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NEW AGE

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Apartheid Means Hungry Children



THESE youngsters are salvaging odd scraps of fruit and vegetables from the garbage heap at the Newtown Market in Johannesburg. Refuse and waste thrown on to the floor by stallholders is swept into the endless belt running beneath the floor of the market and is then disgorged by a chute on to rubbish dumps just off the pavement alongside the market.

Crowds of hungry African women and children pick up what they can.

AFRICANS' M.P. TO MOVE MOTION IN PARLIAMENT FOR FULL RIGHTS FOR ALL

CAPE TOWN.

LEN LEE-WARDEN, NEWLY ELECTED AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR CAPE WESTERN, WILL IN THE COMING WEEK TABLE A MOTION IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE EQUAL FRANCHISE RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The motion reads: That, in the interests of democracy, good government and race harmony and to restore South Africa's good name before world opinion, this House is of the opinion that full political rights, both as regards franchise and representation, should be extended forthwith to all South Africans on an equal basis, irrespective of race or colour.

"This resolution explains in brief my policy in Parliament, on the basis of which I was sponsored by the Cape Western Advisory Boards and Vigilance Associations and elected by a big majority," Mr. Lee-Warden told New Age.

Commenting on the formation of a "parliamentary group" of the seven Native Representatives, under the leadership of Mrs. Margaret Ballinger, Mr. Lee-Warden said the group was formed purely to facilitate parliamentary procedure. It has nothing to do with the formulation of policy—a false impression which has been given by a press report.

"On the contrary, as my motion outlines, on the very fundamental principle of the franchise, I am totally opposed to the qualified franchise policy as adopted by the Liberal Party.

"On all occasions in Parliament I will express the views and feelings of the African people as expounded by their leadership."

Mr. Lee-Warden has put a number of questions on the order paper, the answers to which will reveal many of the oppressive and discriminatory acts of the Government.

Thus Mr. Lee-Warden wants to know of the Minister of Justice how many people have been "named" by the Liquidator, how many named and other persons have been pro-

hibited from attending gatherings, how many have been banned from organisations and how many named and other persons have been convicted under the Suppression of Communism Act.

He also wants to know how many people have been charged and convicted for contravention of the Suppression of Communism Act, how many newspapers were banned during 1954, and whether any explanation was given for the banning of the newspapers.

Mr. Lee Warden has also asked the Minister of Justice how many members of the S.A. Police were convicted of crimes of violence, offences against prisoners in their charge, perjury and other offences during 1954.

WAGE INCREASES

Mr. Lee-Warden is asking the Minister of Transport whether he contemplates increasing the basic wages of Europeans, Africans, Indians and Coloured railway workers during 1955, and when last did each group get an increase, and the amount of such increase.

Another question, directed to the Minister of Health, asks what amounts have been provided by the State for housing Africans in the Cape Peninsula for each year from 1947 to 1954.

GOVERNMENT KEEPING REMOVAL DATE QUIET

Onus for any trouble will rest on Nats—

Warns Father Huddleston

JOHANNESBURG.—Despite Press announcements of the date of the first Western Areas removals, and the issue to people in the buffer zone of removal notices fixing the date at February 12, 19 or 26, it seems the Government is not anxious for the exact removal dates to be known.

New Age telephoned Mr. Prinsloo, chief information officer of the Native Affairs Department, in Pretoria and asked whether the first removal date was February 12. "About," said Mr. Prinsloo. "To the best of my knowledge." He added—"The date is a mere indication of the time—some time in February." The people living in the area have to be given some indication of the time, he said, so these were approximate dates.

Meanwhile the Reverend Trevor Huddleston, chairman of the Western Areas Protest Committee, which has led this city's protest movement

among voters against the removal scheme, issued a statement, exclusive to New Age, in which he said that the onus for any trouble that might break out in the area would rest squarely on the Government.

As D-Day grows near, said Father Huddleston, there is a growing uneasiness about the possibility of incidents in the Western Areas.

"I, as chairman of the Western Areas Protest Committee, would like to state categorically that if such should occur the only party which can be blamed is the Government, which has carried through this removal scheme without consultation with those affected and which has persistently assumed an attitude of direction rather than of consultation."

Father Huddleston said that he thought the more Europeans on the spot when the removals were carried out, the better. Their presence, he said, would act as a deterrent to any show of force.

AGAINST SLAVE EDUCATION

JOHANNESBURG.

Orlando West is already organising against the Bantu Education Act and the pupils' protest action is due to start on April 1. Anti-Bantu Education Committees are being set up throughout Orlando, and volunteers have come forward to pledge that every house is organised.

At a public meeting last week Oma Esther, a slave descendant, stood up to explain how she felt about what is in store for the children. She spoke with tears in her eyes and vowed to fight to the end.

The children, speakers said, would be deprived of the light they had already seen, and every African— young or old—should be ready for sacrifice rather than compromise.

Magistrate Criticises Crown in Kotane Pamphlet Case

"Petty and Trivial" Prosecution

CAPE TOWN.

"I AGREE with the defence that this case should never have been brought to court," said the Magistrate, Mr. J. T. Malherbe, when he cautioned and discharged the publishers of the banned newspaper Advance after they had been found guilty of failing to deliver a copy of Moses Kotane's pamphlet, "South Africa's Way Forward" to the South African Public Library.

Fred Carneson and Sam Kahn, directors of the company, were also charged individually.

"I cannot understand why one should look for charges against the accused at all costs. We have wasted half a day on a petty and trivial matter which should never have been brought to court," the Magistrate added.

Giving evidence, Mr. Fred Carneson, a director of the company, said that it was the custom of the library to send out reminders if a book was not sent. In this case there had been no reminder.

The librarian of the South African Public Library said that he had been given a list of books by the police and asked to check whether certain publications had been received by the library. Mr. Kotane's pamphlet was among these. The library had not asked the police to prosecute.

NEVER BEFORE

There had never been a prosecution before in his whole sixteen years' experience as a librarian and to his knowledge it was the first since the Act was passed thirty-eight years before, although it happened fairly frequently that books were not sent to the library within the time-limit.

Further evidence was led to show that the copies of Advance containing the identical text of the article subsequently published in a pamphlet were all delivered to the library on time but that owing to an oversight the pamphlet itself was not delivered.

Asked by the prosecution what the content of the pamphlet was, Mr. Carneson said: "It is a political analysis of the situation in South Africa, showing the urgent need for all democrats to unite against the apartheid government and build a free South Africa."

Mr. Kahn, in his evidence, showed that he was overseas when the book was published and could have had nothing to do with the commission of the offence. Although the prosecution had been informed of this before the trial, it had refused to withdraw the charge against him.

Mr. Kahn was acquitted. The Company and Mr. Carneson were cautioned and discharged.

Mr. Sam Kahn appeared for the Company, and Mr. L. Forman, instructed by S. Kahn & Co., for Mr. Carneson and Mr. Kahn.

Police Raid Fails To Upset Conference

JOHANNESBURG.

Calls to parents and pupils to support the A.N.C. decision to withdraw children from schools in protest against the Bantu Education Act were issued from a series of conferences and mass meetings in Johannesburg and the Reef last week-end. Alexandra, Sophiatown, Jabavu, Natalspruit and Benoni all held highly successful meetings.

A large force of police surrounded the conference in Sophiatown and while African police encircled the hall, European police invaded the meeting. They produced a warrant authorising them to search for "subversive and seditious" documents.

Those present on the platform were ordered to turn out their pockets and were searched one by one. The meeting carried on during these searches and the conference did not allow itself to be interfered with. The spirit of the conference remained militant throughout.

The conference in Alexandra, which was very well attended, was convened by parents and teachers. These conferences passed resolutions condemning the Bantu Education Act and supporting the decision to withdraw children from schools.

NOT EVEN A TENT

JOHANNESBURG.

Mrs. Mary Antonia Smith, mother of five children, has lived in Fordsburg for 13 years, but she faced ejection last week like so many other Non-European families affected by rebuilding plans in this area, and, though she searched desperately hard for months, she could find no alternative home.

She was offered a tent as temporary accommodation. Then the problem was where the tent could be erected. A small deputation of members of the Transvaal Indian Congress went to the City Council Non-European Affairs Department to ask that a stand or vacant plot of ground somewhere in Johannesburg be found for a temporary tent home for the Smith family.

The Department "regretted" that was out of the question. Nothing could be done until a group area for Indians had been set aside. The Council had asked the Land Tenure Board for a permit for a transit camp for such cases. That was six months ago, and nothing has been heard since. Poor comfort to Mrs. Smith and her five children!

EDITORIAL

The "Scientific" Wings Of The Nats and U.P.

THE recent meetings, within a short time of one another, of SABRA and the Institute of Race Relations have offered an opportunity for close insight into the very wide divergence in the opinion of different sections of the dominant group in South Africa on the best method of maintaining their domination.

Both SABRA and the Institute begin from the same starting point—that their job is "to make South Africa safe for European civilisation." By "European civilisation" is, of course, meant the system of exploitation of man by man and the oppression of nation by nation which is the characteristic of imperialism.

But although their starting point is the same, their route is significantly different.

Sabra's is the method of the Nationalist Party from which it stems—crude and straightforward. It is the unashamed policy of attempting to divide up the Non-European people and set them against one another. Sabra's methods have met with conspicuous failure. They threw their weight behind Bhengu and his non-existent "Bantu National Congress" only to see their money disappear into a bottomless pocket and Bhengu disappear into jail for fraud.

THE PROFESSORS FELL

It is an interesting sidelight on Sabra's arrogant claim that the Africans are "backward" that the Africans were not for one moment taken in by Bhengu. It was the Sabra professors who fell for him hook, line and sinker.

Similarly blatant, and similarly doomed to failure, is their attempt, brought to light at the recent conference, to turn the African and Coloured people against one another. Not even Golding has been impressed by Sabra's apparent conversion into a Society for the Protection of the Coloured People. And the Coloured people as a whole have greeted with the contempt and disgust which it merits the attempt to win their support with the hellish proposal to drive Africans from the Western Cape.

Typical of the blunders of the Sabra professors is their offer to protect the Coloured people from the "evils of miscegenation." What unthinking contempt it shows, to try to convince the Coloured people that mixed marriages have led to evil results!

The Race Relations approach, as evidenced by Dr. Ellen Hellman's presidential address (since published in pamphlet form) is somewhat different. Just as Sabra is the "scientific" wing of the Nationalist Party, so is the Race Relations Institute the "scientific" wing of the United Party.

SUPPORTING U.P.

Trying to drum up support for the U.P. Dr. Hellman claims that "there is now a fundamental difference between the two major political parties in regard to colour policy. . . . The U.P. in its acceptance of economic integration, its recognition of standards of civilisation as the criteria for exercising rights, is now committed to a policy which must lead eventually to the creation of one, integrated society."

It is as naive to pretend that there is no "fundamental difference" between the U.P. and the Nats, as to suggest that the U.P. recognises "standards of civilisation

as the criteria for exercising rights."

The Sabra professors are far more daring than the Nationalist Party itself (some of them actually proposed that Coloureds should be allowed to sit in Parliament). In the same way, Dr. Hellman's statement of the facts of life in South Africa is a far more knowledgeable one than the United Party would ever dream of making.

For Dr. Hellman's report to the Institute is a striking proof of how widely the ideas and actions of the Congress movement have penetrated among all spheres in South Africa.

Of the Defiance Campaign she says: "The effects of a movement of this nature cannot be measured statistically. The very fact of its having come into existence set in motion a series of reactions the effect of which is incalculable. It demonstrated the Africans' potential power to themselves and to the Europeans, giving hope to the one and arousing fear in the other."

Dr. Hellman opposes many of the fascist laws and activities of the Nationalists. But her reasons for this opposition, as is the case with many Liberals, have nothing in common with the reasons of true democrats.

HER REASONS

She opposes the policy of bannings and banishments, not because it is a fascist attack on freedom, but because it "opens the door to the entry of ever more irresponsible elements . . . it may give rise to an underground movement in which secret communist influences — influences which Africans have hitherto resisted—will become increasingly powerful."

She attacks the Bantu Education Act—but not because it is a Slave Education Act (in fact she notes "certain advantages in the new unified system"). The reason given for opposition to the Act is "that no other single action of the present Government has so gravely undermined the African confidence in the good faith of the European."

The whole Race Relations attitude is epitomised in a passage in which Dr. Hellman bemoans the fact that the Government prevents the development of a Non-European middle-class. And here is the reason!

"The signs are not wanting, even today, that the middle-class Africans and Coloured and also, in all likelihood, Asiatics would be prepared to follow a course of gradual development and that, being most keenly aware of the cultural differences within their own groups, they would not have supported the present demand of the major Non-European political organisations for immediate equality for all, irrespective of stage of development" (our emphasis).

THE ONLY WAY

There are many well-meaning persons in the ranks of the Institute of Race Relations. If they are sincere in opposing the race policies of the Nationalist Party, they must realise their first duty is to reject apartheid, which is the core of Nationalist Party policy. If they reject apartheid root and branch, they can do no less than endorse the demand of the Non-European peoples themselves for equal rights now, for it is only on the basis of equal rights that the further progress of all sections of the population is possible.

Furthermore, as a matter of practical politics, the anti-Nationalist liberals must ask themselves

They Die

The conditions of work in the Delmas district are going from bad to worse.

Our ration is porridge only. The wage is 1s. 6d., 2s. or 2s. 6d. a day. Hours of work are from sunrise to sunset.

You cannot attend to your sick wife and children during working hours—they die without being attended to.

Z. C. BOHOLO,
Delmas, Tvl.

"Loyal" African Teachers

African teachers and ministers have long been strictly warned by the Government not to take part in politics. These people have obeyed the Government, yet many have been sacked for trivial offences or even rumours.

They have been foolish because they have not learned from this. The African teacher particularly often turns a deaf ear to whatever call is made to him to save his country.

The Government, knowing that the people will respond by resisting harsh and cruel laws, told the teachers not to take part in politics. Why? Because teachers are the most widespread of the educated African to-day and could easily organise people in the four corners of our country.

And the teachers kept quiet!

But the Government is to-day kicking out African male teachers and replacing them by female teachers. Because a meagre salary paid to one male teacher is enough to starve two female teachers. Therefore, why waste?

BEGGAR,
P.O. Sukkelaar, Tvl.

Still They Told Him

Will you please put our complaint in the newspaper?

The municipality of Ermelo wants to turn our township into a location, which is against our wish.

We sent a deputation to the Town Clerk, and he does not want to give his reply. We then went to the Chief Magistrate, and he also did not want to give his reply. The deputation asked him to advise them what to do to come to an understanding with the municipality.

No, he said. I have nothing to do with the municipality or you. Only I tell you—you must do what the municipality tells you.

But still our deputation told him—"You can put us in gaol as much as you can, but still we shall not agree."

I pray you to put this in the paper on behalf of the African National Congress.

S. A. NHLEKO,
A.N.C., Ermelo.

where they are going to get the strength to defeat the Nats.—from the tiny handful of Non-European middle-class and intellectuals whom they hope to win over, or from the masses of the Non-European people, who are daily engaged in struggle against the implementation of Nationalist policy? Failure to support the liberation struggle of the Non-European people—especially, now, in the preparations for the Congress of the People—can only lead to the conclusion that the liberals are against the people and for their oppressors.



Appalling!

Did you see the little rhyme by Nicolas Bentley in the New Statesman and Nation?

If Mr. Strijdom
Is really as God made 'im,
How could He possibly make
Such an appalling mistake?
DIVINE ERROR.

Cape Town.

Gwentshe and Lengisi

The story of Gwentshe and Lengisi (New Age, Jan. 13) will never be forgotten in the history of South Africa.

The deportation orders of these two leaders did not kill their spirit of fighting for freedom. In the near future we shall meet them in Parliament. I pass on my greetings to them.

Afrika! Afrika! Afrika!
E. K. NDZIBA.

Plumstead, Cape.

Great Day

We look forward to the great day when all freedom-loving people will come together and as one demand their rights. This great day is the day when the Congress of the People will make history and write its name on the great pages of mankind.

When we all gather that day one of our demands shall be the freedom of the Press and of speech. This is a country where a man cannot speak of freedom on a public platform, where a newspaper can be banned without any fair and decent trial, where a Minister, without even investigating whether a person is contravening a law, can sign his name on a piece of paper and that person is banished.

Freedom shall be ours. And to attain freedom we have to join in the struggle of the people. The Congress of the People! — there our salvation lies.

Let us rise together and acclaim Africa. Freedom shall be ours—not even Strijdom and his Nazi Government can stop us.

Afrika!
LIONEL MORRISON,
Coronationville, Johannesburg.

Speak of Freedom

You who sweat in factories and toil in the lands;
Doctors, lawyers and simple folk,
do join hands

And let us speak of freedom and the people free;
Our ship not anchored will sail smoother on the sea.

SARAH MALEK,
Kinross, Transvaal.

Only a politically conscious and enlightened people can win Freedom!

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WHY NOT BECOME AN AGENT?

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For Full Particulars

Mohammed and The Mountain

I wish to bring to your notice that the phrase "Mohammed goes to the mountain" (issue dated 6.1.55) is insulting to the Moslems and their Holy Prophet in the extreme, and therefore request you to make necessary amends in your next issue.

This phrase must be wiped out of the English language.

I. A. BHABHA,
Eastern Transvaal.

The story which we headlined "Mahommed Goes to the Mountain" was about the group of Transvaal youths who went to Natal to talk to Chief Luthuli, who is prohibited from leaving there.

The legend upon which the saying is based is in no way offensive to Moslems, and we would not, of course, have published it if it were.

Here is the old tale (from the dictionary of Phrase and Fable)—

If what I seek will not come to me without my stir, I must exert myself to obtain it; if we cannot do as we wish, we must do as we can.

When Mohammed first announced his system the Arabs demanded supernatural proofs of his commission. "Moses and Jesus," said they, "wrought miracles in testimony of their divine authority, and if thou art indeed the prophet of God, do so likewise."

To this Mohammed replied, "It would be tempting God to do so and bring down His anger, as in the case of Pharaoh."

Not satisfied with this answer, he commanded Mount Safa to come to him, and when it stirred not at his bidding exclaimed, "God is merciful. Had it obeyed my words it would have fallen on us to our destruction. I will, therefore, go to the mountain and thank God that He has had mercy on a stiff-necked generation."—Editor.

EIGHT HUNDRED PEOPLE attended an A.N.C. public meeting held in Kirkwood (E.P.) last Sunday. Mr. F. Qiko, the chairman of the Eastern Cape Region, presided over the meeting. Provincial and Regional executive members from Port Elizabeth addressed the meeting. Three policemen and five Special Branch men were also present. Three of the C.I.D.s. followed the Provincial executive members from Port Elizabeth.

The meeting unanimously adopted resolutions supporting the struggle against the Western Areas forced removals, pledging support for the Congress of the People and rejecting the Bantu Education Act.

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CHINA WELCOMES ASIA-AFRICA CONFERENCE

"More than half of humanity", shudders Time Magazine

LONDON.

CHINA has officially welcomed the conference of Asian and African nations to be held in Bandoeng, Indonesia, in April as a step to broaden the peace area and build collective security.

The Peking newspaper People's Daily said the conference would be of historic significance. It showed a radical change in the situation of the Asian and African peoples who "have long been subjected to oppression and enslavement by colonialism."

Earlier, in a speech at a reception at the Burmese Embassy to celebrate the seventh anniversary of Burmese independence, Mr. Chou En-lai, the Chinese Premier, said:

"The Chinese People's Republic, as an Asian nation, consistently welcomes and supports Asian nations in their efforts to defend Asian, African and world peace.

"The Chinese people value peace. They are willing, together with the Union of Burma and other Asian and African countries, to fight against colonialism, to set up and extend a peace area and maintain peace in Asia, Africa and the world."

STRIJDOM GOVERNMENT EXCLUDED

Following the recent meeting in Indonesia of the Prime Ministers of India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma and Indonesia, invitations to attend the Asian-African conference are to be issued to 25 powers, including People's China and Japan but excluding the Union of South Africa, Formosa, North and South Korea and Israel.

The full list of countries to be invited is as follows:—Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Central African Federation, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gold Coast, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Nepal, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand (Siam), Turkey, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, South Viet Nam and Yemen.

The representation to the conference will be at ministerial level, and it is hoped each country will be represented by the Premier or the Foreign Minister, or both.

The agenda will include proposals to ban the further testing of atomic and hydrogen weapons, support for the national liberatory movements

in Asia and Africa, and discussion of all "problems affecting national sovereignty and of racialism and colonialism." The main purpose of the conference, the five Premiers agreed, will be "the promotion of world peace and co-operation."

There was some discussion about the invitation of People's China. The following report is from the American Time magazine:

U Nu (of Burma), filled with notions of mediating between Communism and the West, proposed Communist China. "If we invite China," cautioned Rakistan's firmly anti-Communist Ali, "some other countries may not come."

"But if we do not," replied U Nu, "there will still be countries who will not attend."

"Who, for instance?" asked Ali.

"We, for instance," replied U Nu.

Time magazine comments on the conference:

"Western diplomats had been inclined to dismiss talk of an Afro-Asian conference as little more than a frisky showing-off by the young governments of the world's recently freed colonial areas. But when they read the Prime Ministers' statement of principles, the agenda and the guest list they began to worry. Still more mistrustful of a colonialism that is past than of a growing threat of Communism, filled with magned grievances against the White man, most of the governments of Africa and Asia are vulnerable for exploitation. Western officials began to shudder at the harm that might be done once such a deft and ruthless professional as Red China's Chou En-lai gets to manoeuvring the inexperienced, the emotional and the naive among the men who represent more than half of humanity."



Burmese Premier U Nu—"We, for instance."

A PARTY FOR PETROV (AND THE JUDGES)

SYDNEY.

The Petrov "Spy" Commission has got into hot water again in Australia.

This time the fuss is about a Christmas party which was held by the Commission's secretary, and which was attended not only by Petrov and police and other witnesses, but also by the judges who constitute the Commission.

Indignant Australians have been asking how it is possible for justice to be abused publicly in this way. They also want to know who paid for the party.

Not content with this sortie, the Petrov Commission also sent out Christmas cards wishing favoured addressees "every happiness during Christmas and the New Year." Dr. Evatt, leader of the Labour Party, who was debarred from attending the Commission after he had exposed it as an anti-Labour and anti-working class intrigue, was not one of the recipients.

The question of the Christmas Party and the Christmas cards is to be raised as soon as Parliament meets again. Senator W. P. Ashley (Labour) wants to know whether State money was spent on the party and the cards, who was invited to the party, to whom the

cards were sent, and on what basis these decisions were made.

He commented that "it must be the first time in world history in which a judicial tribunal has seen fit to print and send out Christmas cards of its own."

The Sydney Sun-Herald's commentator, Onlooker, added — "A Royal Commission whose executive officers throw Christmas parties and send out Christmas cards is a novelty and a dubious one."

Another Christmas event connected with the Petrov Commission was the release from a Paris prison of Mme. Ollier, the French diplomat, alleged by Petrov to have supplied him with information about troop and ship movements to Indo-China. Mme. Ollier was whisked off to France under close arrest as soon as her name appeared before the Commission. Her provisional release means that the charges against her are minor or nominal, or that an acquittal is likely.

Australian taxpayers who are footing the Commission's bill are beginning to wonder when the Petrov spy inquiry will begin to produce any evidence about spying.

Polls Show Majority in Europe Oppose Rearming Germany

LONDON.

WHILE the warmongers in the West, in the words of the Washington correspondent of the London Times, "are already looking to the day when the Federal Republic (of Germany) will be the strongest military power in Europe," the peace forces in Europe are rallying themselves for the greatest fight yet to prevent the Paris agreements from coming into force.

The recent statement by both the East German and the Soviet Governments that they were willing, "in order to remove the last obstacle" to all-German free elections, to agree to international supervision of the elections has created a profound impression in West Germany.

The Adenauer Government hastened to reject the offer as "a new link in the continuing struggle of the Soviet Union" to prevent the ratification of the Paris Agreements. But most of the West German Press has commented that it is not enough automatically to reject every Soviet move to reach agreement on Germany.

"Plenty of Germans," reported the Manchester Guardian, "think that this chance of making some progress towards the reunification and peaceful settlement of their country should not be allowed to pass."

The German Social Democratic Party—the main opposition to Adenauer's Christian Democrats—is organising a powerful campaign against the rearmament of West Germany. Demonstrations and immense poster displays will be staged all over the country with a view to preventing the ratification of the Paris Agreements when the West German Parliament (Bundestag) meets.

The party has issued thousands of posters bearing a photograph of war ruins and the words "Never again—therefore negotiate."

The West German trade union movement—whose last congress overwhelmingly rejected German rearmament—is particularly worried by the possibility that the German army will be recreated in the near future.

Declaring that rearmament could endanger democracy, Otto Brenner, chairman of the Metal Workers' Union (the largest union in West Germany), said in a New Year message: "On the basis of all our past experiences in Germany we fear that a new army could become a State within a State, bringing with it militarism of a reactionary nature."

BRINK OF DESTRUCTION

It was these considerations, said Brenner, that had led his own union conference in September, 1954 and the West German T.U.C. in October, 1954, to adopt resolutions opposing rearmament. A new war would bring mankind to the brink of destruction, he added.

"Peace is far too precious for us to leave it to the political parties to maintain. Everybody—above all the workers who bear the greatest burdens in time of war—must help to maintain peace."

Food workers from Worms (West Germany) and Wittenberg (East Germany) have jointly appealed to the people to oppose the Paris agreements and to protest against the continuation of the proceedings against the West German Communist Party for its opposition to rearmament.

EXPECT INCREASES

In their New Year message West German trade unions and their leaders have made it clear their members expect wage increases in 1955. The Right Wing chairman of the West German T.U.C. pointed out that, although official statistics showed that during the first nine months of 1954 productivity increased by 5 per cent., yet wages from February to August of that year had risen by only 0.6 per cent. Once again, in other words, the workers were being asked to bear the burdens of rearmament.

The French Trades Union Congress (C.G.T.) has also launched a great drive to halt the ratification by the French Senate of the Paris agreements.

A semi-official poll just issued by the Allenbach Institute in West

Germany shows the extent of public opposition to rearmament.

MINORITY IN FAVOUR

"Though public opinion strongly favours maintaining close ties with the West," the Institute reports, "less than half the population is in favour of German rearmament, and nearly 40 per cent. is violently opposed to any kind of military service. Most Germans believe that in a future war the Western powers would withdraw, leaving Germany to be destroyed by atom bombs."

British M.P. Emrys Hughes comments in Peace News on the results of this poll: "If there were a plebiscite or referendum in France the Treaty would have been defeated. The Government who have been pushing France into this know it."

BRITAIN TOO

"Indeed if there had been a plebiscite or referendum in Britain too, I doubt very much whether we would have approved of German rearmament."

The final touch is added by Michael Foot in the Bevanite journal Tribune: "But the combined blackmail and deception with which the Agreements have been pushed through is not the most fantastic feature of the affair. More shattering still is the exposure of the military excuse for the whole scheme at the very moment when it is to be consummated. The provision of 12 German divisions is irrelevant to the real military problem which the Western powers and the world have to face."

"The H-Bomb has made nonsense of the Pentagon plan of 1950." (1950 was the date on which the plan for rearming Germany was first hatched at U.S. military headquarters.)

STRUGGLE DEVELOPING IN BASUTOLAND

MASERU.

IN the next few months Basutoland is to see a great struggle between the Chiefs and the people on the one hand and the Administration on the other.

The cause is the report produced by Sir Henry Moore which recommends drastic changes in the status and powers of all the chiefs from the Paramount Chief herself downwards. If the proposals in the report are accepted, the way will have been smoothed for the transfer of the Protectorate to the Union.

Sir Henry Moore, a former Governor of Kenya and Ceylon, was last year appointed to examine the whole structure of African administration in Basutoland. He refused to allow evidence to be led on the need for a Legislature in Basutoland, although Lord Hailey had endorsed the need for this after his visit last year. The Moore Report completely ignores the popular demand for a real legislature for the Colony.

TRANSFER TO WHITES

The Moore report recommends that the Paramount Chief move from Matsieng to Maseru in order

that she and her advisers shall not any longer be the centre of tribal administration but should merely become members of a committee dominated by the Resident Commissioner who is subject to the instructions of the High Commissioner in Pretoria.

The Report further proposes to unseat over 1,000 Chiefs on the grounds that they are "ineffective."

The purpose of the Report is not to make chieftainship more democratic or more effective but to undermine its status, weaken its prestige and curtail its powers by transferring these to White rulers.

The chiefs are deeply disturbed and are showing considerable political activity at the present time.

The Basutoland African Congress is supporting the chiefs' opposition to the report. At a meeting held earlier this month a copy of the Moore report was burned in a public ceremony.

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