

# BRITISH HOPE TO DELAY NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENCE

## "No Force On Earth Can Stop Us"—Zik

LONDON.—Big business interests in Britain, anxious to impede and delay every step towards Nigerian independence, have used the present constitutional crisis in the colony as an excuse to call off the London conference to draft an independent constitution which was to have been held next month.

Nigeria is the biggest and potentially the most wealthy of Britain's colonies and the imperialists are anxious to keep full control for as long as possible.

The crisis has developed as the result of a conflict between the Prime Minister of the Eastern Region, Dr. Nnamde Akikiwe, popularly known as Zik, and the British Governor, Sir Clement Pleass.

The dispute has arisen as the result of the decision of the government to deposit part of its funds in an African bank, the African Continental. In the past the British have insisted that all money must be deposited in British-owned banks.

The Nigerians argue that they are entitled to deposit their money where it can be used for Nigerian development and they see no reason why their savings should be used by British capitalists.

### "WE MUST DECIDE!"

"We must decide where our money must be banked," Dr. Akikiwe declared in a telegram of protest to the British colonial secretary following the Governor's ban on the use of the African bank.

"You cannot properly interfere in order to protect the British banking monopoly."

The struggle is in essence one based on the clash of interests between the rising Nigerian capitalist class—Zik is personally involved for he is a former director of the African Continental Bank—and the formerly all-powerful, but declining, British capitalist class. But insofar as his stand weakens the power of foreign domination Zik has the backing of the huge masses of people who have no directorship in banks, or even savings to put in them.

In an all-out attack on Governor Pleass, Zik describes him as "an obstinate character who cannot adapt himself to contemporary British colonial policy and who should not be allowed to continue to roost in a place he has served as dictator for almost thirty years."

### "PLAYING POLITICS"

In a message to the Colonial Secretary Zik says: "You will re-

member that I warned you some time ago that unless you removed Governor Pleass and Attorney-General Briggs from Eastern Nigeria you will never have peace and satisfactory government there because they are always playing politics with us instead of adapting themselves to the new constitution and allowing us to run our affairs.

"Being black people does not mean that we are impervious to justice and decency. Being white does not make Colonial governors paragons of perfection," the Prime Minister declared.

And in a clear warning that the people are aware of the forces behind the scenes, Zik says firmly:

"If your continued attitude of antagonism against Eastern Nigeria is a pretext for stultifying the forthcoming Constitutional Conference, then you have misfired, because there is no force on earth to impede our march towards political as well as economic freedom.

"WE ARE READY FOR ANY EVENTUALITY AND WILL NOT STAND NONSENSE FROM ANYONE."

# YES, I DID SPY— Sanders Admits

## Hungarian Action Was Just

LONDON.—Edgar Sanders, a British business-man who was the centre of an international furore following his imprisonment in Hungary on a charge of espionage, has told the London newspaper Reynolds News that the charges were fully justified.

At the time of his arrest Britain and the U.S. claimed that the charge was a frame-up and Sanders' name was in all the headlines as a "victim of Communism."

As a reprisal Britain enforced a trade embargo on Hungary which cost that country six million pounds a year in trade.

"The time has come to reveal everything," Sanders told Reynolds News. "I certainly passed information to the British military attache in Budapest."

### Bevan on the Bomb

LONDON.

"I solemnly say to the churches of mankind, to the leaders of religion here and in the United States, that they are guilty of blasphemy!" said Mr. Aneurin Bevan, British Labour leader last week in an angry denunciation of church support for the hydrogen bomb.

"They describe the Russians as a nation of God-haters, as a nation of atheists. Well, comrade, strip from your minds all the delusions you are fond of harbouring . . . It is from the God-haters that the proposal to ban H-bombs has come, and it is by the God-lovers that the proposal has been rejected! Is there any Christian minister who has a reply?"

### NOT FULL STORY

Commenting on his confession read to the court, Sanders said it was correct as far as it went. "But," he boasted, "I never told them the full story. Too many of my chums would have been in danger."

Sentenced to 13 years imprisonment, Sanders was released after 3 years in exchange for freedom for Lee Meng, a Malayan women member of the liberation movement who had been sentenced to death by the British.

After all the fuss the British Foreign Office has, in Sanders' view, treated him a little casually. He is now a bus driver, and he told Reynolds News bitterly: "The Foreign Office seems to have no further use for me except to tell me that it will cost me £10 to get my kit sent from the legation in Budapest."

### India's Vice-President Speaks in Moscow

LONDON.

If the West does not respond to the latest Soviet moves on disarmament and the relaxation of international tension it will be held responsible by the people of the world for the continuation of the cold war and the armaments race, India's Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan told Soviet radio listeners and television viewers during his Moscow visit.

He praised the "courageous Soviet recognition of past mistakes."

"The Soviet Union would seem to me to be at a turning of a chapter. Both within and without, considerable changes are noticeable. There is a relaxed atmosphere in this country and more freedom of movement and thought," he said.

### Ceylon Riots Over Language

CEYLON.

There have been serious riots here, with a complete breakdown of communications in several areas, following the government decision that Sinhalese would be the country's only official language in the future.

This has caused intense dissatisfaction among the Tamil-speaking people, who constitute a substantial minority of the population and are the majority in several areas.

Communist Party leader Peter Keuneman in a speech to parliament last week said that the conflict between the Tamils and the Sinhalese was precisely what was desired by the imperialists, who were trying to offset their defeat in the general elections. He urged that the Tamils should have full language rights and should be free to use their own language in Parliament and everywhere else, as well as having the opportunity of education in their own tongue.

# BRITAIN DARE NOT FIGHT EGYPT

Says MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

## "No Troops & Obsolete Air Force"

LONDON.—In spite of the intensity of the war propaganda in Britain, France and, to a much smaller extent, the United States, it now seems clear that the imperialist powers have been forced to the conclusion that any attempt at military intervention in Egypt would be disastrous to their own interests.

But there are still voices calling for war. Such papers as the London Times continue to adopt a war-like attitude and see force as the only solution.

Said a Times editorial last week: "If Nasser is allowed to get away with his coup all the British and other Western interests in the Middle East will crumble . . . Quibbling over whether or not he was 'legally entitled' to make the grab will delight the finicky and comfort the fainthearted, but entirely misses the real issues."

And the Daily Eypress has led the popular press in a completely unabashed call for the sending of troops.

But there are very good reasons why the imperialist powers have hesitated so long where in the past they would not have paused for even a moment before ordering the soldiers into action.

### BRITAIN IS WEAK

In a series of forthright reports the right-wing Manchester Guardian has given very good reasons for this hesitation. They are that "British strength in this part of the world is so diminished, so entangled with existing commitments, and armed all too often with such inferior weapons."

It adds: "Without reinforcements from Britain—or help from Israel—British forces in the

Middle East are simply not competent to challenge Egypt.

### EGYPT IS STRONG

"The most striking British deficiencies have been in the air, thanks to the supply of modern Czech aircraft to the Egyptian air force. The R.A.F. in the Middle East is equipped with ageing and obsolete planes."

And what of the troops on Cyprus who are kept there specifically for such a crisis as this one? They are so unpopular there that they cannot afford to send out a single battalion—and in fact themselves need reinforcements to prevent their defeat at the hands of the Cyprus liberation movement. In fact, says the paper, "all the disadvantages of Cyprus as a British base are being clearly displayed in the present emergency."

So, advised the Manchester Guardian, "All in all it might be wise to temper the present British mood of righteous jingoism with a touch of caution."

### ISRAEL IS CAUTIOUS

As for the possibility of "help from Israel," the paper's correspondent in Tel Aviv was not very opti-

mistic. "The decline of Western prestige engenders inevitably renewed gropings in Israel for some brand of neutralism as yet undiscovered.

"Disappointment with Washington and London is bound to lead Israel closer towards the Soviet orbit in spite of the fact that it is Russia upon which Colonel Nasser relies."

### LABOUR IS SHAMEFUL

In Parliament, to the shame of the Labour Party, its leader Gaitskell has eagerly followed the Eden war line, but the rank and file party

members are in revolt. Fifty Labour back-benchers have sent a resolution to the party executive insisting that no military action be taken, and deploring "the provocative language used on both sides."

It is clear that outside of Britain and France there are few people indeed who are prepared to burn their fingers in Egypt.

In South Africa, whose reaction has been typical of that in the dominions, the Nats have been very cool indeed to the idea of military intervention. And the U.P. which takes the word from London and was at first hot for action has calmed down a little.

As the Cape Times editorial said on Monday: "The crucial difficulty . . . is what the Western powers are to do if the London conference agrees on international control and Egypt rejects the proposal outright. It is unthinkable that Britain and France should attempt to impose the will of the conference by force."

# PHILIPPINES GOVT. LEADER DENOUNCES U.S. BASES

MANILA.—The world-wide wave of opposition to the continued presence of United States military bases has spread to the Philippines, formerly among the most docile of U.S. satellites.

In a strong denunciation of the government's 99-year lease of bases to the U.S., Mr. Miguel Cuneco, the Chairman of the Philippine parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, declared that it had deprived the country of the freedom of action necessary in many aspects of its exercise of sovereignty.

The bases had brought prostitution, gambling, drunkenness and other evils, said the House Chair-

man in a formal press statement.

He stressed that the disposition of national territory should be carried out by the Congress and not left to the president, as had been the case with the lease. The president's negotiations had been "shrouded in mystery" and the people had had no part in the unilateral handing over of land to the Americans, he declared angrily.



## TEN YEARS AGO THE AFRICAN MINERS WERE ON STRIKE....

IT was on August 12, 1946, exactly 10 years ago that 55,000 African mine workers, under the leadership of the militant African Mine Workers' Union, came out on strike to demand a wage of 10s. a day. This heroic action was the culmination of a 2-year campaign for higher wages and better conditions.

The gold mining industry employs well over 350,000 recruited migrant labourers and is the political and economic basis for the South African Government's policy of cheap labour in the country. So to go out to organise the hundreds of thousands of Africans who work deep down in the bowels of the earth was to invite the wrath not only of the mining magnates but also of the South African Government.

One has only to recall that 1946 mine strike when workers of the Basuto, Xosa, Pondo, Shangaan and other tribes withdrew their labour in a quiet and disciplined manner and had then to face the whole of the police force, with the army standing by.

As the workers gathered peacefully outside their places of

work that August they were stormed, tear-gassed and baton-charged by the police. Not satisfied with this, the police opened fire and killed more than 17 workers. Numbers suffered bullet wounds and baton injuries. Trying to justify the drowning of this workers' protest in blood, the Smuts Government arrested the president and secretary of the Union, as well as many others. These were charged with conspiracy, but were found guilty and sentenced on an alternative charge of aiding and abetting an illegal strike.

Still not satisfied, the Government tried to find scapegoats in the members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of South Africa and they were charged with sedition. After a protracted trial and fierce legal battle the case collapsed when the Crown was unable even to frame an indictment.

This gallant struggle of the African miners has gone down into history as one of the greatest industrial actions that has ever taken place in the country.

Let the 10th anniversary of the great industrial upheaval



J. B. Marks, banned president of African Mine Workers' Union.

mark the revival of a powerful Union of African miners and open an era of higher wages and improved conditions for all non-white workers employed in the gold mining industry.

## VERWOERD WAS SCARED TO ENTER NEW BRIGHTON

PORT ELIZABETH.

AS soon as news trickled through that Dr. Verwoerd was coming to Port Elizabeth, the women of the Eastern Cape prepared to demonstrate. Rumour had spread that Dr. Verwoerd, who had come to address a Nationalist meeting in the City on the 10th, would visit New Brighton and the Site and Service Scheme.

From midday, when Dr. Verwoerd's plane was due to arrive, women pickets guarded the two main approaches to New Brighton. Also at various other points about the township groups of women were posted. The largest single contingent of over 200 women was stationed at the Site and Service Scheme.

The pickets carried scores of banners bearing slogans in English and Xosa: "Down With Black Belsens," "Release Gwentshe," "We Want Houses, Nothovels," "Away With Bantu Education," "Lower Rents," "Increase Wages," "Xas Umqulu Wenkululeko" (Support the Freedom Charter), "The Suez Belongs to Egypt," "Asilamkeli Ipasi" (We refuse the pass).

A large number of other banners carried slogans from the Freedom

Charter.

After reports had come that Verwoerd was not going to visit New Brighton a few cars pulled up at one of the secondary schools. Thinking that it was the Minister, the women ran to the place where they stood at the gate awaiting their quarry. Uniformed police in vans and wire-covered trucks warned the women to disperse and claimed that they were taking part in an illegal gathering. The women declared that as long as Verwoerd was inside they were not dispersing. They refused to accept any assurance that he was not there and that he would not visit New Brighton.

When the visitors came out the women gave the Afrika salute and went to join the contingent at the Site and Service Scheme where it was expected the Minister would come and see his pet idea translated into the grim and brutal reality that it is.

Here the women joined in the singing of Freedom songs as they kept watch, and checked every car that passed.

Minister Verwoerd declined an invitation by the Mayor to enter New Brighton, claiming that he was not on an official visit.

## NEXT STEP IN ANTI-PASS CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

conference. It was not enough for someone at the conference to get up and cry 'We will never carry passes!' or even 'We must burn the passes!' The Government did not work in a simple straight-forward manner but chose its own ways and times.

"We might have demonstrations ten times as big as Thursdays, but still women could be fooled, intimidated or tricked into accepting reference books. The Government does not come to Orlando and Sophiatown and say 'Tomorrow we are issuing reference books to all the women in one area.' They bring in truck-loads from the farms, who are photographed before they know what it is all about. Or they take nurses or teachers and threaten them with the loss of their jobs if they don't produce reference books.

ONLY BEGINNING

"After tremendous demonstrations it is easy to feel we are well on the way to triumph. The truth is we are only beginning. Mighty demonstrations still only touch the fringe of the women. There are women of the reserves, the farms, the countryside and the tiny towns whom our message has not reached."

Mrs. Ngoyi stressed that the way ahead was one of hard, patient teaching and organisation in every area, house by house, street by street. "Let us obtain pledges, individually given, from every woman in area after area that they will not accept or carry these so-called reference books.

"Our watchwords for the coming year must be ORGANISE! UNITE!" said Mrs. Ngoyi.

The conference rose to its feet to salute the success of the Pretoria demonstration with the shout "Down with Strijdom, Away with Passes!" then settled down to deliberate on the resolution and speeches from the platform which traced the shape of the next year's battle.

Said Miss Bertha Mashaba "We must not be complacent. We must

organise more demonstrations in our areas and we must demand a reply from Strijdom and Verwoerd."

The conference heard Mrs. Frances Baard of Port Elizabeth on the section of the Freedom Charter "There shall be homes, security and comfort"; Mrs. Helen Joseph who gave a comprehensive account of the development of the Women's Federation and its victories; Mrs. Katie White of Cape Town who spoke on the abolition of the Cape Coloured municipal vote; Mrs. Fatima Seedat who spoke on the Group Areas Act.

The Federation's first constitution was adopted by the delegates.

## MONARE ESCAPES FROM EXILE

(Continued from page 1)

Now and then Monare was visited by the Native Commissioner. He had asked repeatedly for a subsistence grant from the Government, said Monare, but except for the fact that the Commissioner seemed to be having long correspondence with head office about Monare, nothing came of the requests.

Monare lived on food parcels sent by friends and relatives.

The shack had no bed, no chairs. Monare provided his own stretcher and dishes and cooking pots. Windows were put in only after he had lived there for a year. When he complained he was told by the police captain that he had a place waiting for him.

Cut off almost like a castaway on a remote island, Monare decided last week to defy his banishment order. His mind made up, he swung the door of the corrugated iron shack behind him, and walked out of the Glen Red district.



Expecting a visit from Verwoerd, women of Port Elizabeth whipped up a quick demonstration last week.

## TUC OVERTURES

JOHANNESBURG.

This month officials of the S.A. Trade Union Council made the second attempt within a year to set up a "liaison committee" with a handful of African unions, some affiliated to SACTU and others not.

The TUC operates under a colour-bar constitution and the former Trades and Labour Council was scuttled by the right-wing unions on this very issue of a colour bar that kept the African unions out of the new federation. Yet now the TUC is trying to woo some of the very unions it booted out just two years ago.

The attempt is clearly one to undermine SACTU.

It is also an attempt to stave off I.L.O. and other international criticism that a trade union federation which operates a colour bar can make no claim to be representative of the South African workers.

The TUC officials convened a meeting of the African Tobacco Workers' Union, the African Che-

mical Workers' Union, the African Women's Garment Union and the S.A. Clothing Workers, suggesting that these bodies come on to a liaison body with the TUC—in a distinctly subordinate position. The TUC officials attacked SACTU as "irresponsible."

The TUC constitution permits liaison with a Non-European trade union federation; the Council of Non-European Trade Unions (which dissolved in favour of SACTU) or any other; but it is doubtful whether TUC affiliates realise what their officials are up to in these approaches. Above all, do the members of the African unions approached by the TUC know about the talks their officials have been drawn into?

FOR NON-EUROPEANS

Have your own home built to your own design in good locality. Bonds arranged over long and short periods. 30 Melville Road, Plumstead, Cape.

INDONESIA, MALAYA AND SINGAPORE have all decided to ignore the U.S. embargo forbidding the sale of rubber to China.

## Racing at Ascot

The following are Damon's selections:

Milnerton Tops: McCLARTY'S SELECTED. Danger, Chopstick.

Milnerton Bottoms A: RODFELL. Danger, Real Phoenix.

Milnerton Bottoms B: SAAIFONTEIN. Danger, McDeva.

Ascot Handicap A: DE KLERK'S SELECTED. Danger, Miraculous.

Progress Six: PHOENIX STAR. Danger, Roenie.

Owner's Progress Five: REX. Danger, Philipolis.

3 and 4-Year-Old Stakes: DE KLERK'S SELECTED. Danger, Clovelly.

Maiden 4-Year-Old Plate: NO DANGER. Danger, Last Word.



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