

# Labour Bureau Tricks Africans into Going to Farms

By RUTH FIRST

JOHANNESBURG.

THOSE who are so quick to deny that there is forced labour in South Africa should have been in Alexandria Township in the late afternoon of Wednesday, August 24. Nine Africans arrived in the township, bruised, ill, footsore and exhausted. They had walked all the way from Devon, halfway between Bethal and Johannesburg.

ALL WERE DRESSED IN SACKS, LIKE THE THREE SHOWN IN THE PICTURE: HOLES TORN IN THE GRAIN BAGS FOR HEAD AND ARM OPENINGS, THE "UNIFORM" OF THOUSANDS OF WRETCHED FARM WORKERS ON THE RICH MEALIE AND POTATO FARMS OF THE EASTERN TRANSVAAL.

Three of the workers, still dressed in the sacks the farmer gave them to wear, after their long walk.



## NEW AGE

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This is what they told me: All nine were arrested in Alexandria Township during June of this year, some on June 18, others a little later in the month. They were arrested under the pass laws, some picked up in police street raids, others in yard searches.

They were taken to the Wynberg police station, and from there to the Native Labour Bureau. There, they said, they were offered work in a Germiston iron and steel factory.

One of the nine, a tailor by trade, told me he never believed that they were being sent to a factory; he knew it would be on a farm. The others believed they were going to work in a factory. The nine say that they signed no contracts, and put their fingerprints to no document.

## WORKED "SUNDAY TO SUNDAY"

THE day after their arrest and the offer of work to them, a lorry arrived outside the office of the Wynberg Native Commissioner. They climbed aboard and the lorry started off. To the astonishment of all but the tailor the lorry passed right through Germiston, and stopped at last on a farm in the Devon district. "Here you work," the nine were told.

They were on the farm of Mr. X (the name is in our possession), one of the biggest farmers in the district.

The nine worked for one month on the farm: the work was from "Sunday to Sunday," they said. On the same farm were a number of other African men, also from Alexandria Township. At the end of one month some went to the farmer to ask to be sent back home, as they believed they had worked their "term."

The farmer told them they could not leave, and they had to work a second month, as notice.

At the end of the second month nine men went again to the farmer. By this time some had worked for two months, some for two months and 15 days, and some for two months and 23 days. The farmer again refused to let the nine go, or to pay them, or return their pass reference books.

### No Help

The nine left the farm and reported to the Devon police station.

They were given no help but told they should report to the centre from where they had been sent to Devon. So the nine took to the road and walked back to Alexandria Township. When they arrived they were wearing the sacking used as clothing on the farm.

Several immediately reported to the Township clinic for medical treatment for the bruises on their bodies, evidence of the assaults on them on the farm.

Two of the men are only 18 years old, one is 19. One of the 18-year-olds was born in Alexandria Township, went to school there for a few years and after leaving school in 1953 was one of the youngsters of the township desperate to work, who found his way to employment blocked at every turn by the influx control and pass regulations which doom so many young men in Alexandria Township to a life of despair, hunted by the police and haunted by the prospect of having to work on the farms for a pittance.

Another of the nine was a man 47 years old, a married man and father of one child, a registered tenant in Orlando, he told New Age, and a tailor who has worked in Johannesburg since 1937.

One of the 18-year-olds has a large bruise on one side of his face, and a scab, now healing, on his right arm. Both injuries were caused by a sjambok, he said.

All nine reported to the offices of the Labour Bureau and the Native Commissioner for their pass books and the money owed them for their work on the farm.

### Drove in to Pay Them

Later the following afternoon, after New Age had interviewed and photographed them and they had given statements to a lawyer alleging they had been assaulted and wrongly

misled about the work to be offered them, their former farmer employer drove personally into the Township from his Devon farm and paid the nine out.

The sight of New Age photographing three Africans in sacking, on the pavement opposite the Native Commissioner's offices, brought the

(Continued on page 6)

## CAPE TOWN COLOUREDS REJECT POPULATION REGISTRATION ACT

CAPE TOWN.

"WE do not object to being called Africans. But we realise that when the Government classify us as Africans, they subject us to all the life-destroying burdens of the African people," Mr. Alec la Guma, vice-chairman of the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation, said at a meeting called by S.A.C.P.O. in the Cape Town Banqueting Hall last Sunday evening to protest against the Nazi race classification of the Coloured people on the Rand.

Mr. la Guma and Mr. George Peake, chairman of S.A.C.P.O., both emphasised that the Coloured people were not demanding special rights for themselves, but were fighting for democracy for everybody in South Africa, Coloureds, Africans, Indians and Europeans.

"Why is the Government heaping further oppression on the Coloured people?" asked Mr. la Guma. "It is because the pool of cheap labour is beginning to dry up. The farmers are complaining. Where else can these profit-greedy jackals find labour? So they turn to the million Coloured people."

### CANNOT LOSE

Mr. la Guma said that for many years the African and Indian people had been calling on the Coloureds to join them in their struggle for liberation. "The time has now come," said Mr. la Guma. "If we all unite under the banner of the Congresses, we cannot lose this struggle for freedom and democracy. We have the strength of millions on our side, not only in South Africa, but outside. The Freedom Charter is going to be the basis of this new South Africa—the future belongs to us!"

Mr. Peake spoke of the "humiliating racial tests by gloating Nationalist puppets, which in one blow sweeps aside a man's whole

mode of existence.

"We don't come here to defend the Coloureds as such. Our aim is to do away with all race classification," Mr. Peake said amidst applause. "We want a society where all races are equals."

### A.N.C. SUPPORT

Mr. Simon Makhetha from the African National Congress gave his whole-hearted support to the meeting. "We Africans know what the pass laws are," said Mr. Makhetha. "We must all speak with one voice and not allow this vicious thing to go ahead."

"What is happening in Johannesburg must not be allowed to happen here," said Mr. Len Lee-Warden, M.P. "There is only one path for South Africa to follow—the path that will lead to a sound and democratic South Africa, where there is freedom, sunshine and humanity for all."

The meeting unanimously passed

a resolution voicing its strong censure of the illegal and inhuman methods of the police and the Department of Census and Statistics in classifying people, and declared further:

"We reject the whole idea and practice of race classification, together with the Population Registration Act, as another method of entrenching Nationalist oppression."

### ALL OPPOSITION

"We call upon all people of the country, and the Coloured people in particular, to offer all possible opposition to race classification, and thereby not become a party to their own enslavement."

## Cultural Clubs Grow in E. Cape

PORT ELIZABETH.

A number of cultural clubs, the people's reply to Verwoerd's slave education, have sprung up in New Brighton and other parts of the Eastern Cape, and an Educational and Welfare Council consisting of parents has been set up to help run the clubs.

### Exiled—They Are Left To Starve

"I AM placed here in Glen Red, near Vryburg, without food but only with water," says a letter written by Mr. Elias Korea Monare from exile.

"I am placed in a tin house with no windows and only one big door, a house that is very cold in winter and very hot in summer."

"I receive no grant from the Government that I may live. I am living in a land of thorns and sand only."

Like Gwentshe, Lengisi, Mopeli from Witziesshoek, and others banned by the Government from their homes to remote spots in the countryside, Monare from Benoni has been torn from his work and prevented from earning a living, yet receives no grant to enable him to buy food and pay other living expenses.





## Population Registration in Kimberley

IN Kimberley last week, the announcement was made through loud-speakers that Coloureds, Griquas and "Natives" must congregate at the Social Centre for registration.

Curious African and Coloured children ran after the car through which this announcement was made, not knowing the lot that awaited their brothers, uncles and fathers.

Many are questioned about their mothers, fathers, grandfathers and grandmothers. The authority then decides whether you are Coloured, Griqua or "Native." In many cases one brother is called Coloured and the other "Native." Can this method of reclassifying people be accepted as correct? In the former the brother has a lighter colour than his brother. Is a Coloured determined by a person's complexion or what?

The daily papers announced the huge amount of money made out of these registration books and photos. They even boasted of the hundreds of pounds made by this method. It is sorrowful and heart-breaking to see how blood is squeezed out of a stone. So many Non-Europeans sleep without food at times; and this money—where do they get it?

People are told by some of the authorities to appeal if they are not satisfied. A number of cases are with the attorneys of the city. It is true an appeal can be made, but where do the poorer section get the money from when they have already paid so much?

Coloured leaders in Kimberley are advising their people not to present themselves for classification. They have sought legal opinion and their lawyer has said they cannot legally be compelled to go for interviews.

MOST DISGUSTED.

Kimberley.

### Africans not Bantu

I would like to tell all those who call the Africans "Bantus," that Bantu means simply a majority of the people (Bantus-Abantu). "Abantu" is "people" of any Nation.

Africans are not Bantus—they are Africans.

T. NQOSE.

Retreat, Cape.

## FLU is serious

For each hour you walk about and work with an attack of Flu on you, at least an extra day will be spent either in bed or in a state of half health. Flu damages and weakens the system—don't under-estimate or try to ignore Flu.

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### Apartheid in the Bible?

Senator de Klerk says that apartheid was in the Bible, and that the Nats apply it as Christians. He is right there. You can read this Bible, but the more you read it the worse you get tame, even more than a lamb.

No church can stop this apartheid, because it is in the Bible. The white people were not sent by God to come and preach among our people, because God can't let you come and preach to another nation while you have heathen among your own people. The Bible was the method of taming our people. Our preachers can't preach in the churches of white people.

J. T. DYUBENI.

Langa, Cape.

### Nats: God's Partners?

Students of the Grahamstown Bantu Secondary School, whose parents are not registered as Grahamstown residents, have been issued with passes.

The validity of each pass ends on 31st December, 1955, when a student will have to quit Grahamstown or re-apply to the Superintendent of Non-European Affairs.

This intolerable burden is said to be justified by the Scriptures. The Minister of Labour, Senator J. de Klerk, said in Durban recently that they apply Apartheid as Christians and the Scripture justifies Apartheid. If that is so, it is likely that the poor Nats have partnership with God.

STANLEY B. G. KABA.

Grahamstown.

### Africa For Democrats

Mr. C. W. Prinsloo, chief information officer of the Native Affairs Department, said in Pretoria that Africans from the Protectorates are treated on an equal basis to those from the Union. I want to assure Mr. Prinsloo that despite his statement these Africans are being deported from the major cities every day.

He wants us to believe this is the fault of the City Councils. But we realise that this is a bluff. These Africans know that they are the key to the progress of the Union. He wants them to come to the towns so that he can get cheap and forced labour for the mines and other heavy works.

When the Creator divided the continents He made Africa for freedom-lovers and democrats, the East for peace and freedom and Europe and America for capitalists.

I. J. M. MATHIKELA.

Korsten, Port Elizabeth.

### MAYIBUYE AFRIKA!

Shall we be homeless in the land of our birth?  
Sing, dark comrades, united in distress!  
Sing a song to tell the world you will not be deprived  
Of land and life and liberty, through racial bitterness.  
Challenge those who'd take away the homes for which you've strived.  
Sing a song of Africa. Mayibuye Afrika!

Shall we live in poverty and hunger all our lives?  
Sing, my brothers, of our children's pleading eyes.  
Born to dirt and squalor, but from wombs of hope and pride . . .  
Sing, my people, of our will to organise!  
A song of strength and unity which fear shall not divide.  
Sing a song of Africa. Mayibuye Afrika!

Shall our children suffer, through ignorance and fear?  
Sing of education and laws which shall be just.  
Of equal opportunity to learn, to teach, create . . .  
Sing of stolen lessons held in secrecy and dust.  
Learning how to conquer this atmosphere of hate.  
Sing a song of Africa. Mayibuye Afrika!

Shall we be governed by unjust, unequal laws?  
Sing, my countrymen, that there shall come a day  
When we, the people, make the laws to rule a joyful land.  
Sing of legislation in which all shall have their say.  
Sing a song of brotherhood—all races hand in hand.  
Sing a song of Africa. Mayibuye Afrika!

Shall our lives be threatened by our rulers' love of war?  
Sing of peace and friendship — that our country shall be free!  
Sing of many nations where the people strive for peace.  
Workers, farmers, writers—all shall live in harmony.  
Sing a song of Progress that will never, never cease!  
Sing a song of Africa. Mayibuye Afrika!

PHILIPPA MURREL.

Cape Town.



The slogan which appeared on the door of the Cape Town Magistrates' Court last week on the morning that S.A.C.P.O. members Morrison and Hurzuk were due to appear on a charge of painting C.O.P. slogans. The magistrate rejected a Crown application that bail be withdrawn as a result of the painting, and the case was postponed.

## ALL AFRICA WILL BE FREE!

THE French troops who were last year fighting to maintain white supremacy in Asia are now fighting in Africa. They were beaten in Viet-Nam by a people fighting for liberation. THEY WILL BE BEATEN IN AFRICA TOO.

Only a few years ago the great continent of Asia was divided up as the private property of the capitalists of Europe and the United States. Their writers penned scornful words about the stupidity and laziness and dirtiness of the people of Asia and laughed at the fantastic idea that these people could govern themselves.

To-day the great majority of the people of Asia are independent. China and India are great powers, equal to—and stronger than—the nations which once ruled them.

Asia is marching confidently and invincibly along the path of freedom. No one dares any longer to stand in the way. AND NOW AFRICA TOO IS PREPARING TO SWEEP ASIDE THOSE WHO BAR HER PATH TO FREEDOM.

Africa has watched the common people of Asia—the illiterate peasants, the half-starved workers—rise and overcome the mighty forces holding them in slavery. The people of Africa have watched the ancient independence of the nations of Asia brought back by the people's struggle. They know that they too will make Africa's independence come back. South Africa's liberation greeting "Mayibuye!" is echoed in a thousand tongues throughout the continent.

Britain has left Egypt; the battle for the independence of French North Africa has begun; the backward Sudan is stirring; the Gold Coast has taken half a step to independence; a terrible war rages in Kenya. Never before have the oppressors in Africa been so threatened and frightened. And everywhere in Africa it is clear that this is only the beginning.

Freedom is coming to Africa, and those in the southern tip of the continent who hate freedom are full of fear. Their reaction is the only response the racist knows—more racialism. Prime Minister Strydom looking unhappily north said last week: "When one considers what is happening in North and East Africa—the clashes between Non-Europeans and European rulers—one clearly realises that if the Whites are to maintain themselves it is necessary for them to stand together on the basis of South Africa's traditional policy of apartheid."

Those who love freedom hear a different message from the north—that racial oppression leads only to hatred, bloodshed and bitter tragedy.

In North Africa the French troops are waging mass "reprisals," butchering thousands of innocent people in cold blood. In Kenya, sudden brutal death has stalked for years. That is the future towards which racialism leads.

The policies of Strydom and Verwoerd, far from avoiding the disasters which have overtaken European and Non-European alike in North Africa and Kenya, can only precipitate them by intensifying hatred on both sides of the colour line.

The future belongs to those who reject all racialism, who stand together, African, Indian, Coloured and European in full equality, determined to win the just society whose principles are set out in the Freedom Charter.

The forces of democracy in South Africa are among the strongest in the whole world. The Nationalists dream of an apartheid South Africa which will last for 1,000 years. Democrats dream of full equality IN OUR LIFETIME. It is our dream which will be translated into reality, because it corresponds with the deepest wishes of the majority of our people.



# SUDAN PEOPLE WANT INDEPENDENCE

## Background to Army Revolt

LONDON.

AS the Sudan approaches the day on which it will gain its independence, Britain and Egypt, the two powers who are at present jointly responsible for its political development, are jockeying for position.

So far Britain seems to have the lead on Egypt, but the revolt which broke out in the southern Sudan last week may alter the position. Inspired by Egypt, the revolt is seen as an attempt to justify a resort to force by Egypt to "restore order" — in other words, to retain political power, which seems to be slipping from her grasp.

The present Sudanese Government of Ismail El Azhary, the leader of the Nationalist Unionist Party, was swept into office with a huge majority in the 1953 elections on a platform which promised closer union with Egypt. The Umma Party, which stood for complete independence and was generally regarded as being "Britain's party," suffered a heavy defeat.

Up to the end of 1954 El Azhary maintained his desire to unite the Sudan with Egypt. In fact, as recently as December of last year, he dismissed three of his Cabinet Ministers because they had called for a more independent policy in relation to Egypt.

Since then, however, El Azhary has completely swung around. In March of this year the Nationalist Unionist Party adopted a resolution in favour of complete independence and full sovereignty for the Sudan, with its President, Government and Parliament responsible only to the people of the Sudan.

El Azhary said that in terms of this resolution the Sudan, once free, would join the Arab League and base its foreign policy on the decisions of the League, but only so far as they were consistent with the national independence and interests of the Sudan.

### AGGRESSIVE EGYPT

What has been responsible for this change of policy? Firstly, the aggressive tactics of the Egyptian Government itself. Regarding the 1953 election results as a triumph for themselves, the Egyptian leaders have been attempting to dictate policy to the Sudan and interfere in every detail of its national life in such a way as to inflame the national feelings of the Sudanese and force El Azhary to abandon his previous pro-Egyptian stand.

Instead of recognising their mistake and behaving more tactfully, the Egyptians resorted to even more bullying tactics. Inside the Sudan they have organised and financed open opposition to El Azhary. And from Cairo they have poured out a stream of hate propaganda against him.

Last month, when El Azhary accepted an invitation to attend the anniversary celebrations of Egypt's 1952 "revolution," he found he was more or less completely ignored by the Egyptian leaders. On the other hand, the leaders of the opposition to Azhary, the pro-Egyptian Mohammed Nureddin, formerly a member of Azhary's Cabinet, was feted and praised by the Egyptian leaders and their kept press.

At one public function held by Major Salah Salem, the Egyptian Minister for Public Guidance, who is also Minister for Sudanese Affairs, Nureddin and his supporters raised the cry "Down with the stooge of imperialism"—understood as a reference to Azhary.

Speaking of these events afterwards, El Azhary said: "Egyptian behaviour was such that if we had been a fully independent power, we would have every excuse to break off diplomatic relations."

### NILE WATERS

A further source of dispute between the Sudan and Egypt has been the negotiations over the use of the waters of the Nile, which

flows through the Sudan into Egypt. Last April talks were held between the two countries to attempt a settlement of their differences. One day after the talks began they were abandoned. The Sudanese maintained that an Egyptian proposal to dam the Nile would involve the resettlement of 50,000 Sudanese, a prospect they were not prepared to consider.

The leader of the Sudanese delegation, Mr. Hammad, said that as a result of the talks they had lost all confidence in the Egyptians' intentions.

A further factor which no doubt influenced El Azhary was his trip to Europe last November, during the course of which he discussed the prospect of financial and technical aid from Britain, France, Bel-

gium, West Germany and Italy.

All these are NATO countries. All have a quarrel with Egypt, which has failed to join their middle East Pact and has insisted on maintaining an independent Arab League. All doubtless brought pressure to bear on El Azhary to accept his political directives from London rather than from Cairo.

### RESOLUTION

Matters came to a head two weeks ago when the Sudan Parliament met and a resolution was passed, supported by all parties, that the time was ripe for independence and Britain and Egypt should be asked to withdraw from the Sudan. In terms of the 1953 Anglo-Egyptian agreement, such a resolution was to be followed by the election of a Constituent Assembly which would have the task of drawing up a constitution for the Sudan, and deciding finally whether the Sudan was to be an in-

dependent sovereign state, or to become part of Egypt.

There has always been a large and influential section of the people of the Sudan who support union with Egypt, not so much because they love Egypt, but because they love Britain less. But disillusioned by the policies and practices of the Cairo cabal, much of this support has dropped away, as in the case of Azhary himself.

The revolt which started last week was Egypt's attempt to turn the tide in her favour. What Britain's answer to this tactic will be has not yet been revealed, but it can be assumed she will not give up the Sudan without a struggle.

Among the mass of the Sudanese people, the demand to be rid of both foreign imperialisms, Britain and Egypt, is growing steadily, together with the realisation that the only guarantee of their national integrity lies in the exercise of complete independence.

## PEACE VERSUS WAR IN FAR EAST

LONDON.

THERE is plenty of evidence to prove that it is the United States which, despite its pretence of "resisting aggression" in the Far East, has been responsible for provoking all the recent disorders in the Formosa Straits, South Korea and Indo-China.

Mr. Dulles has repeatedly called upon People's China to observe a cease-fire in the Formosa Straits, thus creating the impression that it is Chinese aggression which is the source of all the trouble there.

Yet since April, when Premier Chou En-lai at the Asia-African conference offered to sit down with the Americans and settle the differences between the two countries, the Americans have resisted every move towards peaceful negotiation. At the Geneva conference of the ambassadors of the two countries which followed the Big Four meeting, the Americans have adopted a truculent and uncompromising attitude which has prevented the talks making much progress.

Furthermore, while People's China led by Mao Tse-tung has halted its military preparations to liberate Quemoy and Matsu, and ultimately Formosa itself, so as to provide a favourable atmosphere for negotiation, the Chiang Kai-shek bandits, who operate under U.S. protection, have steadily continued their attacks on the mainland and on shipping plying the China coast.

### BRITAIN PROTESTS

Following repeated attacks on British ships trading with China, the British Government was compelled to send a sharply-worded note of protest to Chiang Kai-shek, warning him that unless the attacks ceased, Britain would be compelled to order the Royal Navy to protect her merchantmen.

Chiang Kai-shek—no doubt after consulting his American advisers—rejected the protest out of hand and said the blockade of the China coast would continue.

Just what this "blockade" amounts to was revealed by the Chinese paper People's Daily, which reported recently that between May 1 and August 5 this year 595 groups of Chiang's planes had flown 175 sorties over China's coastal and inland areas.

### U.S. SUPPLIES

"Can anyone say that the Chiang Kai-shek clique is capable of conducting such constant military activity with such a large number of planes?" the paper asked. "Is it not a fact that the Chiang Kai-shek clique have been continuously supplied by the United States with planes and other military equipment?"

"Obviously the supply of military equipment and weapons to Chiang Kai-shek at the same time as the U.S. declaration of its so-called principles of refraining from using armed forces is a two-faced manoeuvre."

Support for this interpretation of United States policy was given by no less a person than the U.S.

Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Walter Robertson, addressing the annual school of advanced international studies conducted by the John Hopkins University.

### THE DEMOCRATS!

He was asked whether he did not think the United States lost prestige by supporting regimes like those of Rhee, Chiang and Diem. He replied that he found it sad that some intellectuals tended to be sympathetic in their approach to Communism. He claimed that the Rhee Government was "infinitely more democratic" than that of People's China!

In South Korea the "democratic" Rhee Government continues to sabotage the Korean armistice and stoke up the fires of a new war. Although Rhee was compelled to withdraw his ultimatum to the Neutral Nations Truce Commission to get out of South Korea, he has made it clear he has not abandoned his opposition to the commission's remaining in his country.

Syngman Rhee's Ambassador to the United States, Yang You Chan, said on August 17 that Washington was actively supporting Rhee's efforts to "oust" the truce commission. He told a United Press reporter that Walter Robertson "hotly agrees with our Korean position and states that the United States is just as much interested as we are in getting" the Polish and Czechoslovak members of the Commission out of South Korea.

(One week earlier Dulles himself had said the U.S. was "sympathetic" to the "justifiable resentment" of the South Koreans against the armistice commission.)

Robertson had told Yang You Chan a "solution" would soon be found. He explained that "the solution would be the eventual dissolution of the commission."

### North Korea

In strong contrast to the provocative behaviour of the South Korean Government has been the

policy of the North Koreans. In a speech on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the liberation of Korea from the Japanese, the North Korean Premier Kim Ir Sen said representatives of North and South Korea should meet to discuss unification of the country.

He also proposed that both



China's leader, Mao Tse-tung.

Governments should proclaim to the world "that they will undertake not to use force against one another but use peaceful means to solve all questions relating to Korea's unification."

He suggested too that both sides should reduce their armies to the minimum "in order to reduce the burden of military expenditure on the people in the South and North and to use the manpower engaged in non-productive work for peaceful construction."

All Asia is contrasting this conciliatory approach with the threat of the South Korean militarists to unite Korea by force.

### Viet-Nam

In South Viet-Nam the American puppet Ngo Dinh Diem has replied to the communique of the Big Four calling on him to begin consultations with representatives of North Viet-Nam about the holding of the 1956 elections called for in the Geneva Agreement of 1954.

In a communique issued in Saigon, Diem has again refused to start the election talks with the North, and has claimed Western support for his stand!

"The three friendly powers (Britain, France and the U.S.) have emphasised that they believe, like me, that any stand which might sap my authority should be avoided," he said.

### BRITAIN "DISTURBED"

This statement placed the Western powers in a very bad light, and produced an immediate response from Britain, where a Foreign Office spokesman said the British Government was "disturbed" by the implication that it sympathised with Diem's failure to start talks, and the British Ambassador had been instructed to seek "clarification" of the Diem communique.

Diem's refusal to discuss elections with the North is based on his accusation that free elections are impossible because of the "denial of democratic rights" in the North Viet-Nam. The recently published findings of the International Truce Commission prove this accusation is groundless.

Not even one case of repression of democratic freedom is alleged against the North. On the other hand, the Commission has investigated 42 cases in the South, involving the massacre of hundreds of people.

The Commission, which consists of representatives of India, Canada and Poland, said it was unable to complete investigations in some cases in the South because of interference and obstruction by the Diem authorities.

The overall position in the Far East is quite clear. Neither Chiang, Diem nor Rhee could last a single day without the support of the Western powers, who must bear the final responsibility for the destruction of civil liberties and the preparations for war which are being carried on in the territories under their control.

Sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for sedition because he sold his house, in a "White neighbourhood," to a Negro, Carl Braden, of Louisville, U.S.A., has been released on bail of 40,000 dollars pending appeal. He has been in gaol for six months before he was granted bail, believed to be the highest amount ever demanded for a case of this kind.



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