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THE BULLETIN

*An Information Service
for
Socialists*

VOLUME 2 NEW SERIES No. 15

13th APRIL 1963

PRICE 6d
(Special issue)

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NOTE FOR READERS.

For those seeing the Bulletin for the first time this week, we would point out that it differs in two respects from most issues. It is normally of 8 pages and costs 4d, but has been increased this week because of extra material available. Many of the reports are shorter than those this week and page 9 is probably more typical than, say, page 8. Our aim is to fill a gap in the field of socialist publications by providing a service of information not normally available elsewhere. Each week we publish original material of topical relevance to Socialists. We invite you to subscribe - the rate is 6/6 post free for 3 months (13 issues).

Published by the International Bookshop, 4 Dane Street,
Alfred Street Central, NOTTINGHAM.
Produced by voluntary labour.

EDITORIAL NOTES. (1). WHITHER C.N.D.?: This year's Aldermaston, probably the last in its present form, will bring together tens of thousands again. However, developments have made C.N.D.'s original form and programme redundant. Britain's next Prime Minister is against Britain having an independent nuclear deterrent. The Pope, too, appears to be the latest recruit to C.N.D. ideas (we look forward to the unilateralist case being presented by papal count Carron at this year's annual conference). It is sobering to realise that this redundancy arises not because of the success of the unilateralist movement but because of the technical development of missiles. However, no-one can argue that the danger of war has receded.

This development in itself underlines the critique Marxists have made of anti-war movements- that the only final guarantee of the ending of the danger of nuclear annihilation is the ending of world capitalism. The struggle against a particular aspect of war, or preparation for war is doomed to futility unless linked to a struggle against the system which creates war. However, only the blind can deny that C.N.D. has roused tens of thousands of people into political action at a time when the traditional workers organisations were paralysed by apathy. At a time when the betrayal of the Labour leadership with a background of individually achieved affluence (through working overtime, wives working, etc.), produced this apathy, C.N.D. could bring thousands onto the streets and into direct conflict with the authorities. At various stages, and in different countries, the proposition that capitalism is an outmoded and moribund system is demonstrated in different ways. In the thirties it was demonstrated by the mass misery of the unemployed, in the fifties it was demonstrated, in Britain anyway, by the daily prospect of the mass annihilation of the human race. But just as the unemployed of the thirties didn't automatically become socialists and were mainly concerned with amelioration of their immediate problems, neither can we expect the majority of the C.N.D. activists to immediately accept a Marxist analysis of the cause of war. This is precisely why the Marxists must combine propaganda and ideological explanation with going through the experience with the C.N.D.ers of their activities. What now lies before C.N.D.? Clearly the danger of nuclear destruction is still with us and many people can be mobilised on this basis. What is needed is to take C.N.D. forward to a campaign against the remaining bases, against membership of NATO, for the withdrawal of British forces from foreign countries and for a realignment of British foreign policy in alliance with the struggling peoples. Such a policy would be acceptable to the mass of C.N.D. supporters. The logic of such an argument is that it can only be achieved by a Labour Government carrying out socialist policies. Hence the necessity for all C.N.D. activists to fight inside the Labour Party.

(2) THE JACK REPORT. The anti-working class character of the proposals of the Jack Committee looking into industrial relations at Fords is so blatant that it is doubtful if even the right wing T.U. officials will support them. On the other hand the proposals give a programme of action for industrialists all over the country to attack the militant shop steward movement. The struggle against the implementation of the report is one which concerns the whole left. A national speaking tour needs to be arranged for the Fords shop stewards and the excellent pamphlet they produced needs to have the widest circulation. We hope to help in this campaign and will welcome information, advice and general assistance from our readers.

1537 Only a rash individual would be so bold as to make precise forecasts as to the outcome of the present crisis in the YS. Guerilla warfare between Transport House and the movement as a whole, if it continues for much longer will lead to the defeat of one of the participants - and the YS is the certain candidate. With local exceptions, the YS is barely holding its own in the field of recruitment and growth. In addition to the struggle against Transport House, many branches are engaged in fratricidal faction fighting, albeit around "principled" issues. This can only lead to the movement's deterioration. To new members this state of affairs is essentially repugnant. Disintegration and demoralisation will be the reward of the Left if this continues for long. The surprising thing is that, after three years of pitched battle with Transport House, no more ruin has occurred than the present situation - this being a tribute to the staying power of many Young Socialists.

Two remedies exist: (a) A democratic structure controlled by the movement and not its parent, and (b) the transformation of the YS into an effective campaigning body, constantly and consistently fighting on issues affecting youth. Because of the present set-up, on many occasions attempts to conduct important campaigns have foundered because they have inadvertently tended to cut the YS away from the Party. CLP support has often been half-heartedly sought and the subsequent action of the Branch or Federation concerned has incurred the wrath of the less militant party. In the last analysis, until campaigns can be launched using a formula which will mean that one can fight without this causing suspensions, etc., the only significant political capital that the YS, as a militant movement fighting for viable left slogans possesses, is the fact that it is, and continues to be, the youth section of the mass party of the British working class.

Success in transforming the YS into a campaigning force and in gaining a democratic structure can only be achieved by strengthening our ties with the Party at all levels. This involves complete integration, both as individuals in the Party and as an organisation. This means constant work in Wards, Constituencies, Womens Sections (where appropriate) Co-op Branches and of course the unions. It means pushing the left, pulling it and moving with it, throughout the entire calendar of the party's life. YS Branches should in every way cement their existence with the Party and adopt the role of catalysing agents.

The extent to which Party membership and integration, and the necessary degree of autonomy can be had, has a partial precedent in NALSO, the Party's other current youth movement. Those critics of a NALSO cons for the YS, who claim that it is a move to separate the YS from the Party are wrong, because this sort of formula does not, must not, and cannot, preclude full integration with the Party at all levels. If a NALSO constitution were to rid the movement of many of its petty restrictions and irritants, easier relations with CLPs would often accrue. The area of friction would diminish whilst the area of contact would continue. If our integration is maintained, and the CLPs' 'responsibility' for the Branch removed, our work with and within those same CLPs would be easier and more fruitful. "A NALSO constitution" is essentially a shorthand expression for a YS whose National Committee would have Executive functions, but would still be an integral part of the Party's structure. In fact, many advocates of this formula, want to see increased participation in the Party's affairs. Only in this way will the disasters of the last year be prevented from crippling the YS - the proscription of Keep Left, the attacks on Young Guard, suspension of Federations, and so on. Only by the gaining of such a formula, with the active support of our allies in the Party will the YS avoid the fate of Labour's previous Youth sections.

A previously reported in the Bulletin, there is to be a European Discussion School at Hythe in Kent from September 7th - 13th 1963. This follows the successful Kessingland School of last September sponsored by NALSO/New Left Review/Young Guard. All enquiries regarding the cost of this school and arrangements for bookings should be sent without delay to: JULIAN ATKINSON, 54 Park Road, Lenton, NOTTINGHAM. (s.a.e.)

Speakers who have agreed to attend and address the school, include Isaac Deutscher (the historian whose biographies of Trotsky and Stalin have become standard works); Ernest Mandel (editor of La Gauche and whose major work on Marxist political economy was described by the Economist as the most important book on the subject in 50 years);^{and} Robin Blackburn (NLR E.B. and expert on Cuba knowing leaders on Cuban Government intimately)

APRIL ISSUE OF "UNION VOICE" NOW AVAILABLE.

The April issue of "Union Voice" is now available, and can be obtained from the International Bookshop. This issue, the third so far, is undoubtedly the best, and deserves a great deal of praise as far as content and layout are concerned. There are fewer articles by the "Big Guns" of the Labour and TU world, and more written by less conspicuous individuals from the unions. Its content is also more organisational, containing notes on the Co-op, the London Labour Party and Regional Conferences of the Labour Party, as well as affairs inside many of the Unions. There are articles on Workers' Control, the recent Dunlop strike, conditions in Spain from the Union point of view. The Voice of Youth page has an article on the Colonial Workers' struggle and the Wall Newspaper, designed to be pinned up in offices and factories features the distribution of wages and incomes in the country. The front page is particularly striking as usual, being a reproduction of a coin of the realm - with the Queen's portrait revised in an authentic and unflattering manner.

THE DISPUTE OVER DELEGATES TO THE NOTTINGHAM CITY LABOUR PARTY.

Readers of last week's Bulletin will be aware of the attempts made by the Right-wing Regional Organiser of this party to obstruct left-wing delegates from speaking at meetings because they live just outside the City boundaries although representing affiliated bodies to the City Party. This is an attempt to diminish the increasing tide of left-wing sentiments and calls for action being pressed by these delegates with the support of the body of the delegates. 72 hours before the AGM this week, at which a left-wing slate of alternative candidates was fielded, the Regional Organiser instigated the withdrawal of credentials of many of these left-wing delegates, in a panic attempt to influence the course of the election. This is despite the fact that the rules of the Party state that 3 months notice is required for an amendment to the rules - which is what the Regional Organiser's moves amount to. But the measure has been rushed through in order to safeguard the status quo at the election. Affected delegates have produced a leaflet for other delegates giving six reasons why the scheme should be rejected and the AGM postponed until all bodies had delegates. This was given out at the meeting. Inside the meeting the chairman prevented real discussion on the question despite the efforts of many delegates - the matter being eventually left to the newly elected Executive Committee. Despite the disenfranchisement of many left-wing delegates, the right-wing suffered some loss of ground. Several left-wingers were elected to various positions, including the E.C., although a left-wing delegate missed the presidency by seven votes (eight had been disenfranchised). Another advance, was the passing of a resolution making the secretary subject to election instead of being appointed by the E.C.

Yevtushenko, the so-called "angry young man" of the Soviet Union, reveals himself to be a left-wing critic of Stalinism in at least 3 important passages in his recently published memoirs.

(1) Yevtushenko explains that his maternal grandfather was a leading partisan fighter in the Urals during the Civil War who was later sent to the Military Academy while Trotsky was still Commissar for Defence, eventually becoming a general of the Red Army. Yevtushenko's grandfather was arrested and killed in the Stalin purge of 1938. The evening before his arrest he went to see his grandchild and spent the night singing revolutionary songs to him. This moving scene, as described by Yevtushenko, becomes almost symbolic in character, the spirit of the October Revolution being transmitted by the old fighter to the young generation over the heads of the "lost generation" which matured under Stalin.

(2) Yevtushenko tells the story of Stalin's funeral where dozens of people were crushed to death as a result of the GPU blocking the streets with trucks. A great crowd pressed against this barrier, trampling down those who happened to be in front. The poet tells how he suddenly felt cold fury at seeing this waste of human life in consequence of blind police obedience to senseless discipline that required them not to move the trucks. At that moment, Yevtushenko relates, he started to hate Stalin as the incarnation of that inhuman attitude towards people.

(3) Yevtushenko tells the story of how his famous poem Baby Yar, denouncing anti-semitism got printed. He had brought it to a literary magazine, whose editor hesitated a long time. But a delegation of the printshop workers came to tell him that everybody in the shop had read the poem and enthusiastically approved it. Yevtushenko describes the rousing ovation he got when he first read this poem in public. When the session was over, he continues, an old man with a cane came to see him. He was very moved. "I have been a member of the Party since 1905. I've spent 15 years in a forced labour camp, but this evening I know that notwithstanding all the betrayals Bolshevism is alive again."

STRONG DISSENSION IN BELGIAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

Recently the leader of the Brussels section of the Belgian CP was expelled for claiming that Soviet propaganda has not done justice to the Chinese case. Pro-Chinese dissidents in the French and Belgian CPs have joined forces to publish a periodical called L'Enticelle, modelled on the Spark, Lenin's paper before the revolution.

In the 29th March issue of La Gauche, Roger Forton analyses the theses for the forthcoming Congress of the Belgian CP. He criticises the Belgian CP leadership for its persistent arguments that "things have changed", that capitalism has become transformed, talk of the "national interest", their alleged belief in Parliament as a body which could control the economy, and so on. But, says Forton, the most striking deficiency in these theses, is the apparent abandonment of one word: revolution, which occurs nowhere in the dozen pages of the theses.

ALBANIAN LABOUR PARTY DELEGATION LEAVES TIRANA FOR NEW ZEALAND.

A delegation of the Albanian Labour Party (Ed. Note: the Albanian Communist Party), headed by F. Pacrami, member of the Central Committee of the Party, left here for New Zealand yesterday. The delegation will attend the forthcoming Congress of the Communist Party of New Zealand.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by P. Murra, member of the Central Committee, N. Nase and Y. Robo, candidate members of the Central Committee of the Party, and P. Bitta, head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Party. (From Hsinhua News Agency, 5.4.63)

BULGARIAN COMMUNIST CHIEF WARNS ABOUT RISKS OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

Todor Zhivkov, head of the Bulgarian communist regime, recently warned of the danger of unemployment unless the basis of the engineering industry was sufficiently expanded. In a speech on the occasion of a conference of the engineering industry, Zhivkov said it was essential that "the inevitable unemployment", resulting from the mechanisation of agriculture be averted. In this connection, he predicted that in 1980, not many more than one million people would be employed in agriculture. Even if it were possible to find employment for unskilled workers in the textile industry, the building industry and elsewhere, jobs would still have to be found for at least half a million people.

(From PRS of the International Confederation of Free T.U.'s)

UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS AND LOW WAGES FOR WOMEN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

An indirect admission that there is unemployment among women in Czechoslovakia appeared in an article published in "Mlada Fronta", organ of the Czechoslovak communist youth organisation, on 19 March 1963. Quoting the case of a woman worker in Nove Straseci, the paper said that she had been looking in vain for a job for over a year, even as a saleswoman in a retail shop. She is the mother of two small children.

On the occasion of women's day, which was celebrated recently in Czechoslovakia, countless articles were published alleging that in recent years women had obtained equal rights with men. It added that some efforts still had to be made to enable married women to take up a vocational career. All the same, the communist party officials' review "Zivot Strany" had to confess in its March issue that the average wages of women were no less than 500 crowns, or nearly one third, lower than men's wages.

(From PRS of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions)

CHINESE DISTRIBUTING "ANTI-REVISIONIST" PAMPHLETS IN USSR.

According to Victor Zorza of the Guardian (April 9th) the Chinese are openly distributing pamphlets putting over their criticisms of the modern revisionists, inside the USSR, in the Russian language. He cites the Chinese Embassy as sending out material through the post to various addresses in the Soviet Union, in addition the several hundred Chinese students at many seats of learning are distributing pamphlets, to their fellow students.

Although miners at some pits, demonstrating their militancy, grumbled at the settlement, it appears that the majority consider they have won the strike after 34 days on the picket line.

So far as the demands raised at the beginning by the miners' unions are concerned, the struggle ended with a favourable compromise. A wage boost of 6.5 % goes into effect at once, retrospective to April 1st. Further increase will go into effect until they reach 11 % January 1st and 12.5 % by April 1st 1964. An immediate payment on account is granted, and the government, agreed to another week's paid holiday. Against the background of general class relations in France, both the objective reality and the prevailing mass sentiment, the struggle terminated in victory for both the working class and the unions.

The regime had counted on defeating the miners and the union through weariness, debt, material difficulties (important as financial aid was, it is self-evident that solidarity contributions could never rise high enough to assure minimum subsistence for 200,000 strikers and their families), the irritation of the middle class over a succession of demonstrations upsetting the daily routine (stoppages of electricity, gas, transport, etc.) which accompanied the upsurge of demands during March.

Without overestimating the victory of the miners, it must nevertheless be underlined that it involves a serious loss of prestige for De Gaulle and his regime, both nationally and internationally. The great weakness was that the mass organisations, both parties and unions, while they supported the strike did not utilise the opportunity during the course of it to speak out strongly for a programme (for a 40-hour week, against De Gaulle's H-Bomb policy, etc.,) which would have placed the combat in proper relation to a perspective of further battles of great scope, reaching even to a struggle against the regime itself.

BELGIAN FIGHT AGAINST ANTI-STRIKE LEGISLATION CONTINUES.

To give a dramatic demonstration of their views on the anti-strike legislation now under consideration in Parliament, Belgian workers began turning this week to direct action. The 1st of April saw a wild-cat strike involving 10,000 workers at Charleroi, in the large AGEEC electrical plant. On April 2nd, wild-cat strikes snarled up Charleroi's public transport system. On April 3rd, more than 50,000 workers in Liege staged a two-hour general strike. They met in three separate mass meetings to hear union spokesmen denounce the projected anti-strike laws.

On April 6th an emergency congress of the Socialist Party (our report from this meeting is not yet to hand) was to decide which way the Socialist members of Parliament should vote on the pending bills. The work stoppages are intended to help stiffen resistance against the laws and weaken the pressure of those seeking to put them on the books. This issue is likely to have considerable effect on the Belgian Socialist Party. Ernest Mandel, whose paper La Gauche has called for total rejection of the anti-strike legislation has said that he and the tendency within the Socialist Party which is generally linked with himself and La Gauche, are prepared to fight this issue through and through. Right-wing opposition to the legislation in the Socialist Party is far from being absolute, and many members wish to modify the legislation, doing away with its supposedly worst aspects, but maintaining it on the statute books. Mandel, because of his call for total rejection has been threatened with expulsion from the Party following his principled stand.

BIG GERMAN STEEL MONOPOLY REFORMED from the Economist 6:4:63.

Dedicated occupation officials who gave their minds after the war to the intricacies of pruning such industrial overgrowths - "politically dangerous concentrations of economic power" - as Vereinigte Stahlwerke must have been discouraged had they known how quickly time would undo much of their work. Krupp and Mannesmann are two distinguished examples of German industry's will to more than mere survival. And now two of the four chief groups that coalesced into Vereinigte Stahlwerke in 1926 are about to come together again. These are August Thyssen-Huette and Phoenix-RHEINROHR, to whose merger the High Authority of the European coal and steel community agreed, "in principle" and on certain conditions, on March 27th. It looks as though the high authority's reservations will have been satisfied, and the merger formally completed, by the end of May. The conditions proscribe certain marketing agreements and further capital co-operation in the steel world - but no longer the regrouping of the concern's own capital development, argument over which obstructed the proposed merger two years ago at Luxemburg.

With a combined total output in 1962 of 7.1 million tons, the reunited partners now form Europe's largest steel producing concern, and one of the most efficiently equipped and organised. In practice, co-operation between Thyssen and Phoenix-Rheinrohr has for some years been as close as Luxemburg anti-cartel legislation has allowed. The two companies are largely complementary to each other. Phoenix-Rheinrohr specialises in tubes and heavy plates, Thyssen in other flats, wire, and specials. What, in short, is happening in the boardroom is a takeover by Thyssen-Huette of 52% of Phoenix-Rheinrohr's equity of DM 276 million, which is controlled by the late Fritz Thyssen's widow. Both she and her daughter, countess Anita de Zichy, have substantial holdings in Thyssen-Huette.

"OLD NIC" NOT MEANT TO RESTRAIN PROFITS SAYS BOSSES LEADER.

The Director of the British Employers' Confederation, writes in an article that the National Incomes Commission would do, from his point of view, a useful job if it could remove the impression that "profit" is an ugly word. This idea is put forward by the Director, Sir George Pollock, in the April issue of the Federation of British Industries Review. He suggests that the Government in setting up the Commission, never intended that the earnings of profits should be placed under restraint. Part of its object was to prevent personal incomes in the form of distributed profits rising while incomes in the form of wages and salaries are under restraint, and this would commend itself to most people as being fair. "More than one trade union leader has said that he likes his members to work for companies that are making big profits because that means that he can get better terms out of them," Sir George continues. "Any attempt by N.I.C. to limit profits would disregard the fundamentally different economic character of wages and salaries on the one hand, which are part of the cost of production, and profits, which are residual. "This is not to say that profits can or should be ignored in considering a claim which come before N.I.C. They figure in every wage negotiation. But their different nature has to be recognised."

SOCIALIST STANDS FOR MAYOR IN MINNEAPOLIS.

Joseph Johnson, Twin-Cities organiser of the Socialist Workers Party, today announced his candidacy for the office of mayor in the Minneapolis elections.

Johnson said that the SWP had entered the race to fight the anti-labour and cold-war policies of the Democrats and Republicans. "I have entered the campaign to insure that there will be one candidate who will speak out for the interests of the Minneapolis working people," Johnson declared.

"Unemployment, increased speed-up and the union-busting Kennedy-Landrum-Griffin Act must be fought by the labour movement," the candidate said. "The unemployed and the unions should organise to protect themselves against deteriorating conditions. A city-wide conference on unemployment should be called by the labour movement, with full voice for the unemployed workers.

DEMANDS.

"This conference should demand: 1) Unemployment compensation for entire layoff period at full wages; 2) Unemployment aid for new workers coming out of school; 3) Spreading the available work with a 30 hour week at 40 hours pay; 4) A moratorium on all debts for the unemployed; 5) A public works program to build schools, hospitals, homes; 6) Shift the tax burden off the small homeowner onto those who can best pay - the wealthy corporations".

The SWP is on record opposed to a bill sponsored by the State Senate Labor Committee which would stop unemployment pay for over 20,000 seasonal workers under the guise of raising unemployment benefits. (From "The Militant", April 8, 1963)

UNITED PICKET LINE AGAINST EXTREME RIGHT IN DENVER

Over 250 pickets demonstrated in front of the East High School, Denver, Colorado, on March 26th, protesting against the appearance of General Walker and the "evangelist" Billy Joe Hargis. The two witch-hunters are on a national speaking tour called "operation midnight ride" to strengthen racist and undemocratic organisations. Hargis made this clear in his speech commending to the audience such organisations as the Daughters of the American Revolution, The American Legion's Americanism Committee, the Dean Manion Forum and the John Birch Society. He also advised that where there were no "anti-communist" groups in the neighbourhood, "people can start their own...and get in there and fight."

General Walker, who helped lead the racist riots at the University of Mississippi last Autumn, proposed that the U.S. "take the 82nd Airborne Division, now stationed at Fort Bragg, and liquidate the scourge that has descended on Cuba."

Ten organisations participated in the picketing. Included were: NAACP, CORE, CNVA, the SWP, Fair Play for Cuba Committee, YPSL, etc. thus presenting a united front Socialists, anti-war, anti-nuclear weapons and Negro organisations.

(based upon Militant report)

The Cuban Revolutionary Government has started publication of a new quarterly magazine called "International Policy". It is published with the imprint of the Cuban International Policy Institute. The first issue contains an important article, in the form of a preface, by Foreign Minister Paul Roa. Discussing the struggle against war, he said that the fight for peace is dialectically connected with the fight against imperialism, and the exploitation of man by man. Copies of the journal are expected to be obtainable from the Cuban Embassy, but it is not yet known whether editions will be available in languages other than Spanish.

SOUTH AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARIES TO "LEARN FROM ALGERIA".

In an interview published in the Algerian paper Alger Republican on April 4th, Robert Resha, the Algiers representative of the African National Congress, said: "The struggle in our country will take the same form as that of the Algerian people." He went on to say that the South African people would learn from the experience of the Algerian Revolution.

STRIKE OF TRINIDAD OIL WORKERS NEARS END OF SECOND MONTH.

About 3,000 oil workers of the British owned Texaco company in Trinidad, West Indies, have been on strike for nearly two months, according to a New China News Agency report. The strike which started on the 17th of Feb. was touched off by the company's announcement that it would sack 346 workers and its subsequent refusal to increase wages in accordance with an earlier agreement. The Trinidad Oil Workers' Trade Union has called for international solidarity and assistance to the strikers.

MORE SABOTAGE AT UNITED STATES OIL COMPANY IN VENEZUELA.

An oil pipe line of the US Creole oil Company, a subsidiary of the US Standard Oil Company, was set on fire on April 7th by a bomb, according to a report received from Caracas. The fierce blaze roared out of control from the pipe line, which is (was) capable of transporting 157 barrels of oil per minute from Maracaibo to the Amuay refinery, and distributed immediately from there to other US oil installations.

REPRESSION INTENSIFIED AGAINST MALAYAN PEOPLES ARMY. Hsinhua Report.

Thai and Malayan police units on the morning of March 31st encountered the Malayan Peoples Armed Forces in the border area and a fierce battle ensued, according to the Bangkok Post of April 2nd. Prior to this, the border police of Thailand launched a "mopping-up" operation against the Malayan Peoples Armed Forces and two battles were fought.

The information department of the Thai Foreign Ministry in a statement issued on March 31st admitted that despite the intensified joint operations, the "suppression" of the Malayan Peoples Armed Forces "is not easy" because the latter were active in the mountains and forests along the border and had the support of the people. Since an agreement was secretly reached last February between the two authorities of Thailand and Malaya, for joint suppression and for free crossing of the border by both sides on patrol, the Thai authorities have adopted a series of suppressive measures in co-operation with the Malayan Federation.

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A South London Correspondent reports that ASSAGAI, a small printed magazine published by the underground South African revolutionary organisation UMKONTO WE SIZWE (Spear of the Nation), appeared in London in late March. This second issue of ASSAGAI to appear so far, contained articles on "Why Revolution?", the Peasants' Struggle, "Aspects of Guerrilla Warfare So Far" (Part 1) - edited from the writings of Mao Tse-Tung and Che Guevara - as well as a letter from "Cuban and Carribean friends". A "Monthly Diary" contains some news of the sabotage campaign of UMKONTO and the acts of repression and resistance of the people.

In the next issue of the Bulletin, we will publish an estimate of this new journal. Copies will soon be available from the International Book-Shop.

LONDON DEMONSTRATION AGAINST IRAQ REPRESSION.

The demonstration advertised in last week's Bulletin took place last Tuesday. According to the Daily Worker, some 2,000 leaflets were distributed outside the Royal Albert Hall to crowds attending a boxing match. Earlier there had been a March from the Royal Albert Hall via South Kensington tube station to the Iraq Embassy. The demonstration had been called to protests against the reign of terror conducted against Communists and left-wingers by the new Iraq regime. A protest note was handed in at the Embassy.

"ECONOMIST" SLATES TORY BUDGET.

After criticising the Maudling budget, the Economist, in a leader entitled "Half Speed Ahead" has some more harsh words to say about their governmental allies and concludes with these words:

"In general therefore, the verdict on this budget must be very mixed. Some of the reliefs made in it are directed at the right places. But the continuing reasons for Britain's stunted growth are lack of adequate exports, lack of an adequate incomes policy, and lack of adequate internal demand. Nothing has been done in this budget to solve the problem that exports, at the present sterling exchange rates and under the present British tax system, are uncomfortably unprofitable things for British firms to increase. Nothing has been done, except a little ineffective back-scratching, in the egalitarian nature of the tax reliefs, to make it more likely that an adequate policy of wage restraint will be enforced upon the trade unions. Something has been done to encourage the growth of demand in the long-term, but there is certainly too little to encourage it in the short. There is still a residual assumption that caution about expansion now will somehow make it easier to expand the economy more robustly, at a later date, without tackling these problems of cost inflation and export stimulation - which is almost certainly the reverse of the truth. As the ship of state chugs puffily through submarine infested waters, there is wafted down to us, from a bridge which nowadays seems perpetually enshrouded in mist, an immediate instruction which those on the passenger deck can be excused for finding a little nerve-racking, a little muddled, a little insecure. 'Damn the torpedoes' loudhails Captain Maudling cheerfully, 'Er - half speed ahead'."

Whilst for a Marxist analysis of the budget one must look elsewhere, the above quotation serves to indicate the disdain which is felt for the Maudling budget in circles whose support the Tories would normally consider as beyond doubt.

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According to the Financial Times of 8/4/63 the biggest conflict in the labour field since the 30's is in the offing: on April 8th union and employer organisations in Norway announced that threatened strike and lock-out action affecting over 140,000 Norwegian industrial workers would start from April 20th. The announcement followed the breakdown over the week-end of Government-arbitrated talks between the two sides.

Soon after the announcement setting a date for the stoppage a Government spokesman said the Prime Minister would call a meeting on April 17 of his so-called "contact committee", representatives of union, employers and farmers' organisations to discuss the "new situation." In addition to the Prime Minister Mr. Gerhardsen, the Minister of Finance, Mr. A Cappelen and the Minister for Wages and Prices, Mr. Karl Trasti, will attend.

Today, too, it was learned that the conflict may be extended to a further 70,000 workers. The Board of Employers' Associations has been empowered to call a lock-out for firms whose contracts with their employees expire during May - among them are important concerns such as Norsk Hydro and the major pulp and paper producers. A final decision will be taken when the Board meets again on April 17 after the prolonged Norwegian Easter holiday.

The failure of the Government-mediated talks came as a surprise to the public in Norway. It had been understood that the gap between union claims and employers' offers was not large. Even now people are sceptical about the possibility of the Government allowing a labour conflict which would be the biggest in Norway since the 30's. It is believed that the Government will enforce a solution. This whole situation illustrates the class nature of this social democrat "paradise" for workers.

WEST GERMAN ARMS EXPANSION

from Hsinhua 8/4/63

The total strength of the West German armed forces now stands at 402,000 troops, the West German Defence Ministry announced on April 6th. Of these troops 254,000 men are in the army, 93,000 in the air force and 28,000 in the navy, plus 27,000 in the "Territorial Defence Organisation" which are not at the disposal of the NATO command but under the exclusive control of the West German Defence Ministry. The Defence Ministry added that West Germany is well on the way to fulfilling all its NATO military commitments, namely, the allotment to NATO of 12 army divisions, 20 air force squadrons, 8 anti-aircraft regiments and ground-to-air rocket units and 24 naval flotillas.

...W. German contribution in land forces includes mountain troops, paratroops, armoured divisions and motorised infantry divisions; the air force contribution includes transport planes, fighters, fighter-bombers...; the navy's share includes landing ships, destroyers, minesweepers, escort ships and a squadron of the naval air arm. At present W. Germany is equipping its army with missiles at an accelerated pace....the first group of "Sergeant" missile units would be set up next May....

Ben Bella's radio and television speech of March 29th, announcing the two-part decree and the taking over of the so-called "vacated properties" contained many interesting references to workers' management. We are, therefore, reproducing extracts. It must be noted that the speech dealt with many other matters in addition to this issue. In particular, there was an explanation of the reasons which prompted the Algerian Government to take the steps it did, and also some important references to the national funds. We hope to be able to make the full text of the speech available in some other form. The extracts are as follows :

".....Almost everywhere, they (the Algerian Working Masses) organised themselves spontaneously and moved in to replace the absconding exploiters. In this respect the decrees of October 22nd and November 23rd 1962, left them the possibility of returning and even of being re-instated in their enterprises. These decrees did no more than ratify a state of affairs which the working masses had created throughout the country by their own efforts.

"From now on we will not speak any more of 'vacated properties' but of enterprises and undertakings of self-management. Once defined as 'vacated', once determined as the key sector of the Algerian economy, we must turn seriously to the problem of the management of this sector which we wish to use as a 'pilot' for our socialism. Two solutions are offered. Should we place management in the State? Should we place it with the workers? In fact, no hesitation is possible. The principle of self-management of the enterprises by the workers has already been inscribed in the reality of the Algerian Revolution, by the spontaneous, conscious action of the labouring masses. The powerful movement of the Management Committees which multiplied throughout the country, awaited simply legislation in its revolutionary extension.

"It is the workers, in their General Assemblies, who will decide on the plan of development for their enterprises, within the framework of the National Plan. It is they, the workers, who will establish, examine and adopt the book-keeping accounts. It is they who will determine bonuses for output. It is they who will harvest the fruit of their labour. They will participate in the management of the National Funds for investment and the balancing of employment. Working men and women of Algeria, I would like to stress the national funds for balancing employment.

".....I would also like to speak about the director who constitutes one of the instruments of your self-management. This director will be selected on a moral and professional level. He will be nominated by the State but this nomination will be submitted to your approval. Because it is necessary that within your enterprises of self-management someone should represent the national collectivity to which you belong and safeguard its interests, it is necessary that within your enterprises there should be someone who can serve as a transmission belt between our enterprises and the State, someone responsible for the National Plan of development.....
... this director is a worker like you and will share your troubles and joys and participate, with you, in the socialist construction of your country. Make his task easy. Help him. Protect him like one of your own. Working men and women of Algeria, it is up to you and only you to prove to the world that the Algerian Revolution wants to be and can be in the vanguard of the Socialist experience of our times. Close your ranks, demonstrate to the world that you are masters of your own destiny, united, vigilant and conscious of your duties and your rights; organise yourselves so that everywhere, over the whole Algerian territory, the General Assemblies of the Workers.... can harness themselves to the task of socialist construction....."