

GREECE: LABOUR GOVT. FORCES RIGGED ELECTION

90,000 Greek Workers Demand "Leave Greece"

BY D. JAMES

BEVIN AND THE BRITISH LABOUR GOVERNMENT HAVE DECREED THAT THE "INDEPENDENT" GOVERNMENT OF GREECE SHALL HOLD ITS ELECTIONS ON MARCH 31st, AGAINST THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THAT GOVERNMENT. THE ELECTIONS WILL THUS TAKE PLACE AMID A REIGN OF REACTION AND TERROR. THE WORKING CLASS PARTIES AND THE LIBERAL PARTY ARE ABSTAINING. THE OUTCOME WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE A ROYALIST VICTORY, WHICH WILL IN ALL PROBABILITY LEAD TO A SEMI-FASCIST MILITARY DICTATORSHIP, OR ALMOST CERTAINLY TO CIVIL WAR.

Seven Ministers of the Quisling Government, which is maintained solely by British support, recently resigned in protest at the conditions under which the election will be held. Even the quisling Prime Minister, Sofoulis, said on March 17th that "all over the country, monarchist candidates alone are able to move about freely." (*Daily Telegraph*, 18.3.46). On March 23rd, he said: "What is happening in Greece is that people are afraid to utter the name of the Republic for fear that they will be hounded from their homes. All my reports from the countryside are agreed on that point." (*Observer*, 24.3.46).

quite worthless and economic life has stopped. Once again, in December 1945, the month after the Sofoulis Government came to power, the cost of living rose eleven-fold. The drachma, officially 2,000 to the pound, rose on Dec. 15th, to 90,000, and on Dec. 23rd to 140,000 to the pound. The Varveressos Plan, which would have introduced strict economic controls, and at the same time placed the burden of deflation on the masses, was scotched by the big profiteers who rule the country, since they could not tolerate even a slight limitation of their anti-social activities.

Civil War Brewing

Politically, Greece has been lying up for civil war. The series of Governments since 1944 (Papandreu, Plastiras, Voulgaris, Canelopoulos, Sofoulis...) have enjoyed the support of hardly anyone except the British imperialists. The workers and even liberal organisations have been hounded. The Royalists and Fascists have conducted a reign of terror and steadily prepared for a coup d'etat.

The Sofoulis Government, child of the Labour Government in Britain, was supposed to inaugurate an amnesty for all surviving soldiers. The *Observer* (16.12.45) reported that 18,000 E.A.A. members were imprisoned, and another 80,000 being prosecuted. The Minister of Justice himself admitted that in some cases twelve people were being tried for the same crime! Clearly, this is not "justice" but terror.

(Continued on page 4.)

70 Labour M.P.s have protested and demanded postponement of the elections. But none of these protests have altered the British Government's decision.

Political and Economic Chaos

The whole preceding year, especially last winter, has seen almost unbelievable chaos and disruption in Greece. The legacy of war and Nazi occupation in this country, which is poor at the best of times, was bad enough. But the crime of profiteering in power, in the hands of a few, and the consequent economic chaos, have reduced production to a very low level, and "relief" from U.N.R.R.A. has found its way very largely into the hands of the rich and the reactionary elements who dominate the administration. The masses, even the middle classes, have been reduced to destitution by inflation. Several times since the "liberation" the currency has become

R.C.P. Banners in the Front



WORKERS DEMONSTRATE AT FASCIST MEETING
The above picture was taken at the Albert Hall "Vigilante Action League" meeting. The banners in the forefront are carried by our comrades. ("News Chronicle" photo.)

BRITISH BOSSES MET SECRETLY WITH GOERING

Workers Learn of Unknown Relations

£1000 YEARLY For M.P.'s

The Select Committee on the Expenses of Parliament has recommended that salaries of M.P.s should be increased from £600 a year to £1,000 a year, £500 of which would be tax free.

The Press pictures this as a moderate recompense for the services rendered by M.P.s. But compare the attitude of the Press and Parliament to the modest demands of the dockers, miners and engineers and other sections of the working class. When they were forced to fight for increases to try and catch up with the increased cost of living, they were reviled as enemies of the "nation", the dupes of trouble makers, and "agitators", etc. etc.

In reality, salaries high above the ordinary wages of the working class are a means of demoralising and corrupting the representatives who speak in the name of the workers. To the capitalist representatives it is merely additional pocket money.

Lenin again and again emphasised that raising the level of living standards of the parliamentary deputies above that of the workers was a means of altering their class outlook. That is why Lenin insisted in the Soviet State which he founded, that no member of even the Supreme Soviet should receive more than the average wage of the Russian workers. This was a safeguard against degeneration.

At Nuremberg the Nazi gangsters are in the dock as a sacrificial offering for the crimes of world capitalism. The trial is being staged to pretend that only the German imperialists were responsible for the war. Yet in spite of all precautions, the truth is leaking out that all the major capitalist powers bear equal responsibility for the devastation and ruin of the world.

The capitalist "democracies" have pretended that German and Japanese aggression provoked the war. Reams of propaganda have been churned out against the "Prussian mentality" and the "Japanese code", which prevented the world from blossoming forth as a haven of peace. No synthetic indignation is spared to denounce the "Yellow monkeys", without honour, without Christian morals, without ethics, who launched an unsuspected attack against a harmless and unoffending American people. The war on the part of the Allies was pictured as a crusade in defence of morality against immorality, of honour and decency against the rule of the jungle. "Remember Pearl Harbour" was the rallying war cry of the American capitalists.

Yet evidence is forthcoming which shows that America was preparing consistently for war against Japan and Germany. What was not settled was only the date. The American Cabinet even discussed a surprise attack on Japan before Pearl Harbour. If they did not strike the first blow, it was purely a question of convenience, not at all of morality.

The *Daily Express* of March 22nd, 1946, reports:

"Nine days before Japan attacked Pearl Harbour President Roosevelt's War Cabinet agreed that if Britain fought Japan the United States would have to fight too. This secret history came to light today when excerpts from the diary of Henry L. Stimson, then War Secretary, were published."

"Other secrets: The Cabinet discussed, but rejected, a proposal that America should attack the Japanese forces without further warning; poison gas shipments to the Philippines were ordered."

In the same way, the British capitalists conspired with Hitler and the Mikado. The latest evidence of this comes out at the Nuremberg Trial, where the workers of this country learn for the first time of some of the secret negotiations which took place behind their backs between the British industrialists and Goering. Among these named were:

- The Hon. CHARLES MAC-LAREN, of Messrs. John Brown & Co., Shipbuilders.
- Mr. S. W. RAWSON, of Thomas Firth and John Brown, Ltd., Steel Manufacturers.
- Mr. A. HOLDEN, described as of Longmoor Hotel, Grayswick Road, Wokingham.
- Sir ROBERT RENWICK, Bart., of the County of London Electric Supply Co.
- Mr. BRIAN S. MOUNTAIN, of the Eagle Star Insurance Co.
- Mr. FREDERICK SPENCER, Director of John Brown & Co., Associated Electrical Industries, and other companies, since died.
- Mr. T. MENSFORTH, Managing Director of the Hotpoint Electrical Appliance Co.

The rulers of this country regarded with equanimity and "understanding" the crimes of Hitler and of the Mikado against the German and Japanese people. So far as they were concerned it was a question of what policy would best serve to defend their capitalist interests.

The working class, when it comes to power, will put all the criminals in the dock when they examine the archives. The secret negotiations and schemes, the plots and counter plots whereby world diplomacy is carried on will all be revealed pitilessly, as were the secret negotiations which were made public by the Bolsheviks under Lenin in 1917.

All are guilty. Britain fought to defend her right to exploit the peoples of her empire. America fought Japan for the domination of the Pacific region, and Germany for the domination of the Atlantic. That is the naked truth.

The defeat of Germany and Japan, the elimination of the "evil forces", has not eliminated war. On the contrary, the great powers are preparing furiously for the next war.

Unless world imperialism is destroyed, World War III is a certainty. It is a race between war and revolution. Only the coming to power of the workers can avert a new war. They will place all the criminals in the dock, where they belong just as much as the Goebbels, the Goerings, and the Hitlers.

FASCIST MEETING Smashed by United Front

BY NORAH KING

On Wednesday, March 13th, members of the Communist Party and Revolutionary Communist Party once again combined in united action with other workers to prevent the Fascists, in their new guise of the "Vigilante Action League", from holding a public meeting at the Albert Hall.

Preen and Ham, well-known to be ex-members of the British Union of Fascists, were blatantly advertised as two of the speakers at the meeting.

Although we had written to the Communist Party nearly a week before the meeting, calling upon them to help mobilise the workers against the fascists, and pointing out that the *Daily Worker* had not even mentioned the meeting, it was only on the very day of the meeting that a call was made to demonstrate. Knowing that the Trotskyists would be there, and that militant rank and file members of the Communist Party would also be there, the C.P. leaders were forced to take over the leadership.

Platform Captured

Demonstrating, both inside and outside the Albert Hall, about one thousand workers showed their determination to fight against the revival of fascist activity.

Only about 100 Fascists supported the meeting. The hall alone costs £1,000 for the evening. After about 15 minutes had passed, the workers, influenced by the initiative of one of our comrades, had succeeded in capturing the platform and taking over the meeting.

Trotskyist Banners

Outside the hall, the demonstrators were no less energetic. Our comrades were in the forefront of the struggle, as the picture we print demonstrates. The banners in the front are those carried by our comrades, bearing such slogans as "JEWISH AND GENTILE WORKERS UNITE AGAINST FASCISM!" "SMASH FASCISM BEFORE IT SMASHES YOU!" "TO SMASH FASCISM, SMASH CAPITALISM!"

The London District Committee of the R.C.P. distributed a leaflet calling for a "UNITED FRONT OF ALL WORKING CLASS

500 MINERS ENTOMBED

British Miners Send Condolences to Germans

BY TOM BAYLISS

Miners of Great Britain! Recently, there took place one of the greatest disasters in the whole sordid history of Coal Mining.

Approximately 500 Miners lost their lives in an explosion of such magnitude as to rank it alongside of Senghennyd, Cwm Ebbw Vale and Gresford—all of which, are only too painful memories that still linger with us. Gresford in particular most of us remember, we can recall the stark headlines of the Press, the shocked world opinion, His Majesty's "concern", "The Fund", and above all the resolutions, votes of condolence, and the practical help that poured in from the Miners of every country in the world—including Germany.

We can also appreciate the fact that in those days, internationalism and world working class unity, had not been relegated to the pigeon-hole it occupies to-day at Transport House. One really felt then, that we did have something in common with the workers of other lands in general, and the Miners in particular.

Comrade Miners! This recent disaster did not take place in Great Britain, or in fact any "friendly" country, but happened in the land of an ex-enemy! At a place called Unna, near Dortmund in the Ruhr! That this may be "news" to some, I can quite imagine, for all the newspapers I have seen that commented upon this subject, two inches of one column is the maximum of space devoted. One well-known newspaper reported the tragedy, in these vindictive and (ruling) class conscious terms:—"3 British Officers Entombed", then, as though it had no significance at all, it added that 500 German Miners also accompanied the 3 British Officers to their death! This, Comrades, is the stuff that breeds Fascism. It is pure Racial Hatred. For us Miners, it should be enough to know that nearly 500 working-class lives were lost in the same struggle in which we ourselves are fought to participate. Their fate might easily have been

ours. Workers! In 1928, when we ourselves were in a life and death struggle with the British Coal-Bosses, the German Miners pledged their full solidarity with us and took militant action "on behalf of our British Comrades". In case some of us still feel a bit sore about the Germans, let us, as Miners, examine the whole question. No matter to what particular party we owe allegiance, we must realize that the problem that confronts the working-class is an international one, and only on an international basis can it be solved. Field-Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery speaking at Edinburgh recently said, "I feel that nothing you do there (Germany) is any good unless you bring about a change of heart in the German

People—and that is not easy." Personally, I think the average Tommy returned from Germany can answer that one. Here is a chance for the British Miner to demonstrate his class solidarity and to show both the Noble Monty and the bureaucratic leadership of the N.U.M. that the spirit of International Brotherhood is not yet dead amongst us. So comrades, to the Lodges! Raise the question of a vote of condolence to the bereaved in this catastrophe. Demand that the N.U.M. of Great Britain take practical steps to alleviate the distress at Dortmund in the manner which the name Socialism calls for, on behalf of, and in the name of the British Miner!

Addendum

At a meeting of my own Lodge of the N.U.M.—the *Arvel Griffen Lodge, Aberllynnydd*—a vote of condolence with our German comrades was passed.

Release Cymbalist

A.E.U. BRANCH PROTESTS

The following resolution was passed by the Edgware III Branch of the Amalgamated Engineering Union at its meeting on 25th March.

"This Branch protests against the sentence of 10 years imprisonment passed on Aircraftman Cymbalist of the Royal Air Force at Singapore. The Branch is of the opinion that the strikes in the R.A.F. in the East were due to the genuine grievances of the men and that it is the duty of the Labour Government to remedy the grievances and not to victimise individuals. The Branch therefore demands the quashing of the sentence and the immediate release of Aircraftman Cymbalist and a full enquiry by the Government into the circumstances of the Courts-Martial."

The savage reprisal sentence of ten years penal servitude, inflicted by Court-martial upon A.C. Cymbalist for his leadership of the Singapore R.A.F. strikers, has already given rise to a widespread demand for his release by trade unions and men serving in the forces. Service men comment with deep disgust on the celerity with which the brass hats have tried and sentenced this rank and file leader.

5,000 LONDON ENGINEERS MARCH

BY J. DEANE

5,000 London Engineers marched from the Temple, London, to Hyde Park on March 24th to demonstrate their determination to fight for the 40-hour week, £1 a week raise in pay, and 14 days holiday with pay. The demonstrators marched under banners calling for action. At Hyde Park a monster meeting was held.

This followed upon the strikes of engineering workers at IJumber, Cossor's, and Ford's. But hundreds of engineers were sadly disappointed with the speeches from the platform. Hundreds walked away in disgust with the speeches of Birch and Berridge and other Stalinist members of the District Committee. They saw in their efforts to divert the militancy of the engineers into negotiation machinery, a deliberate attempt to sabotage the struggle.

From the outset, the London District Committee had set out to prevent the holding of a monster demonstration. It undermined the feeling and mood of the engineers by changing the date to a Saturday, against the specific wishes of the members who had voted against a Saturday demonstration and for a week-day stoppage. It waged no serious campaign in the factories and shops in the London area. These methods were deliberately designed to frustrate the militant mood of the workers. Had the demonstration been held as originally decided on, and had a serious campaign been conducted, the demonstration would have been ten times as great.

The only militant speech from the platform, made by Bro. Hill of the Boilermakers' Union, provoked tremendous applause. The advanced fighters, militant shop stewards as well as rank and file, are beginning to see the need for a militant policy and a rank and

file organisation. Many of them promised their support to the Minority of the "Demonstration Committee" who opposed the Stalinist manoeuvre in changing the day of the demonstration and then dissolved the Committee which the rank and file had elected. Many expressed their intention of attending the meeting called by the Minority at the Holborn Hall, on Sunday, March 31st, at 10.30 a.m. to discuss the flagrant disregard of its mandate by the Majority of the Committee.

Withdraw from the National Arbitration Tribunal! For Militant Action!

LA VERITE LEGALISED

"La Verite", organ of the Internationalist Communist Party, French section of the Fourth International, which was banned by the French Government has been legalised. It is now authorised to publish a weekly, with a circulation of 50,000 copies. This is a great victory for the working-class.

The ban has been lifted because of the increasing opposition from all sections of the working-class movement against this reactionary measure. Leading and well-known figures in America: the *Socialist Appeal* and the Revolutionary Communist Party, protested and demanded the lifting of the ban on *La Verite*, which was one of the first illegal papers to appear against the Nazis.

The Paris Committee of the S.F.I.O., French Socialist Party, supported this campaign for the authorisation of *La Verite*.

Letters

To the Editor

FROM A SOLDIER IN JAVA

Dear Editor,
I arrived in Batavia and was impressed by the absolutely complex situation!! I had imagined that this part of the country would be governed by the Dutch and part of the country governed by the Indonesian Republic. But, Oh no, a lot of big buildings fly the Dutch flag, and then you see one or two flying the red and white (Indonesian). These buildings are scrawled with the words *Republic for Indonesia* in black paint, and are complete with rebel sentries. Strange as it seems, they don't bother to fire!

On the way through the city I saw some very good slogans in English. *We don't ask for freedom, we are entitled to it. Freedom the glory of a nation, etc.* Appropriately enough, on an American embassy, *America for the Americans, Indonesia for the Indonesians.*

Now here's a few shocks. All the British troops have a private room, plenty of money, issued Free, good food, etc. The chap next door to me has bought a Persian carpet for his room, also a grandfather clock, sideboard, wireless, spring bed, electric fans, etc. He has been here two months only, and already he has £120 in English currency. I have already got 1,500 Guilders in two days!! You might guess that this is caused by the Japs.

The natives of Java refuse to accept Dutch guilders, which are worth 2s. 4d. sterling. They prefer to go on trading the Japanese occupation money which is really worthless, having no exchange value with sterling.

We are given 150 Jap guilders a week free!

From Java

I have been fooled so far in trying to get talking to an Indonesian, who talks "renal". I have attempted to talk politics with a few of 'em, but the only response is indifference and pro-British. Naturally, this is out of fear, in case I can shoot him. This last comment may seem funny to you, but I can assure you that British troops do shoot at random just for the fun of it.

The military are having the Japs remove all political slogans from buildings, trams and signs. I'm sorry to say that some of the British troops consider shooting Indonesians as sport. Do you know what happens to Indonesian prisoners? They shoot them in the leg or somewhere, and send them to the Indonesian Hospital. Sometimes they dispose of them by putting them in a truck and dump them in the sea!! However, some of the socialist boys shoot the Dutch instead.

Once a Dutch soldier caught an Indonesian, and proceeded to smash his face in against the wall, don't worry, one of our lads emptied his magazine into him (the Dutch).

From KARACHI

Dear Comrade,
I set off along the desolate road to Karachi, which was about five miles. About half a mile or so down the road, completely unhabited, I saw to my horror the body of a dead man being eaten by vultures! Being the first corpse that I had ever seen, I hurried on only to find another, 60 yards further along the road a pile of bones being picked by more vultures.

I hurried on passing numerous "stinking" camels and their loads. When I finally reached the suburbs of Karachi, I found them one mass of filth and degradation!! The homes were little huts about 12 feet high and made solely of bamboo and mud. I asked an old Indian of about 90 years of age, where I could get some snapshots, but he didn't know. Then his cronies came round, bowing and scraping, and touching their caps. Truly an embarrassing position, fortunately a taxi-man drove up, so I hopped in and was driven to the main street. The taxi by the way, was a horse drawn chariot.

I finally got some snapshots, and then asked the driver to take me back to the place he found me. I retraced my steps and luckily got a lift in a truck driven by an Indian. Bey! was I glad to be back in camp! The lads never expected to see me back alive, because it seems that I was out of bounds.

Well, above you have a brief survey of what is supposed to be one of the first cities of India. There are of course other things of which I haven't mentioned, of the various animals wandering about the streets apparently owned by no one. Some are the size of a cow but like a big black shaggy dog. Others were sheep (I think) with long drooping ears and horns.

Then again the place is full of beggars practically starving, because no one can really afford to give them anything. The populace use the streets as a lavatory, but I must stop for there are incidents so immoral that I really cannot enter into my letter. This is British India!! I cannot describe it in words, one has to experience the stench to realise all that it entails. Britain and Britain alone is responsible for pulling India down to this level and more so, keeping them down. Honestly it makes one thoroughly ashamed to be British.

NOTE.—This letter was sent before the recent trouble in Karachi.

£100 BY NEXT ISSUE! Building Workers Demand Action

Send Every Penny NOW

Comrades!

We are calling upon all friends and sympathisers of the *Socialist Appeal* to make an extra-special effort during the next fortnight to help us collect the balance of our £250 Fighting Fund. It is our firm opinion, based upon past experiences, that this can be done, provided an organised campaign is instituted in each local area.

BRANCH FIGURES

Branch	Paid in. £ s. d.	Target.
CENTRAL OFFICE	63 4 3	£50
HENDON	9 10 10	£10
FORCES	8 0 0	£50
EDINBURGH	8 0 0	£5
SOUTH WEST LONDON	5 16 4	£10
SOUTHALL	6 0 6	£5
THAMES VALLEY	5 10 0	£4
GLASGOW	5 7 9	£9
SHEFFIELD	5 0 0	£8
NEATH	4 16 10	£8
WEST LONDON	2 15 2	£8
COVENTRY	1 12 6	£3
TRENTGAR	1 6 6	£1
EAST LONDON	1 14 0	£5
ENFIELD	1 1 6	£6
LIVERPOOL	1 0 0	£6
NEWCASTLE	1 0 0	£10
SOUTH EAST LONDON	1 0 0	£5
GWAUN-CAE-GURWEN	18 0 0	£1
OXFORD	9 4 1	£1
CHELtenham	6 0 0	£1
CANNOCK	6 0 0	£3
NORTH LONDON	3 2 2	£8
LEEDS	—	£4
BIRMINGHAM	—	£6
NEWARK	—	£2
NORWICH	—	£3
NOTTINGHAM	—	£2
ILFORD	—	£1
CHINGFORD	—	£1
EASTBOURNE	—	£1
LONDON DISTRICT COMMITTEE	—	£10
DUNDEE	—	£1
	£184 18 8	£250

Some Suggestions

1. The Special Collecting Cards

These are designed to collect regular sums from comrades who purchase the *Socialist Appeal* on canvassing rounds, street corners and factory sales. All that is required is for each seller to produce a card to a likely supporter. In cases where readers have been buying the paper for some time (and there are many such cases), it is a simple matter to make this approach. It is not only important to stress the need for giving as much as possible, but to try to arrange for the collection of regular sums, no matter how small. In this way our finances become stabilised. Besides it provides us with an excellent opportunity to interest a wider circle of workers in the policy of our Party. We anxiously await news from you about results in this direction.

2. The Jumble Sale at the Party Centre

A Jumble Sale is being organised at the Party Centre on Saturday, April 13th, and the responsibility for its success is not simply a London one, but all provincial comrades are asked to send in as many articles as possible to help make it a great triumph. A thorough comb-out will, we are confident, produce many surprises in the way of saleable articles, such as clothing, books, jewellery, etc. Get busy on this job at once.

G. HEALY
H. ATKINSON

Housing is No. 1 priority today, and there is much hullabaloo. Despite the present publicity, however, nothing much has been done to alleviate the tremendous shortage of houses. Why this inability to plan and put into effect schemes which, within a short period, would provide the most essential accommodation for the workers?

Let us be quite frank. There is no solution to the housing problem so long as we permit private builders and manufacturers of building materials, to control the materials and machinery necessary for the building of houses. Not one step can be made to solve the problem, to put into effect the elaborate plans and schemes, unless the Labour Government takes measures against the capitalists' interests; takes over the land, the concrete, brick and manufacturing industries.

We of the building trades know it can be done; we know how it can be done. We view with grave concern the collaboration of the Government, big business and the Union officials, who without consulting the rank and file reach decisions which not only affect the building worker, but every member of the working-class. We will resist all efforts to regiment and discipline the building worker; to intensify our labour measures will not produce more houses, they will only produce more profits for the wealthy capitalists. The London Campaign Committee of the building workers puts forward the following demands which are the only possible steps if the acute housing shortage is to be alleviated.

London Committee's Demands

1. To alleviate the sufferings of the homeless in London, all hotels, flats and houses of the rich should be immediately confiscated and distributed to the homeless workers apart from the usual space in which workers are compelled to live.
2. All building schemes should be carried out by direct labour. The chaos and inefficiency, high profits and costs, largely arise out of the fact that thousands of small builders, none of whom are large enough to employ modern building machinery and methods, are contracted to carry out building projects. Direct Labour by the Government and local authorities would be the first step towards the elimination of the high costs and chaos which presently attend the building industry.
3. Immediate steps by the Labour Government for the nationalisation of the land and the building industry without compensation, and with its operation under workers' control. The largest part of the costs of houses today goes in the form of rent, land taxes, and direct profits, into the pockets of the wealthy land-owners. Their cheating and thieving directly

For Better Welfare

Along with the above programme of immediate steps to be taken by the Labour Government, the building workers demand better wages, such as tea breaks, hot meals on the job, first class hostel accommodation, etc. The recent wage award, forced out of the employers by the militant actions of the building workers, does not satisfy our needs. We demand immediate steps to secure 3s. an hour for skilled workers and 2s. 9d. an hour for labourers.

For the Use of Scientific Methods

With the introduction of scientific devices, such as the mechanical hod, the mechanical scaffold, the mechanical wheelbarrow, the single track dumper, and a host of other devices, the burden of the operative would be lightened and the demand for manpower minimised. Great efficiency, more houses, better conditions and higher wages would be the result of the planned national use of such scientific achievements. But this can only be obtained if the above immediate steps are taken by the Labour Government.

No Half-Measures

The results of the General and local elections show clearly that the workers expect and demand a genuine working-class programme. They are in no mood to be controlled by the same capitalist gang, no matter what name they trade under. Neither are they prepared for half measures. Not promises, but houses; not worsened conditions, but better conditions, are the demands of the building workers and the working-class as a whole.

LESSONS OF THE HUMBER STRIKE

BY G. CURRAN

The Humber Strike ended on March 21st. So far as redundancy was concerned—the immediate cause of the strike—the workers won a victory, the employers' offer being that everyone wishing to resume work, would be absorbed within three weeks.

A Works Conference was fixed for Monday 25th March, to discuss the dispute over piece-work rates, out of which arose the "go-slow" movement 8 weeks ago. Whatever concessions the employers give at this Conference, will come only as a result of the militant stand of the Humber workers.

The alliance of the Trade Union leaders and the employers against the workers has been revealed to every Coventry worker. By their efforts to get the Humber men back to work, and prevent the rest of the City coming out, the Trade Union leaders earned the congratulations of the employers.

Bosses Distribute E.C.'s Statement

The *Sunday Times* commented on the unholy alliance by declaring: "It is, therefore, as much in the interest of the organised unions to rid themselves of rebel influence as it is for the employers' organisations. Indeed, in the recent Coventry situation a considerable measure of co-operation—both in a positive sense and by dint of refraining from critical comment—was shown by both parties."

Workers Disgusted

The policy of the Trade Union leaders has led many workers to declare, in disgust, their intention of leaving the unions. This tend-

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WORKER

BY JACK JONES (G.C.G.)

The following narrative, given by one of the thousands of miners wrecked by pneumoconiosis, silicosis and other industrial diseases, reveals again the callousness, the brutality of capitalism, and the need for a determined and militant struggle by the workers against the system.

He paused, giving me a chance to interject with the question: "But what about your application to a Training Centre?" He looked at me with a strange smile on his face. Then began speaking again: "Oh Yes! The beginning of this month (March) was again called to me to go to the Labour Exchange for an interview. "On March 6th I arrived in the "Tipton Town" for an interview. "I felt happy. Perhaps it was the feeling that I was going to have again some sort of occupation. "When I arrived at the Exchange where I was going to have the interview my elation vanished in the smoke of the town. A miniature invasion was in progress. Khaki-clad soldiers sprinkled with blue-clad air-men and civilians crowded the grey building. All intent in a frenzied manner to get an interview, chalked on the walls were the words: "From Italy to the Nile. "Somehow I found myself laughing. It was so devilishly funny. I had thought I was the only one to be interviewed. "My name called. I followed the clerk. The envious faces of the warriors who fought for the right to live staring at me until I vanished from their sight. "I eventually found myself in a room confronted by three officials of a sort. Somehow, as they looked at me I felt lousy. "They were courteous enough. I must say, and they asked me the following questions: "Why did you choose brick-laying? My answer was 'It is a job with a future, and I believe I can pick the trade up.' "The second question was 'How is your breath?' My reply: 'Good!' "The third: 'Do you believe you can go up a ladder?' My answer: 'I got no reason to think I can't.' "The fourth and the last ques-

tion was: 'How do you feel?' Answer: 'Good!' "My answers to their questions seemed to create alarm and after whispering to each other, one of them who may have been the chairman told me: 'That will be all!' "As again I passed the mass of the same privilege that I had been allowed, my breast seemed to heavy with the mockery of it all. Somehow I felt the 'Grey Buildings' were again to be fashionable, again would be allowed to destroy and humble my class brothers, as was done so unmercifully during the years before the war. "I had no money, the Exchange not allowing any subsistence for food, so I walked the streets of the town until it was time for me to go to the railway station. "I had a compartment in the train all to myself, and with the rhythm of the wheels my thoughts revolved in a tangle of doubt and fears of what was to come in the future. "What was the meaning of it all? Why the necessity of a medical examination? Why drag me to Llanelli? Why!" I was writing furiously as he was speaking. His voice now was hard. "Look at my friend. He is on the Means Test. They have reduced his unemployment benefit down to 5/-. They expect him to keep his mother and partially keep his father on that 5/- because he gets £2 compensation for his disability (Pneumoconiosis). "He whispered some words unprintable, and ended the narrative. I left him to go to a neighbouring village. Passing over the level crossing to the bus stop, I could hear the locomotives of the adjacent collieries puffing as they dragged the full coal wagons, their whistles piercing through the darkness. I wondered how long the comparative "prosperity" boom in the mining industry would last? How long before the clamouring markets of the world were again filled to the brim with coal? How long before the workers once again found out that full employment under capitalism is a ghastly illusion? My determination was strengthened for the building of the revolutionary party which would lead our class out of this misery and suffering.



Comrade J. JONES.

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LEON TROTSKY NOT GUILTY

Nuremberg Trial Exposes Moscow Frame-Up Trials

PUBLIC MEETING CONWAY HALL WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10th, 7p.m.

JOCK HASTON TED GRANT

Party Activity

SHEFFIELD

Comrades of the R.C.P. made an impressive array of literature sellers across the steps approaching the Sheffield City Hall at a meeting held by the Communist Party on Sunday, March 9th, at which Harry Pollitt was the chief speaker. One hundred and ninety-six copies of the *Socialist Appeal* were sold as well as a quantity of other material. 1,000 leaflets on the Nuremberg Trials were distributed. We were met with sympathy by the rank and file of the Communist Party and favourable discussions were held with several of them. More literature was sold at a smaller meeting of the C.P. in the same town.

LONDON

Our comrades in the A.E.U. marched with the demonstration held on Saturday, March 23rd carrying bundles of the *Socialist Appeal*, which they sold to the workers as they made their way through the streets of London. Other comrades met the demonstration as it approached the gates of Hyde Park and made an effective display of the *Socialist Appeal*. Altogether the workers bought nearly two hundred copies, reading with pleasure the article which gave a militant lead to engineers.

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party,
256, HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2.
Phone: CUN 2526.
EDITOR: E. GRANT.
BUSINESS MANAGER: A. MAXEY.

Editorial

PERSIAN CRISIS

The British and American Governments are conducting a subtle propaganda campaign against Russian actions in Persia. Gingerly, perhaps, but nevertheless, clearly, they have implied that Russia is using the technique of Hitler; violation of Treaties, aggression, riding rough-shod over the rights of small nations, interference in another country's affairs, etc., etc.

Yet, Britain's intervention and support of reaction in Indonesia and Greece have been condoned; Britain's brutal suppression and attacks upon the Indian people have been slurred over; and America's armed intervention in China and the Philippines has been presented as quite in accord with the interests of "democracy and peace."

The sheer hypocrisy of the propaganda onslaught on the Stalinist bureaucracy is shown by Britain's record in Persia in the past. Together with Czarist imperialism, Britain partitioned off Persia into spheres of influence. It is not the rights of the Persians that the imperialists are concerned about, but the position of Persia as a pawn in the game of power politics.

Persia—A Pawn

Persia occupies a key position in the Middle East and the world. What Stalin is attempting to gain is first the strategic position which would place Russia in a dominant position vis-a-vis Turkey and Iraq, thus threatening British interests in the Middle East. It is not for nothing that Britain and France in 1939-40 were seriously discussing an attack on Russia through the Middle East which they believed would render her helpless by knocking out the Caucasian oil-fields. Reference to this was made by the French Generals and in the Nuremberg Trial.

The Stalinist bureaucracy wishes to protect itself by gaining control of a series of buffers against Anglo-American imperialism, and at the same time to grab the valuable oil and economic resources of North Persia.

The Stalinist bureaucracy wants half Persia to come under its domination and at the same time to have a puppet government in the rest of Persia which will not be hostile to it. Not interested in extending the revolution, as were Lenin and Trotsky in the case of Georgia after the last war, they concern themselves only with extending their own economic positions and safeguarding themselves against their "allies".

Imperialists Prepare

MacKenzie King's statement in the Canadian Parliament that he hoped no serious person will even suggest the breaking of diplomatic relations with Russia over the Atom Bomb spy crisis; Eisenhower's cynical reference to the desire of the troops to go home as a barrier to war in the immediate future; the cancellation of the cruise of American battleships in the Mediterranean for fear that it might be regarded as provocative; all this indicates the impotence of the ruling class to achieve a decisive settlement at this stage.

In these manoeuvres, can be seen the shadow of World War III. Knowing that the political, economic, and psychological conditions are not ripe for an immediate attack upon the Soviet Union, Stalin is pressing the imperialists and attempting to gain concessions on all fronts. Anglo-American imperialism, in the aftermath of the war, is faced with a revolutionary upheaval in Europe and Asia, with which they could not cope without the aid of Stalin. The British and American people are war weary and disillusioned with the war and its results. Thus, the attack on the Soviet Union is postponed; but the preparations go on...

America and Britain versus the Soviet Union becomes the basic conflict of the era. In advance they prepare for a future death struggle.

After World War I, the victors quarrelled in exactly the same way. Britain and France even waged a war against each other through the medium of the Turkish-Greek war, but fear of the masses prevented a direct and immediate show-down. Because of the decline of capitalism, the relations between the powers are even more uneasy than in the epoch 1918-1939.

The world will pass through a series of crises and skirmishes with far more embittered relationships and bickering between the great powers than after the last war.

The Persian issue is being brought before the United Nations. From Stalin's statement and that of Byrnes, it would appear that a compromise will be reached. Whatever agreement is arrived at between the Big Three, one thing is certain: the interests and needs of the Persian people will receive scant consideration.

The Persian issue is a dress rehearsal. There will be more such rehearsals.

The fate of the Soviet Union, as that of world imperialism, will be decided not by Stalin's power politics, but by the fate of the proletarian revolutions which are on the order of the day in Europe and the world.

World Socialism or world chaos—these are the two alternatives posed before the world proletariat. The epoch opening up will give the proletariat time to escape from the insane system of militarist-capitalism before the final denouement. The Fourth International will utilise this breathing space to carry its propaganda to the masses.

Belsen Train

We publish below an article written by a British soldier in which he describes an episode in Germany. It is of particular import, in view of the callousness of the capitalist class and its lackeys in face of the reduction of the rations of the entire German people to Belsen Standards. The British Tommies have a different standard. Their class solidarity extends across the barriers of the poisoned propaganda of jingo imperialism.

MINDEN —

The scene is Minden Railway Station in Germany. A stream of soldiers are making their way back to the troop train after having replenished themselves with a hot meal at the transit camp. With them they have their haversack rations provided for the rest of the journey, about another six hours for some of them. Cheese sandwiches and sausage rolls are not very appetising but after several hours on a troop train they are very welcome.

We are all seated again waiting for the train to start, when another train pulls in alongside and the scene which met our eyes was appalling, to say the least. The train consisted of a number of box-cars. In each were herded men, women and children. They lay on top of each other on the floor—a mass of skinny human bodies in tattered rags. In between the coaches, on the buffer were several more men and women clinging to whatever hold they could find. Others were hanging on to the rear of the train and a few managed to hold on to the outside of the coach doors.

"Jaws Shrunken, Shoulders Bent"

But it was not this alone which caused the soldiers to stare and shudder. The faces of those Germans were set in a sort of resigned apathy. The jaws were shrunken, shoulders bent, the two most outward signs of hunger. They looked over at the English faces watching from the other train. A few tried to smile, but how can a human being smile after trekking across the whole of Northern Germany under such conditions and with a stomach that has not received a square meal for months?

"The Belsen Train"

The whole picture as presented before us, was such that it is more than difficult to describe on paper. It is one of those things that has

to be seen. The effect on the soldiers watching was one of a feeling of sickness. That people should have to exist in this manner in this 20th century, seemed to be beyond their comprehension. The expressions of disgust which swept through the train are unprintable, but, so this is civilization, was typical of the milder comments. One soldier very aptly remarked: *The Belsen Train.*

"A Small Paper Parcel"

Then someone threw a small paper parcel. A German woman caught it and opened it. It was sandwiches. Yes! Someone had parted with his haversack rations. Another soldier threw his over. In a few seconds the feeling swept through the train. Nearly 200 rations parted company and were showered on to the Germans. Fruit and chocolate were passed to the children. The Germans tried to smile their thanks; the tears of others were their sign of gratitude. But German eyes were not the only ones which held tears. Many a soldier was biting his lip to control his emotions.

The Train Moves On

Soon the train pulled out, British soldiers and German workers waving to each other. Maybe some of those German workers realized that their real enemies were certainly not these British workers in uniform. And the soldier? Well, it meant that for the next six hours he would just have to wait for his next bite to eat. But he was contented at

the thought of having proved to himself that he was capable of comradeship, of sharing what was his with other workers, irrespective of creed or nationality.

Bond of Solidarity

The cynics might say: "but what are a few sandwiches to get excited about?" A few sandwiches developed a bond between these Germans and British workers. It is little things like this incident, leading to bigger demonstrations, which scare the British ruling class.

What the Capitalists Fear

The capitalist press continually screams about fraternisation. They splash their front pages with filth and slime about British soldiers and German women. The jingo writers of the capitalist press who call themselves journalists, use the name of the "Fraulein" in order to hide any real fraternisation and confuse the issue. Since when have the representatives of British imperialism been concerned about the morals of their troops abroad? To anyone experienced with their policy abroad on this matter, such a suggestion is farcical. No! It was just a case of Tommy and Fraulein, they would sigh with relief and keep quiet. It is mass fraternisation and mutual understanding between British soldiers and German worker families that these people fear. Such action is always dreaded by them because of its consequences.

The scene of the sandwiches is only one incident; there will be many more and they will grow in magnitude, not only between English and German workers, but among toilers of all nations. The guardians of Wall Street and the City of London and their European satellites will not forever maintain the barriers of hate among the nations' workers; those barriers will be torn down and with them will collapse these profit-mad rulers of the earth who threaten mankind itself to protect their God—Profit.

CHINESE TROTSKYISM STILL EXISTS

We learn from our American brother party, the Socialist Workers Party, that the Communist League of China, Chinese section of the Fourth International, has now answered in the roll call of Trotskyist organisations which have survived the war.

The Militant reports:

"Cut off from all contacts abroad for the past four years, isolated by battlefronts and censorship, our Chinese comrades have maintained their organisation, according to brief word received from them last week.

In a letter from Shanghai dated January 12, they proudly tell us: *"WE STILL EXIST DESPITE ALL LOSSES."*

The nature of the losses—the deaths of comrades under Japanese occupation—is indicated by the report that Comrade Chen Chi-chang, a member of the Central Committee and a veteran Trotskyist, died at the hands of the Japanese gendarmes three years ago.

Thus the Chinese section of the Fourth International felt the bloody hands of Japanese imperialist persecution just as its sister parties in Europe experienced the bestial killings of the Nazis.

The British Party sends greetings to our courageous Chinese comrades, who have fought not only against the Japanese terror, the terror of the Kuomintang, not to speak of the campaigns of slander and betrayal by the Chinese Stalinists.

INDIAN FAMINE AND ITS CAUSES

By Ajit Roy

For two whole years, the Indian Government has been deceiving the Indian people and the world by assurances that the food situation is well in hand. Now, everything is being laid at the door of natural accidents and the failure of the monsoon rains. But this explanation will satisfy none but the most hardened of imperialist apologists.

85% of the Indian population are engaged in agriculture on some of the most fertile lands in the world. In any rational system, such a country would produce not only sufficient food for year to year, but would have a stock to fall back upon if a bad season intervened. The truth of the matter is that the Indian famine is not an accident; it is the ever-recurring product of the economic and social system established in the course of a hundred and fifty years of British rule.

Decline in Crop Yield

The ruination of Indian economy under imperialist rule is expressed most conclusively in the decline in agricultural productivity. The yield of the different crops per acre is becoming less and less, as seen from the following figures:

Average Yield in Lbs. per Acre in Bengal

	Wheat	Winter Rice
1906-7	801	1,234
1911-12	861	983
1916-17	698	1,036
1921-22	688	1,029
1926-27	721	1,022

Decrease in 20 Years

80	212
----	-----

Side by side with the decline in the rate of production, the area of the grain producing land has also declined. In 1936, 35% of the cultivable land was lying fallow. In every province there are huge areas of once fertile land, which have since been reduced to derelict wilderness by the indifference of the imperialist administration to the needs of the masses, and especially of irrigation.

In India, where dry farming is carried out on an extensive scale, irrigation is of greater importance than anywhere else. Commenting on this aspect of British rule, Marx wrote as early as 1853:

"There have been in Asia, generally from immemorial times, but three departments of government: that of Finance, or the plunder of the interior, that of War, or the plunder of the exterior, and finally the Department of Public Works. The British in India accepted from their predecessors the departments of finance and war, but they have neglected entirely that of Public Works. Hence the deterioration of agriculture..."

Cruel Indifference

The cruel indifference of imperialism to anything but the extortion of ever-increasing loot and profit from the blood and toil of the Indian masses is the root cause of the catastrophic decline in Indian agriculture and famines

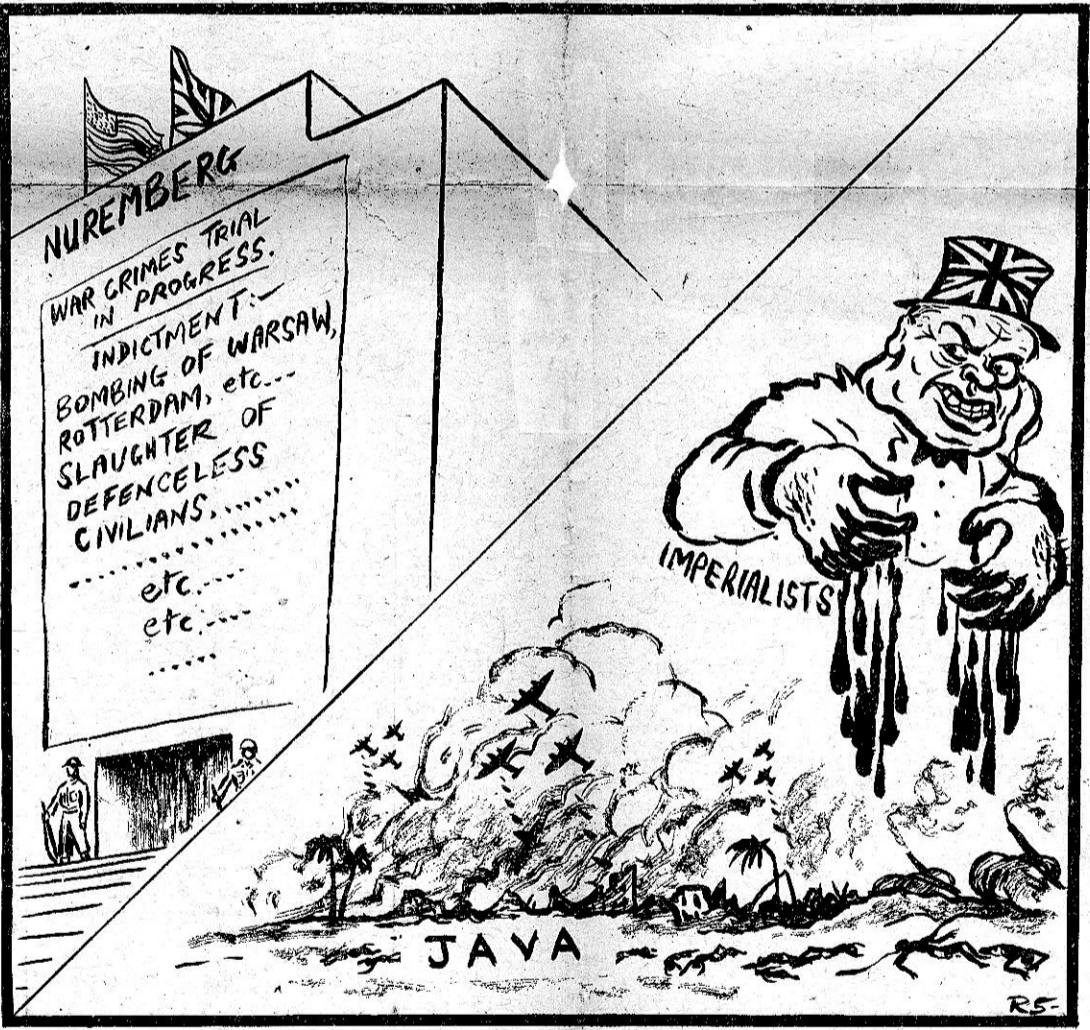
which result therefrom. In case it is thought that conditions have improved since the days of Marx, let us quote the opinion of a distinguished engineer, Sir William Willcocks, who recently made an investigation into conditions in Bengal:

"He has discovered that the innumerable small destructive rivers of the delta region, constantly changing their course, were originally canals which, under British regime, were allowed to escape from their channels and run wild. Formerly these canals distributed the food waters of the Ganges and provided for proper drainage of the land, undoubtedly accounting for that prosperity of Bengal which lured the rapacious East India Merchants there in the early days of the 18th Century. Not only was nothing done to utilise and improve the original canal system but railway embankments were thrown up, entirely destroying it. Some areas cut off from the supply of the loam-bearing Ganges waters have gradually become sterile and non-productive; others improperly drained, show an advanced degree of water-logging. Nor has any attempt been made to construct proper embankments for the Ganges in its low course to prevent the enormous erosion by which villages and groves and cultivated fields are swallowed up each year. Sir William Willcocks severely criticises the modern administrators and officials who, with every opportunity to call in expert technical assistance have hitherto done nothing to remedy this disastrous situation growing worse from decade to decade."

Not Sufficient Profit

In 1940-41, the total area of cultivated land was 259.2 million acres. Of this, only 55.8 millions, i.e., only 21% had the benefit of irrigation. The reason being that imperialism would not undertake any expenditure which would not yield sufficient profits. The official view is that no irrigation scheme can be sanctioned if there are any serious doubts regarding "returns to be derived" from the work. The ruling class of Britain is capable of undertaking breathtaking engineering projects when their interests are involved. During the war they built the Ledo Road from India to China, a marvel of engineering construction, in order to defend their loot from their Japanese rivals. But when it is a simple question of carrying on public Works which would help to feed the people, the task becomes insuperable!

There will never be an end of famines in India until the Indian people rise against the imperialist regime, and establish a Workers and Farmers Government, which will defend the interests of the masses.



CRIMINALS — IN AND OUT OF COURT

STALIN'S SPEECH

The following letter was printed in part by the "Town Crier", Birmingham Labour Party paper, on February 23rd, 1946. The same letter was sent to the "Socialist Appeal" which we publish below:

Sir,
"Comrade" Stalin's Moscow broadcast of 9th February '46, casts a new light on the second world war for he stated that it "assumed, from the beginning, the character of an anti-fascist war. A war of liberation."

Can it be that he forgets the period from October 1939 until June 1941, during which the Stalinist press issued statements quite opposite to the above?

For instance, if we refer to the Manifesto of the E.C. of the Comintern dated 6th November 1939 we are told not to believe "those who are calling upon you to support the war under the false pretext of the defence of democracy. What right to speak of democracy have those who oppress India, Indo-China, the Arab countries, who keep half the world in chains of colonial slavery? ... It is not for the freedom of nations that they are

fighting, but for their enslavement! Not for the salvation of democracy from fascism, but for the triumph of reaction! Not for a stable peace but for new imperialist conquests..." and much more to the same effect: At the same time Dimitrov, Secretary of the E.C.C.I., assured

NAZI Now Serves British

Aftonbladet, Stockholm newspaper, recently reported from Germany that Walther Schellenberg, former chief of Nazi Germany's intelligence division and top aide to Himmler, has been assigned by the British occupation authorities to organize a "non-Communist front" in the British zone.

us that "In its character and essence, the present war is, on the part of both warring sides, an imperialist war an unjust war, despite the fraudulent slogans being employed by the ruling classes in their endeavour to hide their real aims..." and further, he wrote that the British and French ruling classes "have altered the means and slogans of ideological deception in accordance with the situation of today. Speculating on the anti-fascist sentiments of the masses, they put forward the slogan of anti-fascist war... false and hypocritical are the declarations about the democratic anti-fascist character of the war."

In the face of such documents as these, are we to assume that Stalin's yes-men misjudged the motives of the imperialists, or, is it rather that once again this lying hangman of the Russian revolution is cynically attempting to re-write history to suit his current policies?

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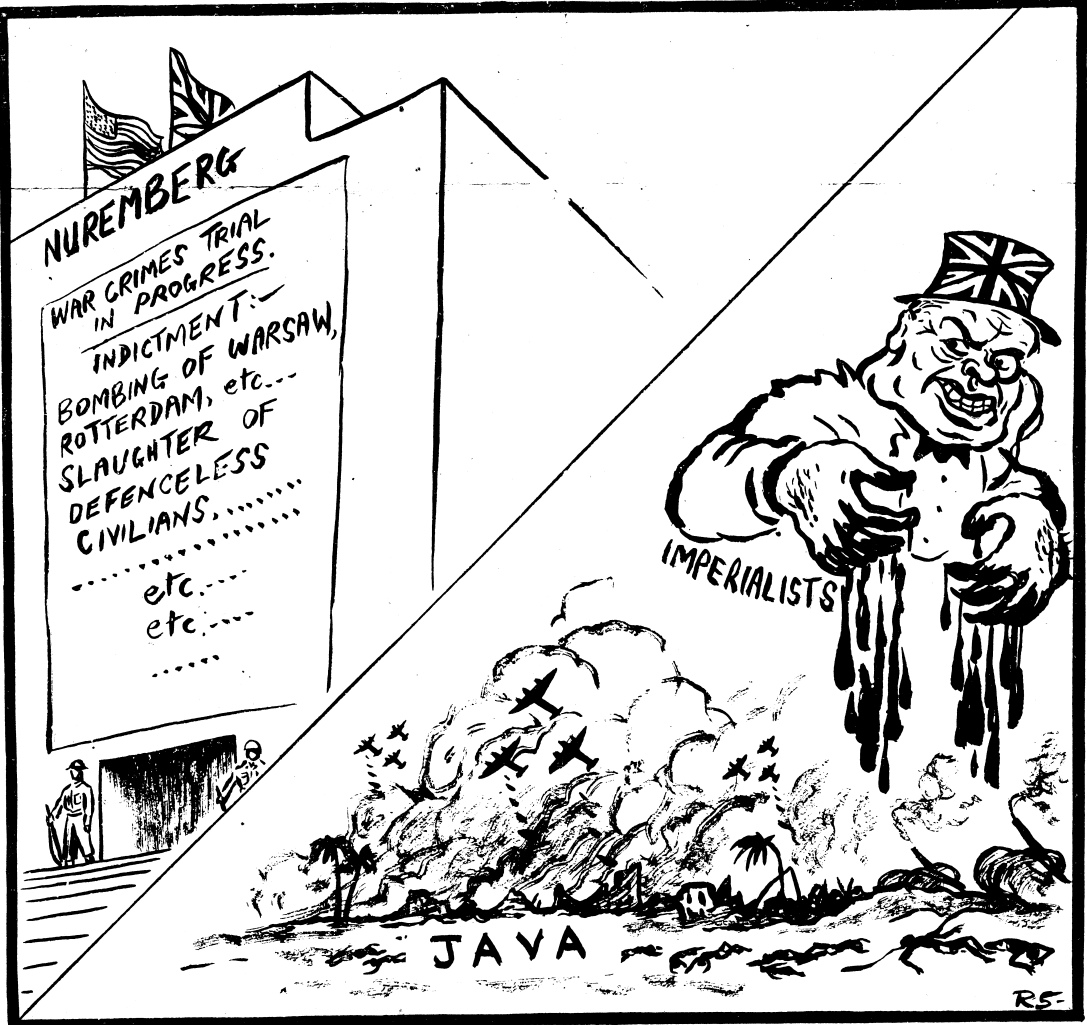
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IMPERIALISTS

JAVA

RS

CRIMINALS — IN AND OUT OF COURT

GREECE: Labour Govt. Supports Reaction

(Continued from page 1.)

E.A.M. declared that under such conditions an election would be a farce. It put five demands, saying that if they were not fulfilled they would abstain from the election:

- (1) Formation before the election of a broad-based democratic Government with E.A.M. participation.
- (2) Dissolution of "X"—the right-wing terrorist organisation.
- (3) General amnesty for all members of the Resistance movement.
- (4) Revision of electoral lists.
- (5) Elimination of all collaborators from the Army and police.

Since then it has retreated and dropped points (1) and (5), while point (2) has already officially been conceded. But two crucial demands still remain unfulfilled, and it is abstaining.

Abstention from the election by the major part of the population can only mean that the solution will be found outside the "legal" channels. Civil war is on the order of the day.

British Intervention

The responsibility for this situation lies mainly on British imperialism. In December, 1944, the Coalition Government organised an intervention for the forcible suppression of the Greek workers and peasants and reinstated the ruling classes in power. The reasons were, firstly, that British imperialism and its Labour agents

defend capitalism in any part of the world where it is threatened by the working-class; and secondly, because it has a special interest in Greece as a bastion against Russia in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean.

The British Government dictates to the Greek Government, not only through the troops and police mission which it keeps there, but also through economic blackmail. Recently Bevin announced a £10 million loan to Greece, and the annulment of her £46 million war debt to Britain. In the Parliamentary debate, the Government and Harold Macmillan (of Darlan fame) cynically explained its real purpose: "Unless there was confidence in the drachma all Britain's efforts in that country would be in vain. Members should not take away one of the greatest weapons that our representatives could have (sic) by continually imputing ill motives to the Government and so destroying confidence." (11.3.46).

In the same debate McNeil, the Foreign Under-Secretary, had the warm support of Beverly Baxter: "I understand that there was a sort of boys' brigade on the Socialist side, 73 strong, who were going to demonstrate today. We hope they will not embarrass the Under-Secretary unduly."

The Labour Government continues Churchill's policy with the ardent support of Churchill's men. They bear responsibility for the

coming tragedy in Greece. If it were not for their intervention the Greek workers and peasants would long ago have settled with reaction.

Treacherous Role of Stalinism

The Stalinists, and E.A.M. which is dominated by them, are abstaining from the election because of pressure from the Greek workers. Abstention from the election, if seriously meant by a majority party, must mean preparation for insurrection and civil war. But neither E.A.M. nor the Stalinists are mobilising the masses for such an event. Instead of preparing for a decisive battle to overthrow capitalism, they are retreating and compromising, and abandoning their demands.

The *Observer* (24.3.46) reports that "the Communists say that they would be prepared to go to any lengths to bring about a compromise. Zakhariades, Communist leader... told me that the Communists were prepared to drop their demand for the purging of those officers and men whom the Left has hitherto accused of turning these forces into instruments of reaction."

They are preparing a sell-out like their sell-out of January 1945, which opened the way for the present reactionary terror.

Only under the leadership of a revolutionary party, prepared to face the coming clash with an uncompromising revolutionary socialist programme, can the Greek workers avoid a second defeat. The Greek Trotskyists are the only consistent revolutionary tendency.

Hands Off Greece

Many Labour people who demanded an end to intervention in Greece in 1944, are saying today that the British must stay in order to ensure an orderly election, and that if necessary the election must be postponed until "normal" conditions prevail.

This is only a sophisticated excuse for continuing the old imperialist policy. Far from things having improved they have got worse while British intervention has remained, despite the fact that a Labour Government came to power. There is no reason to think that in two months they would be any better. A show-down is inevitable: the only question is will the workers or the reaction win? Continued British intervention can only favour the latter.

The Greek workers want the British to quit Greece. At a Trade Union demonstration of 90,000 workers, "a British delegate, Mr. G. H. Bagnall, who told the crowd that we in England had carried out a silent revolution, was so coldly received that he refused to continue his speech. He was interrupted by shouts of 'We want our independence' and 'Down with British intervention.'" (*Daily Telegraph*, 11.3.46).

That must be the cry of the British Labour Movement. An end to all imperialist intervention! Support the workers, not the reactionaries, and the Greek workers will soon settle with their enemies on their own terms. This support must not be given by violating the independence of other countries but by setting an example of Socialism here.

NUREMBERG: Stalin NOT Trotsky Made Deal with Hitler!

The Nuremberg Trial is not going as smoothly for the plans of the Imperialists and the Soviet bureaucracy as they had hoped. Goering, who knows he is doomed, has shown that Anglo-American imperialism is as responsible for the war as the Nazis. Now the defence evidence presented on behalf of Hess has resulted in the obvious discomfort of the Soviet bureaucracy.

Apparently fearing that owing to the objections of the Soviet prosecutor this evidence would be ruled out, Hess's Counsel sprang it unexpectedly on the court.

The *Daily Express* reports it as follows:

"... Seidl dropped into the court his international bombshell of a 'secret treaty' between Goera and Russia signed by Ribbentrop in Moscow nine days before Germany attacked Poland in 1939."

It was in the form of an affidavit by Dr. Friedrich Gauss, head of the German Foreign Office legal department, who was present at negotiations in Moscow.

Seidl had only begun to speak about it—claiming that Russia and Germany had agreed on the division of Poland before the outbreak of the war—when General Rudenko, chief Soviet Prosecutor, went spluttering to the microphone and protested.

Whether there was a signed agreement or not is immaterial. Stalin made a pact with Hitler—the Stalin-Hitler pact—and with this pact as a basis, proceeded to

occupy the Baltic States and hail Poland. The pact was the go signal for Germany's war on Poland. This throws more light on the Moscow Trials. It was not Trotsky who made secret agreements, signed by otherwise with Hitler—it was Stalin. It was not Trotsky who facilitated Nazi aggression, and thus prepared the way for the attack on the Soviet Union—it was Stalin.

No wonder the Russian Prosecutor is worried. He has been harassed by the Trotskyists to produce the evidence of relations with Hitler; and instead evidence is produced of Stalin's relations with Hitler!

The *Express* (March 26th) comments: "Most of this afternoon General Rudenko was on the phone to Moscow seeking instructions, and is expected to lodge an objection against the affidavit as having nothing to do with the Hess case."

As the trial proceeds from day to day, the criminal activities of Stalin in the Moscow Trials become more and more apparent. The detailed cross-examination of Goering has revealed the amazing amount of detailed incriminating material which is in the hands of the Prosecution, showing the preparation of the Nazis for war. But detailed cross-examination has once again demonstrated not the slightest connection between the Nazis and the Trotskyists inside or outside the Soviet Union. They dare not even hint at it for fear of the collapse of the so-called evidence of the frame-up conspiracy of the Moscow Trials. No documents, no accusations, no charges, not even a suggestion of connection between Trotsky and the Nazis.

They cannot do so because there is no evidence.



Revolutionary Communist Programme

1. Nationalisation, of the Bank of England, the Big Five Banks and land, the mines, transport and all big industry without compensation; and the operation of these enterprises under the control of workers' committees.
2. Confiscation of all war profits; all company books to be open to inspection by trade unions and workers' committees to counter the financial and economic sabotage of Big Business.
3. Distribution of food, clothes, fuel and other consumers' goods in short supply under the control of committees elected from the co-ops, distributive trades, factories, houses and small shopkeepers.
4. The control and allocation of existing housing space in the hands of tenants' committees; a state financial national house-building plan directed by the building trades unions and tenants committees.
5. A rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum and full maintenance for the unemployed; turnover of Government and other war plants to the production of consumers' goods; a sliding scale of hours to absorb the unemployed without wage reductions.
6. Abolition of the Monarchy and the House of Lords; full electoral rights from the age of 18 years; and full political rights for men and women in the forces; the immediate repeal of the Trade Disputes Act and all other strike breaking and anti-labour laws.
7. Clear out the reactionary anti-labour officer caste from the armed forces, for the election of officers from the ranks.
8. Abolish conscription; for the dissolution of the standing army and its substitution by a workers' militia organised under control of workers' committees; for the establishment of military schools by the Trade Unions at the expense of the State for the training of worker officers.
9. Unconditional defence of the Soviet Union against all imperialist powers; full economic co-operation, credit grants and other aid for the reconstruction of Soviet economy.
10. Full and immediate freedom for India and the other colonies to choose their own form of government; the immediate withdrawal of British troops from all colonial countries.
11. Against secret diplomacy and a peace of vengeance and plunder; against race hatred—anti-semitism, Vansittartism and the colour bar; for the withdrawal of British troops from Europe and Asia and for a peace based upon the self-determination of the peoples of Europe, Asia and the World.
12. Full support and active co-operation with the European workers for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the United Socialist States of Europe; unity with the workers and exploited masses of all lands in the struggle for World Socialism.

Congress of French Trotskyists

Paris—Meeting amidst the mounting economic crisis in the country, the Parti Communiste Internationaliste, French Section of the Fourth International, held its first national Congress here this week since the "liberation", and adopted important decisions bearing on the Party's activity in the coming period.

The Congress, at which 74 delegates representing growing old branches and many new ones throughout all France, revealed that the Party had already more than doubled its membership since its last national gathering held illegally under Nazi occupation in 1944. But the delegates unanimously considered that this progress was not nearly in line with the great possibilities for development of a mass party which the P.C.I. faces.

After thoroughgoing discussion, in sessions lasting five days from February 2nd to the 6th, the frank self-criticism of leaders and rank and file alike, resulted in decisions which are universally felt to mark a historic milestone in the progress of the Party.

Main Political Resolution

The main political resolution adopted by the Congress characterises the situation in France on the basis of the chronic economic crisis and instability of the regime recently revealed by the departure of De Gaulle, as "objectively revolutionary". It points out that the characterisation holds true in a more general sense for the world situation as a whole, as evidenced by the great insurrections of the Indonesians, the Indo-Chinese, and the colonial peoples as a whole, as well as the great waves of revolt in the armies of American imperialism recently, and by the continuing left swing of the British masses

which swept the Labour Government into office.

On the basis of this perspective, the resolution calls for a vigorous application of the Transitional Programme of the Fourth International, utilising the slogans as the means of posing before the working class the goal of state power. In this, the P.C.I. is putting forward its central transitional slogan: "FOR A SOCIALIST COMMUNIST - TRADE UNION GOVERNMENT."

Organisational Tightening Up

The Congress devoted two days of its work to organisational and practical questions. It adopted almost unanimously, drastic measures toward its centralisation of party activity in all fields, with greatest attention to its press and finances. It is in the field of organisation, the discussion revealed, that the weakness of the Party lay. It was due to this, that greater progress was not accomplished, the delegates felt.

The practical measures taken are intended to surmount this defect and to introduce Bolshevik efficiency into the whole work of the Party, with emphasis on its complete regularisation in the coming period. The Party had only partly regained its legal status, its central organ *La Verite* still lacking legal authorisation.

The Congress decided to vigorously transform its methods of work, which still show vestiges of the cumbersome procedure of the illegal days, and undertake a full-fledged public campaign for legalisation against the capitalist class and Stalinists who have sought to prevent it.

After a closing address honouring the martyrs of the International who fell during the war and the occupation and calling for redoubled efforts in the building of the Party as the best means of avenging them, the Congress adjourned with an inspiring rendition of the "Internationale".

CONDITIONS IN INDIAN NAVY

A "MUTINY" IN 1942—By a Participant

The following is a description of a mutiny which took place in the Indian Navy in 1942 and was written by a participant in these events. It was not possible to publish it at the time for censorship reasons. In view of the recent movement among the Indian sailors, it gains added interest as a revelation of the conditions and mood in the Indian Navy. — Editor.

On March 2nd 1942, a strike broke out of 120 apprentice engineers of the Mechanical Training Establishment of the Royal Indian Navy in Bombay.

The M.T.E. was formed in 1938. Entry into the establishment was on an extremely selective basis; applications were not even considered unless the boys had matriculated. The training course was to last 4½ years, the starting wage being Rs20 a month rising eventually to Rs60. The training was extremely strenuous and throughout the course rigid discipline was imposed and maintained.

The Discipline

The order "up beds" was at 5.30 a.m. From 6 to 7 there was a parade for barrack cleaning. After a break for "breakfast" they were marched to the factory about a mile and a half away, where they worked until 12.45; then in the hot Indian mid-day sun they were marched back to barracks for "lunch". At 2.10 p.m. they were marched back to work and at 4.30 p.m. to barracks.

Three nights a week they were allowed "liberty". Those remaining in the barracks had to attend compulsory night classes consisting of 2 hours 2 nights a week. After studies there was a duty watch at 8 p.m. Once a month class examinations were held: failure to pass these examinations was punished by confinement to barracks and intensified study for a variable period, depending upon the condition of the officer's liver. Every six months the apprentices had to sit a passing out examination. Failure to pass was punished with 30 days C.B. and No. 11 punishment for 5 to 7 days.

No. 11 Punishment

No. 11 punishment is pack drill with a 75 lb. weight carried on the back at the double for an hour. This punishment was often aggravated by the officer in charge compelling the lads to carry their rifles in extended arms above their heads. One minute's rest being allowed in every ten. When the boys fell down exhausted they were forced to rise once more and continue this inhuman punishment.

No. 11 punishment was also given to the apprentices if, having a headache and feeling sick they visited the M.O. and were passed by him as fit. In one case a lad with a bad headache and a fever went to the M.O. He was passed as fit, and returned to duties. He was thereupon given No. 11 punishment for 3 days. His "liberty" was stopped for this period and one hour's extra duty was imposed. As a result of this harsh treatment boys reported sick the following morning to show their spirit of solidarity. 50 of these received the same punishment for malingering; the remainder were freed from duties, being fit.

Wage-Cut Angers Lads

In Feb. 1942 it was generalised that there was to be a round increase in pay. On pay

day, March 2nd, the lads filed up to collect their pay. After signing on, and receiving it, they discovered that they were Rs2 short, and instead of the anticipated rise, their pay had been cut. The dissatisfaction at this move turned to anger when it was learnt that the signallers had received a rise in pay from Rs28 to Rs60 per month. The training period for signallers was only 6 months and the qualifications for admission were far lower than for the M.T.E.

Deliberate Provocations

That evening at 6 p.m. after a hard day's work, the boys were instructed through the microphone, to report for boat drill. This duty had only been instituted during the off duty hours. Indignation at the inroads made on their pay and their leisure was aggravated by the feeling among the lads that the boat drill was unnecessary for the more senior apprentices who had completed this training years previously.

Spontaneous Protest

There was a spontaneous refusal to parade; and at 8 that night when they were instructed to report for Duty Watch they still refused to parade. Later that evening those apprentices who were out on "liberty" returned, and after considerable discussion they decided to strike work until their grievances regarding pay and conditions were righted.

The following morning when "up beds" sounded, no one stirred. "Out pipes" was ordered. Still no one stirred; and at 6 o'clock the order to "fall in downstairs" was not heeded.

The failure of the boys to parade for work brought the W.O. to their quarters. The lads were still in bed and the disciplinarian was greeted with "Go away, I want to sleep" etc., from every cot.

At 10.15 a.m. the Lieutenant-Commander sent for the 4 senior apprentices to appear before the Depot Captain. He advised them to go back to work, but the boys remained firm and decided to continue the strike.

At 4.30 p.m. the officer in charge announced through the microphone that the Commodore had come to see them. Still the boys did not move.

Again the voice came insistently through the mike *The Commodore has come to see you, fall in downstairs*. After a short consultation the lads paraded before the Commodore, who informed them that unless they immediately resumed their duties, he would regard their action as "mutiny in wartime". He stated also that he was prepared to consider their grievances on the following day. In spite of this virtual threat of death, the apprentices stood firm and after returning to their quarters decided once more to stand their ground until their grievances had been righted.

Lands Stand Firm

Shortly after this, the officers attempted to split the ranks of the workers by announcing that: "Direct Entry Artificers" (wartime dilutees of the M.T.E.) who comprised some 20 to 30 of the lads could take their "liberty".

The boys understood this manoeuvre immediately and thereupon decided to "take liberty". 2 or 3 of them taking the lead, inspected the lads and marched them out of the barracks. At the gate a sentry attempted to blow his whistle to summon aid. This was removed from him and they continued on their way falling out at the Gateway of India and arriving to meet at the same place at 12 midnight.

On arriving back at their barracks there were about 100 police on the other side of the gate. The lads carried on in an orderly fashion and went to bed.

Lads Beaten With Hockey Sticks

At 8 the following morning, 5th March, the Barracks were surrounded by about 600 soldiers of the Royal Berkshire Regiment. 50 of these soldiers entered the apprentices quarters, armed with hockey sticks and clubs. The nearest boys to them as they entered received a beating-up and they were all taken under heavy escort by military transport to a detention camp. They were now placed in a building in the camp and warned that if they attempted to escape they would be hanged.

The boys who had been thrown off their guard by their violent and sudden arrest, were now so relieved to find themselves alive that they started to sing, and on hearing the noise the soldiers started to make enquiries from them as to why they were there.

British Soldiers Fraternalise

The lads explained to their guards the reason for their strike and the terrible conditions under which they were living. The British soldiers reacted to the information in a true class fashion. They had been duped by their officers into believing that the Indian lads had physically attacked their officers, and when they learnt the true facts, and the magnificent fight that the boys had put up for their rights they treated them as class brothers, not as prisoners. Every day during their 25 days awaiting trial their guard was changed. Each day soldiers from a different regiment composed the guard. And every day they explained their position and why they were there. They received immediate sympathy both from the British and the Indian soldiers who played games with them and even instituted a system of parole for the lads. This fraternisation took place in spite of the fact that to speak to the prisoners was punishable by imprisonment.

Parents Deceived

When the parents enquired from the authorities about their sons, they were just told the boys were all right. They were given no information. Nothing appeared in the Bombay papers. During this period the W.O. visited the Detention Camp daily taking a roll call. During these visits he attempted to break down the morale of the lads by horrible threats of years and years of imprisonment, unless the ringleaders were named. The boys were kept in prison for one whole month without a change

of clothes, a wash or a shave. One or more of the weaker lads succumbed in the end to these threats and gave the names of 3 as having led the strike. In actual fact there had been no ringleaders, and all the lads had played the same part in the strike.

Price Paid For

After the 25 days were over, the 120 apprentices were court-martialled and dismissed from the Navy. All of them received 3 months rigorous imprisonment with the exception of the 3 named as ringleaders. Out of these one received 15 months and the other two 12 months rigorous imprisonment and were segregated.

The W.O. was transferred from this Depot and shortly after the prison sentence had been served, several of the lads were approached to rejoin the Navy and promised Rs105 per month as against the Rs35 per month they had previously been paid.

Dismissed From Navy Improved Conditions

Three of the lads have paid a tremendous price for the better conditions now pertaining. All of them have learnt a lesson of class warfare, far more valuable than the improved conditions. They have learnt and applied the fundamental lessons of class struggle: Solidarity and united action against oppression. They have learnt the strength of self-imposed discipline. They have experienced the fraternal solidarity of the British soldiers and the need to make the justice of their cause known to the British worker soldier who has shown that his class instinct is stronger than military discipline.

The Bombay mutiny was a milestone in the history of the Indian Revolution.

LONDON MARXIST DAY SCHOOL.—Recognising the vital need for the education of the Party membership and sympathisers, the London District Committee has decided to organise a series of Marxist Day Schools on the basic principles of Marxism.

The first class will be held at the Party Headquarters on Sunday, April 4th, on Marxist Philosophy covering the History of European Philosophy (Ajit Roy), Dialectical Materialism (P. Dixon), and "Burnham's assault on Marxism" (Ted Grant).

Arrangements have been made to provide both lunch and tea for comrades who need them, and the charge for attending the three lectures will be 1s. For single lectures 6d.

Interested comrades are urged to write for a folder giving details to: The Secretary, London District Committee, 256, Harrow Road, London, W.2.

I stake my life!

BY LEON BOESKY

DEWEY REPORT on the Moscow Trials

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