested in Soviet trade.

BRITISH WANT PEACE

In recent debates and discussions in both the Houses of Parliament the current in favour of an East-West political settlement and of extended trade has been running so strongly that the Premier, Sir Winston Churchill, has promised a full and early statement in a foreign affairs debate this month.

Pressed by Labour questioners, Churchill made a fairly "daring" statement on British independence from America last week. He told Mr. Shinwell: "I do not think I have ever, so far as I had anything to say in matters, been willing to accept complete initiative from the United States."

In the House of Lords, Labour and Liberal peers joined in asking for a political settlement in the Far East and wanted China to take her rightful seat on the United Nations. Government spokesmen in that House also welcomed the prospect of a settlement, and Lord Reading went out of his way to express gratitude for the return of civilian internees from Korea in good health and spirits.

FIASCO

The timid British leaders have probably taken heart from the terrible fiasco of American foreign policy under President Eisenhower with the strings being pulled by Senator McCarthy and his associates. The cutting of American foreign "aid" and the paralysis of initiative in Washington as the U.S. leaders hesitate before the hard realities of the world situation may be teaching the British leaders, Tory and Labour alike, that the only people who will save them are themselves.

Gen. MacArthur Still Crazy

NEW YORK.

Gen. MacArthur, former wild man of Tokyo, who has been sitting for months on his "secret" of how to bring peace in Korea has come out with it at last. The "clear and definite" solution of the Korean war, he stated in a letter to the sub-committee investigating ammunition shortages, is to threaten to destroy China with atom bombs. "A warning of this sort provides the leverage," he said, "to induce the Soviet to bring the Korean struggle to an end without further bloodshed."

Franco Brutality

LONDON.

Fascist police under Franco hung a 74 year old British professor for two days into a dungeon in Madrid police headquarters without explanation and later expelled him from the country, he told reporters on his return. Prof. Felix Boillot of Bristol University had been in Spain some months and wrote to the Government for a list of periodicals to which to send his most recent book for review. He had no reply until the police came to his hotel in Malaga and arrested him.

GASSON PRAISES CHINA

(Continued from page 1)

the public and their own families. They are being flown back to the United States and the first of them have already arrived there — their destination, a mental hospital.

The official statement says they are being sent to the Valley Forge Army Hospital, Pennsylvania, for mental and medical treatment. The Washington Defence Department explained its panic measure to suppress the truth by saying it had a special obligation to the men and their families to give them psychiatric treatment in preparation for their return to society.

"BRAIN-WASHING"

Thus the crazy illusion is created that any American who could speak well of his captors must either be mad or the temporary victim of "communist brain-washing technique", which will be cured by "treatment" in a U.S. asylum.

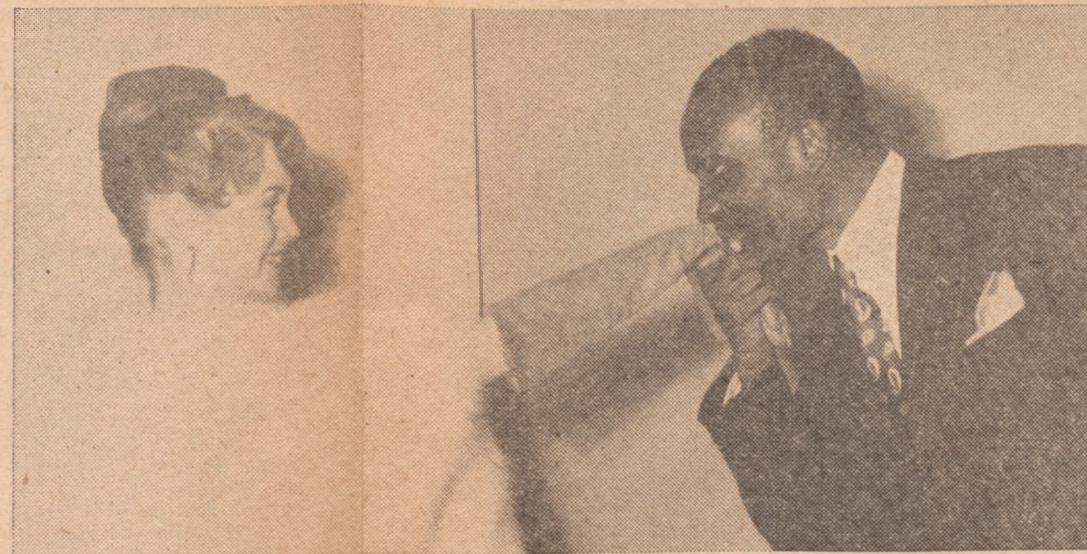
Among the Americans who will need severe shock treatment were Marine Capt. Green of Lawson, Oklahoma, and Mustang pilot Capt. Sech Dean of Douglas, Kansas, both of whom were in the bag for over two years. In a statement on release, Dean praised the medical treatment, the excellent sports facilities and libraries and the general care taken of the prisoners' health and morale.

"In my experience there is no difference between Chinese and Korean camps," he said. "They improved throughout, and camp conditions continued improving after we were transferred to Chinese hands."

EVERYONE SO FIT

"I don't know why I am on this repatriation. They say my heart is a bit weak, but really I think it is because everyone in my camp is so fit and they stretched things a bit to make sure some of us came away."

Capt. Green confirmed what his fellow-officer said, remarking "All I have is asthma; I've had it for years".



Joseph Lifela, an African film star from the Congo, visited Europe for the first time recently to take part in the 1953 French film festival. The film "Bongolo and the Black Princess" in which he starred was a Belgian entry in the festival. In the picture above he is seen bending over the hand of French actress Brigitte Bardot. On the right he is joined by a bevy of starlets in a "pedalo" ride at Cannes, on the French Riviera. From left to right they are French starlets Denise Lementec and Simone Delamarre (whose name has been romantically linked with Farouk's) and Brazil's Vanja Orico. At right are an unidentified American sailor and a starlet.



McCARTHY SNOOPER'S GANGSTER LINK

NEW YORK.

When Senator McCarthy's red-hunting snoopers, Messrs. Schine and Cohn, returned to the United States after a 17-day "investigation" of Europe, Mr. Schine found himself in the awkward position that his links with the gangster world had caught up with him and become public property.

The New York Evening Post revealed that Mr. Schine was the owner of two hotels where the illegal gambling concessions were let out to gangster associates of the one-time underworld boss, Al Capone. Mr. Schine, who is a young man and who for the past fortnight has had high American and foreign officials, chiefs of the B.B.C. and other dignitaries running to his orders, was very annoyed to be faced with this line of publicity.

The Evening Post sent a representative to interview the two snoopers and he asked Mr. Schine pointedly whether two hotels under his control in Florida were investigated for "racketeering and illegal gambling". McCarthy's men denied this "heatedly" said the paper.

But Mr. Schine was reminded that in 1951 the Senate Crime Investigating Committee stated that a certain Erickson, a convicted illegal bookmaker, had rented the gambling concessions at both the Florida hotels.

The paper continued: "After Erickson was forced out, the concessions were taken over by a syndicate controlled by former Capone mobsters."

MAY DAY MEETINGS

(Continued from page 1)

That the Government should embark on a large scale programme of housing at rentals within the reach of workers' wages.

Trades and Labour Council

"We demand that the Government provide security measures for the population, and give us peace so that we may enjoy the fruits of our labour," said a May Day message to the workers of South Africa issued in Johannesburg by the South African Trades and Labour Council.

"Now that the Nationalist Government has been returned to power it would be well for the workers of South Africa to be reminded of the significance of May Day," the message added.

"Our trade unions have been attacked, and it is the stated policy of the Government to continue disruption by dividing the workers into racial groups. By this means it hopes to be able to exploit them more easily."

"In South Africa we must learn with May Day the lesson of other countries which have been ruled by fascist governments, the lesson of the unity of the workers, of fighting to maintain the conditions which have been built up by our trade unions by long years of suffering and sacrifice."

Durban

A mass May Day meeting was held at the Red Square, Durban last Friday. A resolution was passed condemning the Criminal Law Amendment Act and the Public Safety Act and demanding their repeal.

A further resolution demanded that the Industrial Conciliation Act be amended to include all African workers within its scope, and deplored "the declared intention of the Minister of Labour to introduce the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act at the next session of Parliament to gag African trade unions and to divide the workers on colour lines".

Other resolutions called for a review of the cost-of-living index and the termination of the war in Korea.

Cape Town

Two highly successful functions were held in Cape Town on Friday evening to celebrate May Day. The local committee of the Trades and



Councillor Cassiem Allie addressing the May Day meeting on the Grand Parade, Cape Town, last Sunday.

RACING

TURFFONTEIN

Following are Centaur's selections for Turffontein on Saturday:

Galloway Handicap Bottoms, 8 furlongs: 1. Calretos, 2. Free Ale, 3. Sudden.

Maiden Galloway Handicap, 6 furlongs: 1. Fancy Notion, 2. Grosevenor, 3. Old Payne.

Galloway Handicap Tops, 6 furlongs: 1. Marimba, 2. Ruffled, 3. Fume.

Stewards Colts and Geldings Handicap, 6 furlongs: 1. Aquaplane, 2. Trenwith, 3. Bengaltiger.

Maiden Plate 10 furlongs: 1. Oklahoma, 2. Sailor Bird, 3. Happy Result.

Stewards Fillies Handicap, 6 furlongs: 1. Frenzy, 2. Seylla, 3. Belinda.

Suburban Sprint Handicap, 5 furlongs: 1. Greensong, 2. Semi Pearl, 3. Onskuld.

City Handicap 1 mile: 1. Birthday Honour, 2. Toplevel, 3. River Ferry.

"RULE BY SIAMBOK"

A simple analysis of the Public Safety Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Act. Published by the Democratic League, P.O. Box 4347, Cape Town. Price 3d.

Bamangwato Declaration "No Other Chief But Seretse"

LONDON.

ON the eve of the Kgotla in Serowe by which the British administration planned to impose a new chief on the Bamangwato, representatives of the tribe sent to London a declaration accusing the local District Commissioner of intimidation and affirming the absolute opposition to the designation of any chief but Seretse Khama.

This declaration was contained in an appeal sent to the British Government for Seretse to represent them at the Coronation. A copy of the appeal was received by the Seretse Khama Campaign Committee in London.

The Bamangwato leaders are particularly critical of Mr. H. Batho, the District Commissioner who, they declare, "has begun to arrest us, the aim being that we should name a new chief before the Coronation takes place."

The leaders say that headmen in the Serowe District are being car-

ried off and taken to Government offices where they are pressed to take part in the designation of a new chief.

POLICE PRESSURE

"These headmen are being watched whether they attend meetings or not. It does not matter whether the headman is away from Serowe, ill, occupied at home, he is still tried and fined or imprisoned."

Dealing with the pressure by the police, the declaration lays the responsibility on Mr. Batho and demands his immediate removal from office.

After referring to the Kgotla called for Monday to name a new chief, the declaration says:

"Although we shall be arrested when we refuse to designate a new chief, we still hold that we know of only one hereditary chief, Seretse Khama."



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McCarthy Witch-Hunt Turned Against Opposition Press

National Guardian Threatened

NEW YORK.

McCarthyism has begun its assault against the freedom of the Press in the United States with the issuing of summonses against progressive newspapermen to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Topping the list of intended victims is the well-known democratic author and journalist, Cedric Belfrage, editor of the New Deal paper National Guardian.

Mr. Belfrage was due to appear before the Committee headed by Rep. Harold Velde, one of McCarthy's chief associates, on May 4. Meanwhile the directors of the National Guardian announced the opening of a campaign under the slogan "Hands off the Guardian".

"The attack on the Guardian through its editor is eloquent testimony to the paper's effectiveness in mobilising New Deal Americans, to whom it is directed, for action in defence of the America of Franklin D. Roosevelt," said the announcement. "It is not however an attack merely upon the Guardian; clearly it is the spearhead of an attempt to suppress all remaining opposition voices in the American Press."

Under Mr. Belfrage's editorship the Guardian initiated the worldwide campaign to defend Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, it led the movement which saved the lives of the Trenton Six—Negroes framed on a phoney murder charge—it defended victims of the Smith and McCarran Acts designed to weaken the labour movement, it opposed the Korean war from the outset, campaigned for peace and exposed the role of the giant trusts in shaping American policy.

(The National Guardian was one of the progressive overseas papers that responded to the appeal to save the South African Guardian from suppression by the Nationalist Government.

Race Hate Will Be Punished

LONDON.

Condemning the case against the 15 Soviet doctors, the Minister of Justice of the U.S.S.R., Mr. Hoshemin has assured the public, according to the Daily Telegraph, that their rights would be protected. Writing in Pravda, he reaffirmed that the preaching of race or national hate would be punishable under the law.

POLICEMAN FOUND GUILTY OF THEFT IN WINDERMERE RAID

CAPE TOWN.

Detective-sergeant Johannes Roux of the South African Police was found guilty in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court last week of stealing £10 from an African, William Zondwayo, while taking part in a police raid at Windermere on February 13.

Giving evidence, William Zondwayo told the court that on February 13 he returned to his house as Roux and Detective Constable Driescher were leaving it. They told him that they had been looking for liquor and dagga but found nothing. He discovered that the box where he kept his money was open and empty. His wife, who carried the key of the box, was certain that the money had been intact the last time she had opened the box. They checked after the two policemen and accused them of the theft of £30. Later when the house was searched £20 was recovered.

When Roux was accused he produced one crumpled £5 note and another fell from his clothing. In his defence he explained that his wife had put one of the notes in his trouser pocket unknown to him at the time, so he put another £5 in his pocket. A key which fitted the money box was also found in the possession of Roux.

The Magistrate told Roux that he had disgraced the service. He added "I am sorry for you as I know this means the end of your career in the service in that area". Roux was sentenced to £30 or 2 months with a further 1 month suspended for 3 years.

Mr. M. Shaskolsky who appeared for Roux told the court that an appeal might be noted.

Shirai Wins

TOKYO.

Yoshio Shirai, the holder of the world flyweight championship, beat Baby Moe Mario (U.S.A.) on points over 10 rounds in a non-title bout recently.



Speakers at Durban's first peace meeting recently were (from the left) Miss Hilda Watts, Mr. J. N. Singh, Mr. Alan Lipman and Mr. P. Mei.

GOVT. BID TO EXPROPRIATE AFRICAN LANDOWNERS

Buying Up Properties in Sophiatown

JOHANNESBURG.

THE Government is making a start with its plan to remove the African population from the western areas of Johannesburg by securing options and making purchases of privately owned properties at Sophiatown.

The Minister of Native Affairs has long been threatening to clear up this "black spot," but his proposal, involving the forced transfer of tens of thousands of Africans and the loss of their feehold property rights in Sophiatown, has been strenuously resisted.

It was only earlier this year that the Johannesburg City Council was forced by pressure behind the scenes to accept the Minister's plan in principle. Now the Government Native Affairs Department and the Lands Department are taking the necessary steps to take over all privately-owned land in Sophiatown, which the Government plans to zone eventually as an industrial area.

The Native Commissioner is summoning landowners to his office "in connection with purchase of lot — by the Government". In addition an Indian private company is being retained by the Government to secure options on its behalf.

Dr. A. B. Xuma, chairman of the African Anti-Expropriation Association, said that at a meeting of the members of that body recently it was decided not to sell Sophiatown properties to the Government, not because they did not want to sell specifically to the Government, but because they did not want to sell to anybody.

PRESSURE

The landowners felt they were being subjected to pressure, and that the Government was not being open about its plans.

Should the property-owners persist in their refusal to sell, however, it is possible the Government will take steps to expropriate their property. The land-owners are prepared to fight the matter to the highest court in the land.

In Sophiatown today, if an African landlord defaults in payment of rates and taxes due to the municipality, he loses his property, which no other African

is allowed to buy. The Government takes over such properties.

Feeling in Sophiatown is that the Government wants Sophiatown not so much because it is a "black spot" but because the economic value of the township has increased enormously in recent years. Plots of land 50 by 50 feet have changed hands for as much as £1,000. In comparison, a morgan of land at Meadowlands, to which the Government wants to move the Africans, would cost only £100, as it is far from the centre of the town and without amenities.

GROUP AREAS ACT

Johannesburg will take a further step in the implementation of the Group Areas Act this week when a municipal committee presents a geographical report in terms of the Act. By the end of May the City Council — already allowed three postponements by the Government — will have to make its zoning proposals to the chief administrative officer of the Land Tenure Board.

TIN WORKERS APPLY FOR CONCILIATION BOARD

DURBAN.

The Natal Branch of the S.A. Tin Workers' Union had its 15th annual meeting last Sunday.

The secretary, Mr. Reddy, in his report stated that "with the re-election of the Nationalists into power, the attacks on the trade union movement are bound to be intensified with the removal of more trade union leaders from official positions, the imposition of more restrictions on the activities of the trade unions and the divisions of the workers along racial lines."

The meeting unanimously agreed to apply for a Conciliation Board for the whole of the Union in the Metal Containers, Closures and Allied Industries.

Mr. S. V. Reddy was re-elected secretary; Mr. Thomas Reddi was elected chairman and M. M. Chetty treasurer.

Labour Party Will Fight Fascism

—Hepple

JOHANNESBURG.

"The Labour Party must take the initiative in the defence of free trade unions and the right of workers to organise themselves and to look after their own affairs," said Mr. Alex Hepple, newly-elected parliamentary leader of the Labour Party in a statement in Johannesburg last week.

"If the Nationalist Government plans to avert a decline in trade by executing the policies which they have enunciated these past 10 years, we will witness in South Africa the fast growth of the totalitarian form of government, where the State will control every aspect of a person's conduct in order to safeguard the profits of a few."

The Labour Party, said Mr. Hepple, must continue its fight for the preservation of the citizen's rights and a free democracy.

"It must concentrate all its energy towards defending the living standards of the Europeans and the Non-Europeans. The Party must also take the lead in protecting the free trade union movement, and the right of workers to organise themselves and to manage their own affairs."

"Furthermore, the Labour Party must take the initiative in the fight against efforts to decrease workers' wages. We must continue to plead for a policy of complete social security to protect all sections of the community."

Policeman Sentenced

BELLVILLE.

A Railway police constable, Gert Cornelius Nel, was found guilty of pointing a firearm, in the Bellville Regional Court last week. He was charged together with an 18-year-old youth with attempting to murder Malandala Bukuqu by firing several shots at him with a rifle and then assaulting him with a stick.

In sentencing Nel, Mr. S. Frank said: "You have spread fear and suspicion among the Africans. We are living in very dangerous times and feeling sometimes runs riot as shown by the riots in East London and Port Elizabeth. It is possible that something of this sort could cause a reaction from the other side."

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In his analysis of the overseas news this week **SPECTATOR** discusses the new crisis for the Western powers in Asia which has been precipitated by the

Blame it on what you will, the rains, on incompetence, on lack of foresight; but the facts are beyond dispute. In Laos, the French army is taking a heavy beating at the hands of the people's army of liberation. The French retreat southwards has become a rout. There is talk of American intervention—on the pattern of Korea—before it is too late.

But already, napalm and germ-warfare are too late; too late to stop the liberation of Indo-China, the bulk of whose people have lived for over two years in Liberated areas under a people's Government headed by Viet-Minh leader Ho Chi Minh.

It was already too late at the end of March, when French Government delegates and Eisenhower's big-business government issued a joint statement after their Washington talks. That statement was carefully designed to lay the basis for a new Korean adventure, on the framed-up charges of "Chinese Communist aggression." In the words of the London Times, the statement "makes it clear to the Chinese that an attack on Indo-China, Burma, Siam or anywhere else after a Korean armistice had been reached would destroy the armistice and lead to a resumption of Korean hostilities." Big talk; but preparation for the big lie that U.S. intervention in Indo-China's liberation struggle was—echoes of Korea—"defence" against Communist aggression.

Never Again

The same trick cannot be turned twice. The U.N.O. label, used so freely to cover American aggression in Korea, cannot so easily be pasted over the French armies in Indo-China, who have no willing Syngman-Rhee puppet to "appeal for support." Where Korea was nominally independent, divided into two states by international agreement, Indo-China is patently and nakedly a colony ruled from Paris for the benefit of Parisian bankers and industrialists.

Or so it was, until the liberation. Laos is a large part of Indo-China, almost one third of the whole territory, the largest of the five areas of Tonkin, Annam, Cambodia, Cochinchina and Laos that French imperialism welded together one hundred years ago by ravaging wars of colonial conquest. The whole territory of Indo-China, 1½ times the size of France itself, is inhabited by some 24 million people, of whom under two million are Laotians. The others are mainly Vietnam people.

On the Move

It was here, amongst the Vietnam people, that the liberation movement developed most strongly. After the first world war, imperialist exploitation of the vast natural riches of Indo-China brought the Vietnam workers into the coal, zinc and lead mines, into the rubber plantations and the railroads being built to aid the rubber, and rice planters of the interior. From

LAOS RISING

amongst these workers developed in 1930 the leadership which later inspired the popular resistance to the Japanese war-time conquerors.

When the French returned at the war's end, with British troops to aid them in the suppression of the rebellious Vietnam people, it was this war-time resistance movement which carried on and mobilised the anti-imperialist feelings of the people, and from which arose the Viet Minh liberation alliance.

In Vietnam the resistance movement carried the country. For over two years French "control" of these areas has been a fiction. Only in the main towns does the French administration exist, leading the life of a beleaguered garrison in hostile territory. Outside the towns, the country has been ruled by the people.

The New Democracy

Into the people's territory has come a new life, the life of a people's democracy. In this predominantly peasant land, the land hunger of the people has been satisfied by a redivision of all cultivable land amongst the peasantry, and needy peasants have been assisted with loans, fertilisers and draught animals. Rents have been cut drastically and food production has soared above the highest pre-liberation levels. Illiteracy has been virtually stamped out by country-wide education for adults and children and the foundations of industry to reproduce consumers' goods have been laid.

The Ho Chi Minh government represents not only the Lao Dong Party, but a broad alliance of the democratic forces. Supporting it are the trade unions, over 300,000 strong, the National Union of Vietnam Women, some two million strong, and over one million organised members of peasant leagues.

And now it is the turn of the people of Laos.

Free Laos

Several weeks before the new offensive against the French armies in Laos, Vietnam Radio announced the formation of a government of Free Laos. It denied reports that Laos had been invaded by a great Vietnam army and stated that a struggle against the French occupation forces had been going on for years under the command of the Laotian Liberation Army. "The fighting in Laos," it said, "is being conducted by Laotians who have risen against the French imperialists." In that struggle Vietnam volunteers were assisting, under the direction of the Laotians.

And once again, as in Korea, the imperialists were finding that those they sneeringly refer to as "gooks" were outgeneralling and outfighting them. Not surprisingly. For it is an army of unwilling French conscripts and Siamese Kuomintang and ex-Nazi rag-tag-and-bobtail that to-day fight under the once-proud tricolour of imperialist France. New China News Agency recently reported that ". . . under American pressure the Siamese Government has sent five combat companies into Laos . . . Altogether the Americans have demanded that the Siamese Government send seven battalions . . ."

And in Berlin last month, 32 members of the French Foreign Legion told a Press conference how they had been shanghaied into the French army. All ex-

soldiers of the Nazi army, they had been in French P.O.W. camps when the second world war ended. The Americans had "liberated" them and turned them over to French army officers. Expecting to be taken home, they were instead transferred to a French internment camp from which they were told there was no way out unless they volunteered for duty with the Foreign Legion. They accordingly "volunteered" and were shipped to Indo-China; where they took the obvious course of going over to the Vietnam forces, who repatriated them via China.

Familiar Ring

It all has a familiar note to it, bringing to mind the American insistence on "humanitarian" principles in their treatment of P.O.W.'s, including "the humanitarian" shooting down of singing prisoners on Koje Island, and the "humanitarian" breaking of the Geneva Convention on the rights of wartime prisoners.

There is a familiar note to the London Times report that "President Truman always maintained that American policy in the event of Chinese aggression in Indo-China would be guided by United Nations decisions." Like Korea. And to the suggestion widely mooted in the American press that intervention is becoming necessary "to save Burma and Siam from invasion." Like Formosa.

The itch to take another desperate fling in the struggle to shape the world to the American Century pattern is becoming strong, almost irresistible in American ruling circles. Take a good look at the map to understand how vital is Indo-China to the American preparations for aggressive war against China. Look at the vast stretch of the China coast.

Vital Link

And look at the ring of imperialist bases which cut it off from the world outside. Japan, offshore from Vladivostok and Manchuria. Korea, a peninsula jutting out from the Chinese mainland; the Riyuku Island chain closing off the East China Sea, and reaching Formosa, separated by a narrow strait from Fukien Province. Follow the chain south, across Luzon and the Philippines and Indonesia, closing in the South China Sea. And then look at the last peninsula, jutting out from China, reaching across the sea to Sumatra to close the ring, and leave China landlocked and blockaded by an iron chain of American and British bases. That last peninsula is

Bunga Wants National Convention

UMTATA.

A motion requesting the Government to call a national convention of African and European leaders with a view to easing racial tension "by the review, repeal or amendment of such laws as are irksome to the African section", was unanimously carried at a recent meeting of the Transkeian Bunga.

The Bunga rejected the application of the Bantu Authorities Act to the Transkei and asked that the Transkeian Territories General Council remain in force. A further motion asking for the vote for all Africans over 21 years who can read and write either Zulu, Xhosa or Sesuto was adopted.

Durban Peace Meeting

DURBAN.

Durban had its first successful peace meeting on Sunday, April 26, at the Caxton Hall. Of the 200 people who attended about 50 were Europeans.

Addressing the meeting Miss Hilda Watts, secretary of the Transvaal Peace Council, declared that the question of peace transcended all issues in the world. "Nobody can ignore this question. The rising cost of living is a direct result of the threat of war and there can be no liberation for anybody without peace."

"The workers struggling for higher wages and those working for national liberation must continue their struggle through and by linking their efforts with the work for peace."

Mr. Lipman, who recently returned from Europe after attending the Congress of the Peoples for Peace at Vienna and Mr. P. Mei, secretary of the African Tobacco Workers' Union, also addressed the meeting. Mr. J. N. Singh, secretary of the Natal Indian Congress presided.

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African-Indian Unity Gives Colony Socialist Govt.

LONDON.

BRITAIN'S only colony on the South American continent, British Guiana, populated mainly by African negroes and Indians, the descendants of slaves and indentured labourers, last week struck out for independence by electing with a sweeping majority a left Socialist Government under the newly reformed Constitution.

The People's Progressive Party, led by Dr. Cheddi Jagan, an Indian Dentist, his wife, Janet Jagan who is an American, and Mr. Linden Burnham, the Trade Union Congress chairman, won 19 seats out of the total of 24. In the last Legislative Council they had only one representative, Dr. Jagan.

The British millionaire Press has built up a scare over the election, saying the Colony will be ruled by a "woman red", and saying that Mrs. Jagan is a Communist who has visited Moscow with her husband.

The People's Progressive Party campaigned on a Socialist policy for independence, the abolition of exploitation and national oppression. The Party is well based with a membership of 5,000 in a population of nearly half a million, and it has the support of the two trade union centres of the colony with a membership of 15,000.

The P.P.P. stood for a properly democratic constitution, declaring the present one which had broadened the franchise is still only a facade of democracy; unity of all classes of workers and farmers of all races; freedom and independence of the colony and the formation of a federation of all Britain's Caribbean colonies under a democratic constitution; an uncompromising fight against imperialism and colonial oppression, and support of national liberation movements in countries dominated by alien interests.

British Guiana is of key importance owing to the new moves to federate the Caribbean colonies and has recently attracted considerable capital investments in new discoveries of aluminium, gold and diamonds in addition to the sugar industry, for long its main source of wealth.

Prior to the election, both Dr.

and Mrs. Jagan were prevented by the authorities from visiting the big concentrations of workers in the sugar plantations and the timber industry.

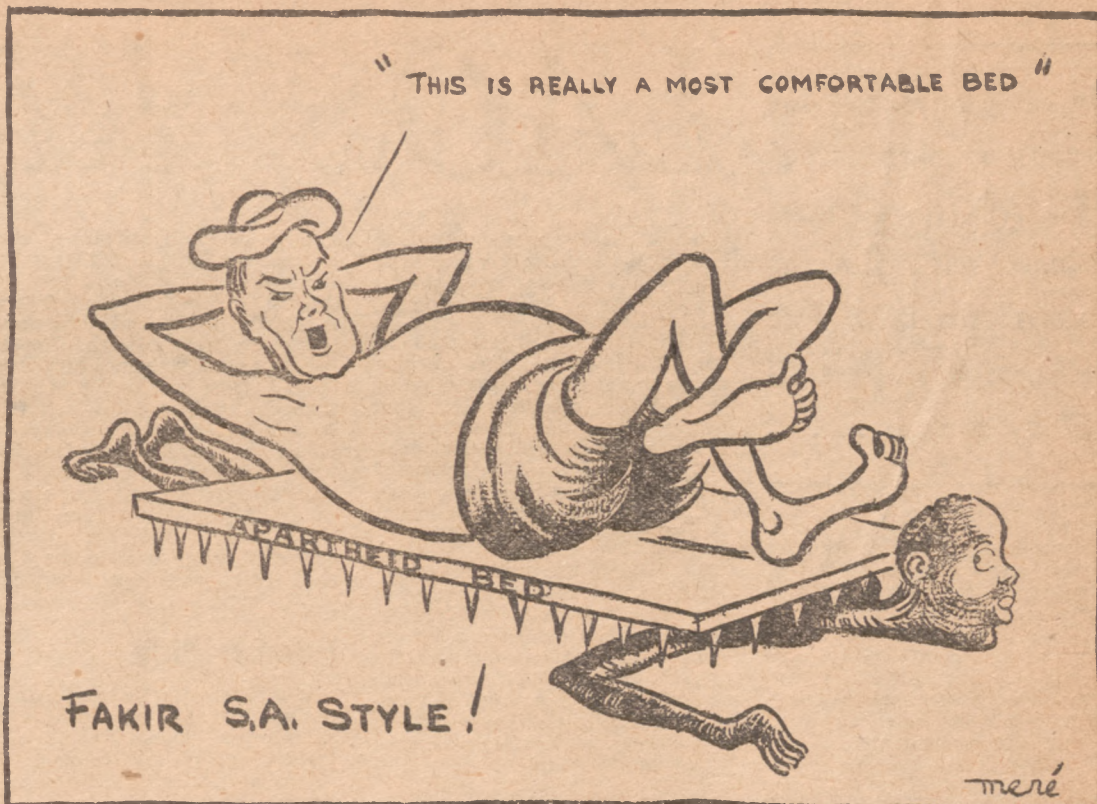
Rule by Sjambok

CAPE TOWN.

The Democratic League has issued a pamphlet entitled "Rule by Sjambok", which is now on sale, price 3d.

The pamphlet analyses the Public Safety and Criminal Law Amendment Acts passed by the Nationalist Government during the last session of Parliament, and shows how they are part of the Nationalist plan to turn South Africa into a Broederbond fascist republic.

Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained from The Democratic League, P.O. Box 4347, Cape Town.



In a speech at Vrede last week the Minister of Finance, Mr. Havenga, said there is no happier country in the world than South Africa.

ON PARADE

KNOWLEDGE IS COSTLY

By SAM KAHN

Knowledge has become terribly expensive. Most people who read books wonder why they are so costly. As they loiter round a bookstall or peer into a bookseller's window two questions become almost automatic.

Isn't someone making too big a profit somewhere?

Couldn't more efficient production bring the prices down?

There is no great mystery about it. The answer to both questions is "yes". Prices of all manner of things have gone up and will continue to go up. This is true of books as well as. Rearmament still pushes the price a few shil-

lings higher. Paper has increased 500 per cent. in cost since before the war (the hot one of 1939); binding has gone up by 300 per cent.; the other etceteras that go into a book have more than doubled.

A gathering of publishers in London was told by an Accountant that the selling price of 3,000 copies of a 250 page book is double the pre-war figure. If sold at 12s. 6d. each the publishers suffer a loss. 15s. a copy brings in a small profit. This does not mean that book publishers are losing money. Though there may be no profit on 3,000 books at 12s. 6d. there may be a very big profit on 30,000 at 7s. 6d., for the cost of each copy falls as the number printed rises. Best sellers are still highly profitable.

The Secret

This is the secret of the comparatively low price of Penguin books—the publishers never consider a print of less than 50,000, and often aim at 100,000. For small publishers the situation is menacing. A small publishing firm entirely on its own has little chance of surviving. This trend has led to the increasing monopoly of the big publishing houses, who are thus virtually able to dictate what books we shall be allowed to read, quite apart from any censorship set out by Dr. T. E. Donges, Minister of the Interior who can and does ban the importation of good books and periodicals. The £ s. d. or cash ban on books has resulted in considerable success for mass publishing firms like Penguin Books Limited, many of whose printed issues are classics and books well worth reading, volumes that do honour to the shelves of any library. In America publishers have taken up the mass producing of literature with a vengeance. Vast plantations of trees are uprooted, thousands of acres are deforested to produce the paper to print "pulp" magazines, comics and thrillers. Editions of hundreds of thousands, and even millions, are churned out by the literature factories. Millions of magazines and novels that feature sensational crimes of every variety: corpses sliced up, strangled, drowned, roasted, riddled

with bullets, atom-bombed, or wrapped up in neat parcels and despatched by airmail.

A special contribution to the spiritual food industry is the pocket book. The U.S.A.'s greatest gift to world culture. Literature is being made portable, not only in size but also in content. The portable principle is being developed in all directions. Cheap books of convenient size are being printed to fit the jacket pocket, "compact books" for women to fit inside their handbags, and even miniature editions to go into the pockets of your pants or your pyjama jacket for nocturnal reading.

The New York or Chicago publisher aims at making the book easy to carry (and of course cheap to print) as well as easy to read so they have devised the bookette or novelette, which gives summarised digests of novels and stories. "Reader's digests" trim down lengthy descriptions of landscapes and scene, cut out details of setting and the emotional experiences of the characters, and strip the books of almost everything except the title and the author's name.

Amputation

An abridged version of a full-length novel is an amputation which takes up little more than 30 pages, including the illustrations and the cover girl the author never contemplated. The whole takes about 15 minutes reading time allowing for the eyes to linger 10 minutes on the undressed double-breasted blonde wearing nylon undergarments, who adorns the front page.

The book digest or novelette is to literature what vitamin pills and extract tablets (plus a dash of sex-hormone) are to the food industry.

Should you accuse these slush pulp houses of commercialism or

express disgust on the prostitution of literature or tell them that that sort of trash ought to make wonderful reading for monkeys (providing you could teach these other primates to read), these publishers will show you small volumes of Shakespeare's plays, Dickens' novels (or a certain one of D. H. Lawrence's or James Joyce's works).

How dare you criticise us when we issue convenient, cheap editions of the classics for the mass reader! Shakespeare in light digestible doses!!

Patent Medicine

They talk of Shakespeare as if he were like the castor oil they serve in drug stores dressed up as cocktails. Shakespeare doctored up for the modern reader like a kind of patent medicine. They might as well call it "Shakespeareine" or "Dickensol"—for sluggish minds.

In broad daylight they steal the classics, tear the guts out of them, and then sell them in grocery stores and soda-fountains.

These publishers are following in the footsteps of Hollywood which has long since "adapted" the classics for the movie-going public. The cheap edition of the classic, with almost everything but the sex expurgated is a form of literary murder committed a la Hollywood for millions of dimes. They have certainly solved the mathematical problem of making the capitalist equation between sex and sales.

Such profit seeking publishers are part of a conspiracy to reduce the adult American cranium to the brain size of adolescence, living in a medium of true romantic tinsel fantasy, capable of nothing more intellectual than the difficulty of understanding baseball scores. They can offer only the decay of culture. They have nothing to lose but their gains.

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