

NEW AGE

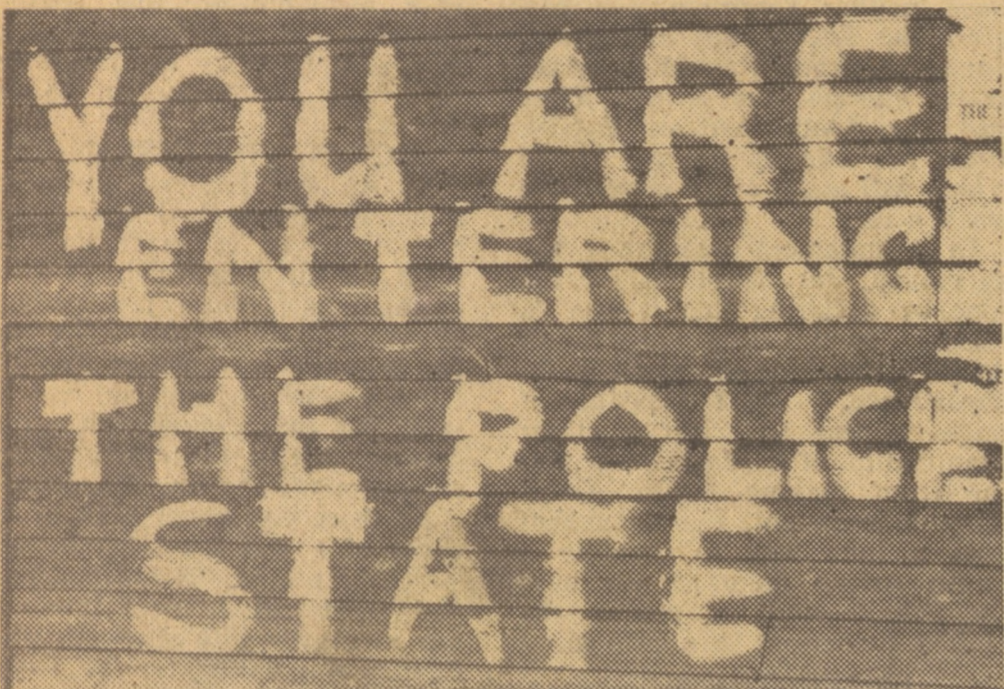
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This very appropriate slogan appeared on a wall facing the Cape Town foreshore last week. People coming into the city from the docks could not fail to see it.

ORLANDO SAYS "NO!" TO SITE AND SERVICE SCHEME

JOHANNESBURG.

THE first removals to the 1,243 site-and-service plots here are now only a week or so off, and among Africans the conviction is growing that the scheme marks the final abdication by the authorities of their housing responsibilities towards the Africans.

For many (like the residents of the Shelters) the scheme means that people will be taken from one Shantytown to another, official, Shantytown. In some cases the removal from Moroka will be just over the road to the site-and-service area. Others who have been on the Council's waiting list for years are now to get, not what they have dreamt of, a small family house, but a vacant plot of ground—serviced it is true!—for 30s. a month.

Two roomed houses in Orlando are 17s. 4d. a month; four and five-roomed houses in Johannesburg and Pretoria locations don't cost much more than 26s. and 28s. a month. But for the "privilege" of building their own homes on a stand supplied with a trough and tap and waterborne sewage in the brick privy, the people of the site-and-service scheme will have to pay 30s. a month.

The Council will lend those who apply for it, £35 to build. A generous offer? But even this £35 is really the people's own money, and has to be repaid at the rate of 12s. 6d. a month.

GOVT. PRESSURE

Johannesburg had at first to be bludgeoned into accepting this scheme. Non-acceptance meant no monies for permanent housing, the Government told the Council bluntly.

Now the Johannesburg City Council is doing its best to give an air of respectability to the scheme, and is sailing into it full steam ahead.

In the first move to the 1,243 sites, as in all future moves, one quarter of the families will come from the Orlando Shelters, one quarter from the Moroka Camp, one-quarter from the Council's waiting list, and one quarter from the squatters in the peri-urban areas.

Clr. H. Miller, chairman of the committee handling the removals, told the press last week that the Orlando and Moroka Advisory Boards had agreed to appoint a small advisory committee of four of their members who would "work with us right through on the question of detail." Mr. Miller said the Council had consulted the Boards

throughout "and we now feel we can count on their goodwill and co-operation, as they can count on ours."

MEMBERS OF THE ORLANDO BOARD TOLD NEW AGE EMPHATICALLY LAST WEEK THAT THEY HAD NOT AGREED TO CO-OPERATE ON THIS COMMITTEE, AND WOULD NOT DO SO. Moroka Board are understood to have agreed to serve.

BIG MASS MEETING

Yet another mass meeting of the residents in Orlando, and this one was described by Mr. S. Baduza as "the biggest meeting I have ever seen in Orlando," decided the site-and-service scheme was totally unacceptable under the present conditions.

There are a number of reasons for this opposition to the scheme:

- The loan of £35 is quite inadequate to build a house. The loan should be at least £250.
- The system of ethnic grouping to be applied is rejected.
- The people object to the screening to be applied by the Council before families will be admitted to the scheme.
- The monthly rental of 30s. is far too high.
- Under the Urban Areas Act Africans who are not in employment and have not worked for one employer for ten years, or lived in the area for 15 years, can be endorsed out of the urban area, and it is pointed out that this can mean that a family that has invested money in acquiring a loan to build on the serviced plots has no security at all.

The Johannesburg City Council, said Mr. Miller, will apply for a

ANOTHER AFRICAN TOWNSHIP IN DANGER

Lady Selborne Faces Removal Threat

PRETORIA.

PRETORIA'S Lady Selborne, established in 1905 and one of the last freehold areas for Africans in the whole country, is in danger. Verwoerd's voracious appetite for devouring African property rights under the pretext of eliminating "black spots" is the threat. Only a few weeks remain till the Pretoria sitting of the Group Areas Board, before which it will be proposed that Lady Selborne must be moved, and as the days go by, alarm heightens in the township.

OVER 40,000 PEOPLE LIVE HERE, AND THERE ARE JUST OVER 3,000 STANDHOLDERS.

Lady Selborne is seven miles out of town. Over the years this community has built homes, established churches and schools and created a community life. The Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, A.M.E., Wesleyan and Dutch Reformed Church all started schools in the township, and there is also a Government high school. A Government clinic operates in the buildings owned by the Anglican Church.

The township boasts two fine sports fields, built from the profits of the beerhall.

PEOPLE'S OWN EFFORT

The only municipally-owned and erected building in the entire township, residents told NEW AGE, is the beer hall (a fine comment on Western civilisation!), and apart from the one tarred road, the street lighting installed about two years ago, and the taps put in just after that, every improvement in Lady Selborne

has been achieved by the effort of the people themselves.

Why must Lady Selborne be moved? Because it is a black spot, said Mr. C. W. Prinsloo, Chief Information Officer of the Native Affairs Department. Pretoria's problem is identical with the Johannesburg "black spot" problem, he elaborated.

That's an easy way out for the N.A.D., but even if the removal of the Western Areas of Johannesburg could be justified on the grounds that it is a "black spot" (which, of course, it can't), the case of Lady Selborne is totally dissimilar. Lady Selborne is situated on the fringes of the Pretoria municipal area, perched on the slopes of the Magaliesburg, and surrounded with wide open spaces. On the one side only it faces a European-occupied area, but there is a wide buffer here.

It was Dr. Verwoerd who talked of the need for "buffers" between White and Non-White areas, but what more satisfactory buffer could he find than the Magaliesburg?

Mr. Prinsloo of the N.A.D. said most emphatically that those evacuated from Lady Selborne would be offered "some form of leasehold tenure" determined by the local authority in consultation with the Native Affairs Department. "It will definitely not be freehold," he said.

ERASE PROPERTY RIGHTS

African property-owners and residents have never had any doubts that the will of the Government to erase African property rights and the degree of independence that this brings, is the true reason for the threatened removal.

There is talk of taking Lady Sel-

borne inhabitants 17 miles out of Pretoria, but few details are known as yet, and will probably only emerge during the sessions of the Group Areas Board.

The Lady Selborne Village Committee will fight the removal plans before the Board.

Already, NEW AGE was told in Lady Selborne, building societies are refusing to advance monies now that there is talk of this new "Black Spot" and building and development in the township is at a standstill.

SEE PICTURES, CENTRE PAGES

S.A. Mothers For Peace

CAPE TOWN.

THE FEDERATION OF S.A. WOMEN have sent a cable of support to the World Congress of Mothers now being held at Lausanne in Switzerland.

"In the name of South African mothers," the cable said, "We pledge full support to the Congress in its struggle for peace, freedom, and the abolition of colonialism, and we look to the Congress for worldwide leadership in the emancipation movement of oppressed

women.

This new railway bridge at Mutual, Cape Town, is surely one of the most ludicrous exhibits of apartheid the Nationalist Government has inflicted on the people of Cape Town to date. Europeans and Non-Europeans walk up to the bridge on one pathway, but when they get to the other side, they find the path itself divided in the middle by a mesh wire fence, about waist-high. After a short distance the two halves of the path diverge, bringing the Europeans and Non-Europeans to different parts of the station. Apart from being ridiculous and an insult to anyone's intelligence, the apartheid bridge is also unworkable, and during rush hours the racial signposts are completely ignored by both Europeans and Non-Europeans.

CAPE REPORT BACK MEETING ON C.O.P.

CAPE TOWN.

A MASS conference to popularise the Freedom Charter and rally the people round the struggle for its implementation will be held in Cape Town towards the end of August.

The Cape Western Action Council of the Congress of the People, which is convening the conference, will invite delegates from liberatory organisations, trade unions, sports bodies, churches, civic and all other associations of the people in the Western Cape, to be present at the conference.

A C.O.P. conference was also held in Paarl last Saturday to enable all the delegates who did not manage to get to Kliptown to hear first-hand accounts of the great rally there.

DUTY

"It is everybody's duty to see that the Freedom Charter is made a reality, and I am sure that all delegates are working to this end," Mr. George Peake, chairman of the S.A. Coloured People's Organisation, who was the main speaker at the conference, told the gathering.

Mr. Peake praised the organisation of the Kliptown rally, described how the delegates represented practically every facet of South African life, and stressed the enthusiasm and willingness of everyone to work for freedom.





Organise the Masses

Down the rungs of history, we are shown that the cornerstone of freedom and real democracy is the masses. What is being done to educate and win them over to the side of our struggle? It should be the avowed and sacred duty of all democrats to mobilise all available forces, and put their services to the most widespread use in this direction.

It is no use the leaders roaring "Freedom in our time; democracy now" when they have not as yet conceived a system of making the masses politically conscious. This should be inaugurated at once if freedom is to come in our lifetime.

The masses are the roots and strength of Democracy and the H-bombs for freedom.

WALTER M. B. NHLAPO.
Orlando West, Johannesburg.

Uitenhage Meeting

The Uitenhage Branch of the A.N.C. has held a well-attended public report-back meeting of delegates to the Congress of the People.

Streams of people crossed the fields from all centres to hear the Freedom Charter read out. As each clause was completed, thumbs were raised in the Afrika salute.

The audience solemnly pledged to struggle until freedom is won.

A resolution was adopted condemning the Bantu Education Act and the school board committees.

M. M. PHONGOLA.
A.N.C., Uitenhage.

To Fine Pow

I appreciate the achievements made by the Congress of the People.

As for those sounds which were heard across the outskirts of the city of Johannesburg, those sounds are the rumblings of the masses on the march. They are the sounds of the creaking muscles and straining bones of the underprivileged stretching to manhood, breaking the fetters of bondage to liberty. They are the sounds of a rolling wheel, the wheel of progress, more terrible than the sound of the wheels of the chariots of Nebuchadnezzar, the echoes of a movement that will some day grind Fascism to fine powder and dust.

NAZRAT.

George Goch, Johannesburg.

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Snakes, Birds and Africans

"Today you can't go to town after 9 p.m. if you have no pass, even if your mother is dying. You wait until next morning. Our children are forced into Bantu Education schools. Snakes, birds and Africans are in cages. There is no freedom for them. There are big fences for them."

So affecting is the above extract from a letter by Violet Kutynkelwa, "Snakes, Birds and Africans" (Letterbox last week) that I have been moved to write the following verse:

A voice calls
A voice in a wilderness
A wilderness where snake, bird and African
Look out of cages.

A snake is a friend among snakes
A bird can fly even caged
An African's eye travels far
Even to the outside.

Out of the wilderness follow the three
As the voice leads the bird
And safely shielding the African
Follows the snake with the power of healing as when he had licked the wound he had made.
And the guiding voice said
'Rejoice.'

ABRAHAM BELL.

Fish Hoek, Cape

ALEX HEPPLE WRITES FOR "FIGHTING TALK"

JOHANNESBURG.—In the July issue of "Fighting Talk," now on sale, Nelson Mandela writes on the acceptance of the Bantu Authorities Act by the Transkei Bunga. The promise of "apartheid" to the Transkei and talk of removing the Whites, says Mr. Mandela, was the Big Bluff to get the Bunga accept Bantu authorities, and when they had done so, Minister Verwoerd made the announcement that the removal of the White spots would depend on the "natural development of the Natives and if they get on without them (the White spots) they would remain." Mr. Mandela discusses the tactics used by the Government to get the Transkei to capitulate, among them the deception of self-government, and pressure on the chiefs to sell out.

This issue carries also a report on the Congress of the People by Alfred Hutchinson; the full text of the Freedom Charter; an article by Phyllis Altman on trends in African journalism and short-story writing; Desmond Buckle on "First Fruits of Bandung," Arnold Selby on a recent trip to Basutoland; and an article discussing literary debates and criticism in the Soviet Union, and a review of "The Thaw," Ilya Ehrenburg's latest book.

Alex Hepple, M.P., writes on why the campaign against the Senate Bill failed. "Time is running out for the parliamentary opposition," he says. "Unless they really begin fighting and resisting the Nationalists very soon, South Africa will become a one-party State by their default."

"Fighting Talk" sells at 6d. a copy, and the annual subscription is 5s., obtainable from P.O. Box 1355, Johannesburg.

WOMEN'S DEMANDS— Reply to Teacher

YOUR correspondent, "Teacher," (Letterbox, June 23rd), raised some questions concerning the Federation of South African Women that call for a reply.

"Teacher" is correct in criticising the wording of some of the demands put forward by the women for the Freedom Charter, though it would have been more useful to all if those criticisms had been raised at the meeting called for that purpose. The demand "We want bigger and better reserves" was not included in the Freedom Charter, which states on this question, "Restriction of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land redivided amongst those who work it . . ." This is so clearly correct, that had this matter been drawn to the attention of the women's meeting, we are certain that all present would have accepted the change.

"Teacher" also criticises the demand "We demand better shopping facilities particularly in the Non-European townships," and castigates the women for their "slave" mentality in so readily accepting the concepts of "apartheid"—separate Non-European townships.

We feel this is not right, for all that has happened here is that there has been some confusion over those demands which are possible of immediate achievement, and those that require a fundamental change in our form of government and State before they can be achieved.

The Freedom Charter sets forth those fundamental changes which are essential to a democratic South Africa. For that reason, many of the hundreds of small, immediate changes demanded by people from all over the country (such as the one quoted) were not included in their original form in the final Charter. However, it is not wrong for people to fight for improvements, even under our present un-

democratic form of government, and that is why women demand and fight for better shopping facilities, or clinics for their children, or parks in existing townships, even though we know that ultimately the whole cruel system of segregation, of locations and ghettos, must be swept away.

Finally, may we in turn criticise? How can "Teacher" state that "perhaps this confusion comes because we are never encouraged to criticise what our leaders tell us?" It is simply not true. The women were anxious for criticisms and suggestions, and would have welcomed them. There can be no leadership without the active participation of the people. What prevented "Teacher" from speaking at our meeting, or from getting someone to speak for him or her?

Won't "Teacher," therefore, get in touch with us? There is plenty of work to be done, even by those whose position prevents them from speaking or appearing in public. We are sure that "Teacher" will find a direct association with the Federation of South African Women will be to our mutual benefit.

THE SECRETARY.

Tvl. Regional Federation of Women, Johannesburg.

All Human

God made Africans and Indians, Coloureds and Europeans. These people are all human beings. All races should be equal, with no colour bar and with love for all.

I was pleased when the Congress of the People fought the spite of apartheid. Freedom for All!

TEMBA PONIE.

Fairview, Port Elizabeth.

EDITORIAL

Nat. Sell-out to Imperialism

THE recently concluded agreement, whereby control of the Simonstown naval base is transferred from the British to the South African Government, has met with unanimous approval from both the Nationalist Party and United Party Press. The Nationalists, naturally, present it as a fine feather in their republican caps, and their propagandists will without doubt find it a useful talking point among those who have neither forgotten nor forgiven the British rape of the two South African Republics. And, oddly enough, the British Press and the South African English Press are equally happy. All of which will make every progressive smell a rat.

In a statement welcoming the agreement, Mr. Strijdom set the tone by declaring that it was "a logical continuation of South Africa's development towards independence." On the surface it might appear so. But a closer examination of the facts show that far from making South Africa more independent, the agreement goes a long way to creating a South African financed war base for Britain—and, of course, the United States—at Simonstown.

ENTER, THE U.S.

The British imperialists have good reason to feel pleased at the result of the negotiations. For centuries, Britain has used the Cape as a very useful base for her piratical operations against the Colonial peoples and in her struggles with rival imperialists. She will continue to do so under the new agreement, both in times of peace and war. In fact, in war time, not only Britain, but also the navies of her "allies" (i.e. the United States), will be permitted to use Simonstown as a base. As far as the difference here is concerned, the agreement merely seems to illustrate the truth of the old French saying: the more things change, the more they remain the same.

But for Britain there is one very satisfactory difference. We South Africans will now have to pay. The "Cape Argus" summed up neatly: "All this means that Britain is relieved of a heavy burden of costs which now fall to South Africa's charge."

For, apart from the £750,000 for installations originally built without our consent, we shall have to pay at least £500,000 per year for maintenance—and Britain gets a nice fat order for £18,000,000 worth of small warships for South Africa's new "navy." In addition we have been committed to the "provision for use in war-time of naval facilities elsewhere in the Union." In other words, we are committed to making Durban, Cape Town, East London, Port Elizabeth, etc. all available in a war. Bang goes any pretence that the Nats. would make any "independent" decision on whether or not to go and fight, if Britain is involved in a war. This is a more spectacular sell-out than any Natal jingo would dare to ask for.

If we do decide to stay neutral, Simonstown will be handed back to the British and the South African navy, such as it is, will have to move elsewhere! In the event of both countries being involved in a war (on the same side!) the allocation of the Simonstown facilities will be decided, not by the South Africans, but by the British Commander-in-Chief who will, moreover, take supreme command of all naval forces, ours included.

In other words, South Africa will now have to pay the piper while Britain still retains the right to call the tune.

One doesn't need much imagination to realise what happens to our "independence" and "freedom of action" under these circumstances. The big step forward

claimed by Mr. Strijdom will very soon turn into several big steps backwards. This is clearly understood by the British imperialists, and is one reason why they are not in the least worried by the change-over which was, in any case, inevitable sooner or later.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Sydney Silverman, a Labour M.P., put his finger on the spot when he asked: "Can the Prime Minister say how the making of a naval base available to this country (Britain) and its allies in time of war can possibly be reconciled with the neutrality of South Africa?"

"EGYPT, FOR INSTANCE"

Sir Anthony Eden's reply is illuminating. He said that countries had contrived to make arrangements in the past which, in international law, were not perhaps always entirely anticipated. Egypt, for instance, was neutral throughout the whole of the last war, he said, but that did not altogether prevent Britain from making any arrangements she found necessary.

So there you have it. If, in the event of a war involving Britain, we make use of our independence and refuse to become involved, our neutrality will be worth what Egypt's was during the last war—almost exactly nothing. Being "neutral" did not prevent her cities being bombed, or her frontiers invaded. And as for Egypt's "independence," any South African soldier who served in the Middle East can tell you what that was worth.

NO CHOICE!

But Mr. Strijdom doesn't believe that we shall remain neutral anyway. After reviewing the international situation he declared: "We will consequently have no choice, but will simply be dragged into such a war by these circumstances, whether we want to or not."

And it is precisely because he and his government accept that position that they are busy involving South Africa in the war preparations and intrigues of the imperialist countries. According to Strijdom, "The next step must be also to reach an agreement with the other countries which . . . share our interest in Southern Africa. It will also be our duty to arrive at agreement and cooperate with the countries concerned in this wider sphere." But so far even the imperialist countries have been scared to help Strijdom carry the message of apartheid to the rest of Africa!

SPELLS DANGER

When the Simonstown agreement is examined against this background, it becomes obvious that it is by no means a step towards independence. To protect their own interests, the South African ruling class are entering into closer alliances with the imperialist states. And the whole of history proves that no small country can embark upon such a policy without losing its independence and laying itself open to the danger of being converted into a virtual colony.

The Simonstown agreement is just as much an affront to our national dignity and an offence against our independence as was the previous arrangement. No truly national government, one which really had the interests of the South African people at heart, would have agreed to it, but would, instead, have demanded the unconditional withdrawal of the British naval forces. Foreign military and naval bases on our soil—and imperialist forces at that—can only spell danger to our people and our country.

The people of South Africa have no desire to be dragged into a war against their will. Unlike Mr. Strijdom they are more concerned with doing everything in their power to help drag the war-makers towards peace.

WORLD PEACE ASSEMBLY WILL INFLUENCE BIG FOUR TALKS

Bertrand Russell's Message Welcomed by Soviet Delegate

LONDON.

COLLECTIVE security, and not neutrality, was the key to European peace, the Soviet writer, Ilya Ehrenburg, told the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki.

Referring to those who advocate the establishment of a "neutral belt" in the centre of Europe, he said: "I must tell you in the name of the Soviet delegation that we understand the supporters of neutrality. . . . The Soviet Union will strictly respect the sovereignty and security of any State which decides to conduct a peaceful independent policy."

However, neutrality of one or other State could not solve the problem of the security of Europe.

"We do not think that the neutralisation of some European countries means the security of Europe; behind these neutralised States would lie countries which did not belong to the neutral zone."

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER?

Ehrenburg asked: "Would it not be better that all should unite for the security of all?" The organisation of European collective security could be linked with the creation of a body whose members assumed firm and well-defined responsibilities.

Replying to the charge that the division of the world into two blocs was the inevitable result of Communists' belief that their cause would triumph throughout the world, Ehrenburg said:

"Yes, we do believe that the future belongs to a society in which the means of production are no longer in private hands."

But, he went on, American capitalists believe the future belongs to private enterprise, Christians believe that Christianity will triumph, and Socialists that the world is moving towards Socialism.

NOT BELIEFS BUT BASES

"It was not belief in these that caused a threat to peace, but military bases and alliances. No one said the existence of the Vatican or the Socialist International was a threat to peace."

"No Communist has ever said that for Communism to thrive war must be unleashed."

To the people of the United States, Ehrenburg said: "I would like to express our warm feelings toward the American people. The time has come to put an end to the evil tradition of the cold war. The time has come to work together, to meet each other, to make friends. I believe our sentiments are shared by all sensible and honest Americans."

RUSSELL'S MESSAGE

A striking impression was made on the Assembly by the six-point

message specially written for the Assembly by the British philosopher Bertrand Russell.

He stressed that world war was the greatest of all the dangers that confronted humanity; that if it occurs H-Bombs would be used; that those scientists who know most about H-Bombs are the most gloomy about the prospects for humanity; that limited prohibitions of weapons are not of any value, and that the only hope for peace lies in persuading the people with power and influence that they can gain nothing by war.

As a first step he wants a small number of men of "the highest scientific eminence" to make an agreed statement on the effects of nuclear war which should be presented to governments on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

EINSTEIN SIGNED

(Such a statement, drawn up by the late Professor Einstein and signed by seven other world-famous scientists, was in fact released this week. It said: "We appeal, as human beings, to human beings. Remember your humanity and forget the rest."

"If you can do so, the way lies open to a new paradise, but if you cannot there lies before you the risk of universal death."

"The authorities are unanimous in saying that a war with H-Bombs might possibly put an end to the human race. It is feared that if many H-Bombs are used, there will be universal death—sudden only for a minority, but for the majority a slow torture of disease and disintegration."

"FINE CONTRIBUTION"

The Soviet reaction to Russell's statement was given by Alexander Korneichuk, Vice-President of the Ukraine. While he did not agree with Russell's pessimism about the power of the people to prevent the use of atomic weapons, he thought the British philosopher had made a fine contribution to the discussion.

The Soviet people were aware that they would suffer as much as any other nation if an atomic war should start. No Russian believed

that Soviet strength was greater than that of any possible enemy. What they did believe was that mankind, both in the East and in the West, was sufficiently strong to prevent war.

The French writer, Jean Paul Sartre, said the kind of peace the world wanted was not a coexistence that meant the perpetuation of two blocs.

"We should gain nothing if the U.S.S.R. and the U.S. remained in a

state of passive indifference to each other. To be real, coexistence should mean co-operation between the two great atomic powers.

"WHAT DO WE MEAN?"

"What do we mean when we demand peace? Is it only a matter of perpetuating a lack of conflicts, of postponing indefinitely a recourse to arms by realising some compromise?"

"If our peace was only that it would be a mere continuation of the cold war. The cold war is surely better than war itself, but we should indeed be in a desperate state if our efforts were only directed to putting war off

from day to day."

There must be coexistence of all nations despite the differences of their regimes, Sartre said, and this could only be realised if people succeeded in breaking up the blocs.

Sartre was asked by a journalist: "How would you choose between Peace and Liberty?" He replied:

"Our peace can have only one meaning. It is the possibility for nations and men to master their destiny. In a word it is liberty. That it seems to me is the common purpose of our enterprise. We wish to build peace through liberty and to give liberty to the peoples through peace."

It is generally agreed that the Assembly brought together the most representative collection of people's leaders from all countries to discuss peace that the world has ever seen. Though its discussions and findings have been suppressed by the daily press in most Western countries, there is no doubt the Assembly will have a profound effect on the Big Four meeting due to take place in Geneva next week.

FRENCH, DEFEATED IN ASIA, FACE DEFEAT IN AFRICA

Terrible Oppression in Tunis, Algeria and Morocco

LONDON.

FOLLOWING the time-honoured practice of the imperialists, the French authorities are trying to put down the liberation movement in their North African territories by a combination of bribery, trickery and terrorism.

Recent events in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and the Cameroons have demonstrated France's determination, in the words of the 'New York Herald Tribune,' not to "abandon its place in North Africa despite attacks on it at the Bandung conference as a colonial exploiter of the North African natives."

In Tunisia the liberation movement has developed so strongly that France was compelled to negotiate with the Neo-Destour (New Independence) Movement, and recently concluded an agreement granting a limited form of home rule to the territory.

The agreement reserves to France, however, vital rights in the spheres of defence, foreign policy, the army and police, and thus still preserves for her the reality of power. However, the concession was enough for her to win over a section of the Neo-Destour leadership. The exiled party leader, Habib Bourguiba, was allowed to return to Tunisia and was given a tremendous reception. Even he, however, declared that the agreement was "only a step towards independence," and said that if Tunisia did not get complete independence within 15 years "she would fight France, and even accept Soviet help."

An important section of Neo-Destour still refuses to accept the agreement as adequate. This group, headed by the exiled secretary-general of the Neo-Destour, Salah Ben Youssef, demands independence now.

FRENCH TERRORISTS

On the other side of the fence, the white settlers in the French territories have been behaving much like their colleagues in Kenya and Malaya, and have been mounting their own campaign of terrorism against the local population, and particularly against the more liberal members of their own community who favour some sort of agreement with the indigenous population. The white terrorists, aided on many occasions by persons in high places in the police forces, have been responsible for a number of outrages and murders which for the most part have gone unpunished.

On the signing of the Tunisian agreement (which has still to be ratified by the French Assembly and the Bey of Tunis), the settlers' association called upon the Europeans in Tunisia "to unite to prevent the application of all measures interfering with their dignity, their

persons or their wealth and those of their Tunisian friends."

Although the agreement has resulted in a lessening of tension in Tunisia itself, it has of course accelerated the tempo of the liberation movement in the neighbouring territories of Algeria and Morocco. In both territories brutal police action has forced the local population to develop the beginnings of a powerful guerilla movement to defend their interests and further their claim for independence. The French have replied by pouring troops into North Africa and preparing for a military showdown.

SAME AS VIETNAM!

In the 'Paris Tribune des Nations' a certain Colonel X wrote that the French in Algeria were proceeding militarily along the same lines which had proved so disastrous in Vietnam.

And the American 'Newsweek' commented that "French officials (in Algeria) admit privately a real and crucial war is on—one they may lose even when reinforcements arrive from Paris."

The French behave towards the local population with all the brutality and arrogance which mark the relations between the Herren-volk and the lesser breeds. The 'Manchester Guardian' reported last month that the Algerian police and soldiers have been destroying whole villages where guerillas are believed to have been given refuge. Men, women and children are turned out into the open, their belongings pillaged or burnt, many of them assaulted or even murdered.

The following details of methods used by the French police to terrorise prisoners were recently published in the clandestine Algerian publication "The People's Voice":

FRENCH CIVILISATION

"Taken to the police station, the person accused (of incitement) is first stripped naked (no Algerian is ever questioned clothed) and then placed in the midst of 4 to 12 policemen, arrogant and fuming

with racial hatred.

"One slaps his face, another snuffs out his cigarette on the accused's hip . . . a third gives him a few light blows with a ruler on the genitals; a fourth ridicules his physique or utters insults to his wife or sister; finally they all overwhelm him with punches and kicks and blows to the ear, inflicting a mass of injuries."

"Only after administering this 'hors D'oeuvre' do they ask him certain questions or flatly give him a document to sign . . . If the accused knows nothing and refuses to sign a false declaration, the 'Boss' tells one of the policemen to take the accused to 'Number One.' " The paper then describes the terrible torture which follows.

STRONG PROTESTS

According to Edmund Stevens, the correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, a group of leading citizens of Lyon, France, including prominent clergymen and members of Parliament, recently addressed an open letter to the Moroccan Affairs Ministry and asked:

"Is it true, as was stated in the hearing of December 1, 1954, that during the police investigations 45 prisoners were confined for more than 25 hours in a room measuring 10 feet square, and that 14 of them died? Is it true that torture was used on the prisoners for the purpose of obtaining admissions?"

Stevens then gave details of the mass trial of "85 Moroccans accused of participating in the Oujda riot of August 16, 1953." During the trial, Stevens wrote, the prosecutor, without denying the accusations of torture, objected that they were "not relevant to the present trial"; defence lawyers, appointed by the court, "were bombarded with threatening letters and phone calls advising them to get out of town."

Eventually 15 defendants were sentenced to death, 12 to life imprisonment, others to imprisonment for from five to 20 years; 18 were acquitted.

These methods, however, are proving completely unsuccessful. The liberation movement grows apace, and day by day its organisation becomes stronger and more tested in battle with the imperialists.

The Little Dead Girl

'Tis I here knocking at your door,
At every heart, at every head,
Don't be scared if you don't see me,
No one can see a child who's dead.

Ten years ago I was alive,
At Hiroshima my life sped,
A little girl just six that day,
I'll never grow up now I'm dead.

First burning fire caught up my hair,
Then both my eyes, and my hands next,
My body's now a heap of ash,
Cinders and ash, with cold wind mixed.

I ask of you no gift for me,
You cannot hug me to your heart,
A child burned like a paper scrap,
Can't laugh or taste a sugar sweet.

I'm knocking, knocking at your door,
Your name as gift is all I ask,
Sign so that children shan't be slain,
Sign so they still may taste and laugh.

NAZIM HIKMET.



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