

# MIDDLE EAST

IMPERIALISTS ARE  
DESPERATE—  
AND DANGEROUS

EGYPT'S stand before the United Nations is now clear. Backed by the socialist countries and the whole Asia-Africa group of nations she insists that:

- The British, French and Israeli troops must get right out of Egypt;
- The United Nations force must be restricted in size and composition, must not include soldiers from Canada or any other Commonwealth country, and must agree to leave if Egypt so wishes;
- Britain or France are not to do the work involved in clearing the Canal for the passage of ships;
- The Canal must remain nationalised and under Egyptian control.

With the overwhelming backing of the great majority of people all over the world for these thoroughly reasonable demands, Eden and Mollet and the forces of bloodthirsty imperialism which they represent are in a tight spot. For if Egypt's demands are put into practice imperialism will have lost its desperate gamble in the Middle East—the British and French monopolists will be out.

They are faced with—at best—the United States jumping in and seizing their spoils; or—at ghastly worst—the winning of independence by the countries of the Middle East, and an end to imperialist exploitation of the Arab peoples.

## WORLD STAGE

By Spectator

With the prospect of disaster of this magnitude there can be no doubt at all that, like a desperate gambler, Eden will increase the stakes and try for another throw. He does not seem to care if as a result world peace is imperilled and mankind is brought face to face with the horror of nuclear war.

### Little To Lose

The British have thrown all pretence at moral justification for their actions to the winds. The Tories are revealed in their naked savagery—they have little left to lose and are befuddled by the mirage of restoring their world power.

The original announcement of Anglo-French intentions was made by Eden, who said the purpose was "to separate the belligerents and to guarantee freedom of transit through the Canal by ships of all nations."

Both of these claims are proved a hollow mockery. In the first place all the evidence shows that far from being aimed at "separating the belligerents" the whole deliberate Eden policy included egging Israel on to the attack on Egypt.

The British government admits that it knew Israel was mobilising on October 25th—five days before the attack. But it did nothing to avert hostilities.

### They Knew

The Israeli invasion when it came was launched from Eilat at the southern extremity of Israel. The five-day military build-up which preceded it was directly observable from the British military base at Aqaba, immediately across the Jordan border.

THE BRITISH COULD NOT POSSIBLY CLAIM IGNORANCE OF THE ISRAELI INTENTIONS. But they did nothing to stop the attack.

Stop the attack? All the evidence on the contrary is that they were the sponsors of the attack. The Washington Post, Time, The Observer, France-Observateur and L'Express have all printed lengthy documentation showing that the French actively assisted Israel in preparing the attack. So overwhelming is this evidence that the French have not even troubled with the formality of an official denial. Who would be so naive as to think that Britain didn't know what France was doing?

"It seems more than likely," the New Statesman and Nation noted on November 17th, "that Eden and Selwyn Lloyd—if not the rest of the Cabinet—were made privy to France's plans during their secret meeting with Mollet and Pineau in Paris on October 16th, from which all interpreters and advisers were excluded."

So much for the claim that Britain and France stepped in "to separate the belligerents."

### Free Transit

And what about the other leg of the claim—the pious desire to "guarantee freedom of transit through the Canal."

If this was Britain's intention what an awful mess-up there was. Only 25 miles of Canal—less than a quarter—was held by the Anglo-French troops after six days of bitter fighting. And the Canal is now blocked tight.

Egypt completely foiled Britain's military master-minds. The British cabinet acted, according to the New Statesman, only after it had received assurances from British Intelligence that the location of all Egyptian block-ships was known, and that they could be destroyed before the Egyptians could get them into position.

But the British only succeeded in destroying ONE block-ship. The remaining 32 were sunk by the Egyptians exactly where they had planned to sink them so that the Canal would be bottled up.

The imperialist countries just can't get over their racist notions that colonial people are a corrupt inefficient lot who can be bought cheaply or cheated easily. But they're learning.

### Number Three

And now, their original dishonest reasons for aggression exposed for anyone to see, the Tories, without a trace of shame, have swung over to a third explanation.

A Soviet plot in the Middle East!

The Tories suddenly announced "sensational figures" of Soviet arms supplied to Egypt. The Tory press (in South Africa too) broke out into lurid headlines.

But people who could read were not impressed. For the Tory "discovery" was another flagrant act of dishonesty. The very facts dramatically announced in Parliament last week had been printed by the London Times as long ago as October 30th. And in the New Statesman on June 23rd.

And to cap it all the Israelis announced that there was twice as much war material from western sources as from the socialist countries among the Egyptian arms captured by them.

The British even blundered in inventing the alleged code name of the Soviet "plot"—Operation Mena. "Soviet military authorities do not use code names, but numbers," the New Statesman noted dryly.

### No Flights

And Turkey, Persia and Iraq announced that the alleged flights of Soviet planes making deliveries had not passed over their territories as the Tories claimed. After all, these countries should know. They are equipped with an early-warning radar system set up by the British under the Baghdad Pact.

Further, the number of Soviet ships delivering cargo to Egyptian ports is chartered by Lloyds—and observers who had watched these ships unload testify that goods were unloaded openly with no attempt at security precautions.

Though one after the other the Tory lies are flung back in the Tory teeth there is no end to imperialist mischief-making.

### U.S. Climbs In

In the present Middle-East cauldron there are already signs that the U.S. has taken the expected steps to climb in. There has been a "revolution" in Lebanon and a government "friendly to the U.S." has replaced the government which was formerly "friendly to the French."

And it looks as though Britain will lose out too in Iraq the "only permanent ally of England," where Said Nuri Pasha might, according to the Jewish Times, "be unable to continue his traditional pro-British policy in view of the growing anti-British feeling amongst the Iraq masses."

### Syria

Syria, whose President has just returned from a friendship visit to the Soviet Union, has clearly come within the sights of the imperialist forces—the build-up is now taking place for some sort of onslaught, direct or undercover, to destroy the independent government of Syria.

But manoeuvre as they may—one thing stands out sharp and clear on the world stage. The time when imperialism could bully small powers into docile submission is past.

Nowadays there are volunteers ready and able to form the sort of International Brigade which can beat Britain, France—and the U.S.—skidding to a halt.

Imperialism will not willingly accept such a situation. It will use every trick and deceit, every cowardly blow or savage act, to stave off its end.

The world will stay alert to the need to be on guard to protect the peace.



A school catering for 552 Kliptown children must be moved on—to the Lenasia ghetto. And this after the Education Department had already started erecting a new school building. But in the interests of herding the Indian people into Lenasia, what had been built was demolished!

# INDIAN SCHOOLS ORDERED TO MOVE TO LENASIA

## Bid To Force Parents To Follow Their Children

JOHANNESBURG.

AS the Government gears up Group Areas Board hearings and proclamations all over the country, even more open pressure is being used to force Indians into the Ghettoes set aside for them.

Indian school children are now being made the hostages for their community.

Lenasia on the Potchefstroom road is the first Indian ghetto earmarked in the country. Though at first intended only for all Johannesburg Indians, these last few weeks the Nationalist Town Councils of Roodepoort-Maraiburg, Krugersdorp and Randfontein have declared that they will proclaim no group areas for Indians within their municipalities, but their entire Indian populations are also to go to Lenasia. There is even the possibility that other Transvaal towns will also try to "dump" their Indian communities at Lenza.

But the Lenasia group area is mainly bare veld (except for two schools, township offices and less than two dozen houses now going up); and with few exceptions Indians everywhere have up to now vowed they will never move voluntarily into a ghetto.

This is where the authorities have stepped in to use Indian school children to force their community into Lenasia.

### MARCHING ORDERS FOR SCHOOLS

In 1954 the Education Department closed down the Booyse's Indian School and instructed the children to enrol at the new Lenasia high school. The Indian community boycotted the ghetto school and started their own private school in Fordeburg: the Central Indian High School. During 1955 no more than 40 children were enrolled at the Lenasia school. This year though some children from Kliptown and other areas have been attending the Lenasia school, its enrolment has been below capacity.

The authorities have now decided to close down two more Indian schools and order their pupils to Lenasia, and also to send to Lenasia children from several other Johannesburg schools who will pass standard five at the end of the year. Some of the children who are being told to travel to Lenasia to school are in the grades and the first standards.

A few months later the principal of the school was notified that the school was to transfer to Lenasia from January 1957.

Forms have been supplied to the school for applications for travel grants for the children to travel from Kliptown to Lenasia.

A total of 552 children from the grades to standard four are enrolled at this school which operates a morning and afternoon shift. The change to Lenasia would mean that these tots have to travel about 14 miles daily by train. Some parts of Kliptown are one and two miles from the station so the children would also have two long walks daily.

Kliptown parents have protested against the removal of the school to Lenasia in a memorandum to the

Director of Education which says it is totally undesirable to have a primary school out of the area in which 500 children of schoolgoing age live. "If the department insists the school be transferred it will only result in the disruption of the education of our children."

### OTHERS TO CLOSE

The Newclare Primary School which caters for both Indian and Coloured children has also been directed to send all the Indian children in standards six, seven and eight, to Lenasia from next year.

THEY WILL HAVE A DAILY TRAIN JOURNEY OF 40 MILES.



This photograph shows the body of a lynched Communist Party member in one of the Budapest Party offices wrecked in the recent fighting. Note the bayonet thrust into the mouth and the portrait of Lenin stuck on the corpse.

# HUNGARIAN GOVT. ACTED TO SAVE PEACE

—INTERVIEW WITH PREMIER KADAR

Another Statement That Has Been Ignored By

The South African Press

THE intervention of Soviet troops in Hungary was necessary not only for the defence of Socialism, but of world peace, said Hungary's Premier Janos Kadar in an interview with foreign press correspondents last week.

How did the Hungarian revolt begin? Premier Kadar gave three causes:

"The first is the shortcomings that actually existed in the methods of the leadership of the party and government—methods which seriously affected their bonds with the masses.

"The second cause is that while it was correct to see shortcomings, the way in which they were criticised was bad. For example, people inside the party who saw the shortcomings most clearly were wrong in carrying on the discussion outside the party.

### IMPERIALIST CIRCLES

"Likewise there were questions that could have been settled within the Government, but which were talked about in the streets.

"The third cause was that the counter-revolution, encouraged by certain imperialist circles, chose the most opportune moment and made use of the whole movement for its own ends.

"These three causes were noticeable throughout the course of events and in the different groups of people who took part in them. "It is true that in the first demonstration on October 23 the slogans put forward were for the democratisation of the Party and the Government, slogans that were not against Socialism.

"But from the very first evening the hand of reaction was felt. Most of the students who took part in this demonstration had no intention of overthrowing the regime. They believed it was a spontaneous movement.

"But certain facts—such as the Dulles declaration admitting that it was known in advance what was going to happen in Hungary—show the truth of the matter."

### GREAT SKILL

Summarising the events of the past weeks as he saw them, Premier Kadar said: "The confusion of the situation was caused by the fact that the people who were drawn into the demonstrations were not against socialism but firmly believed they were working for socialism while in reality the direction of the movement was manifestly counter-revolutionary.

"The counter-revolutionaries who were behind the movement manoeuvred with great skill. Perhaps there was never a counter-revolution so cleverly carried out.

"They took great pains not to reveal their real aims but marched behind slogans of a revolutionary kind, not against Socialism.

"As soon as they thought the game was won, they abandoned this camouflage. It was then that the worst White terror openly took place and from then on the truth became clearer.

### BRUTAL SCENES

"Many combatants began to give up their arms. The terrorists pretended to be in favour of a cease-fire, which was only applied unilaterally to the defence forces of Nagy's Government.

"Soviet forces were withdrawn from Budapest. "And it was then that the attack on the Party centre of Budapest took place in which it is now known that 60 people, including Imre Mezo, secretary of the city party, were massacred.

"Indescribable scenes took place. Living men had their hearts and other organs torn out. A woman was kicked to death.

"Thus began the counter-revolutionary massacres at Budapest and at Csepel. That afternoon the trees on Stalin Avenue and the woods of the town were full of hanged people."

Imre Nagy had allowed himself to be drawn more and more to the right without looking to see what was happening down below in the streets flowing with blood.

Therefore, in order not to let the White terror continue and the power of the people be destroyed, the Kadar Government decided to ask for the help of the Soviet Army to save Socialism and peace.

### THE NEW ROAD

It was now a matter of making the truth known to the workers, who were left politically confused by these events, especially as a result of hearing only about mistakes or failures.

Mr. Kadar concluded: "I have personally gone to speak to the workers in many factories, where I have shown that the working class must not allow itself to be led by elements which are foreign to it and by foreign ideas.

"Now there is no doubt that the large majority of workers want to return to normal life and work.

"We are convinced of the success of the defence and the consolidation of the Socialist victories in Hungary, of new progress with the correction of the mistakes of the past.

"We will be understood by the people. The people know that the Party was right on the fundamental questions of the nationalisation of factories, collectivisation of the land, and Socialist construction.

### WAR DANGER

"The Hungarian people are proud of their Socialist regime and will not allow it to be destroyed.

"If the counter-revolutionaries had triumphed in Hungary there would have been direct danger of a new war.

"The facts prove that the aims were to penetrate a corner of the camp of the Socialist countries so as to compromise the whole.

"Imre Nagy's call to U.N. under the pretext of neutrality, in reality put Hungary and other countries on the brink of war."

### DISAGREEMENT

Some journalists writing in Britain's left-wing press disagreed sharply with the assessment that the Hungarian counter-revolution had become dominated by fascists, Horthyites and white terrorists.

Basil Davidson said in the London Daily Herald that the Soviet action in Hungary amounted to the "murder of a nation," and that the charge that reactionaries had taken over the revolution was "downright lying."

"I know that it is not true that the Nagy government had failed to win control," he said. "It had complete control in Budapest. It was gaining control in the provinces.

"Right-wing people were busily climbing on the band-wagon. But they were not driving it. The Nagy government control of the situation was quite simply taken from it by the Soviet Army."

In the New Statesman and Nation, Bruce Renton wrote:

"Nobody in the Budapest parliament pretended that there was any question of a return to the Horthy regime. The whole point (and it was a questionable 'tragedy') was that, instead of Titoism, an all-party coalition system on the western pattern had been set in motion."

### PETER FRYER

Former Daily Worker correspondent Peter Fryer, in a letter published in the Daily Worker, said: "The great mass of the Hungarian people have no desire to return to capitalism, and want to retain all the positive achievements of the past 12 years.

"Nor did the Soviet troops who entered Budapest on November 4 fight fascists; they fought workers, soldiers and students; and they could find no Hungarians to fight alongside them."

But Charlie Coutts, for the past three years English Editor of the magazine World Youth, in Budapest disagreed. "That fascist troops existed I know from first-hand experience, because I was taken by a group of 20, who debated whether to shoot me or not—because I might or might not have been a British Communist.

"So let me put it straight—I know very well that hundreds of the finest young people in Hungary were in the fighting. But the group who held me were fascists."

If Kadar had not called for Soviet aid, said Coutts, "the only end could have been the return to capitalism."

### TOGLIATTI

Veteran Communist Party leaders in nearby countries were satisfied that Kadar's explanation was a correct one.

Signor Togliatti, Italian Communist Party secretary, described as "unjust, ungenerous" and "wrong," the Italian Socialist Party's description of Kadar as a "puppet."

He said the Kadar Government was trying to "save a difficult situation created not entirely through their fault."

On the intervention of Soviet troops he declared: "The first intervention ought to have been avoided, but the second was a necessity, even though a hard one." Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia made a similar assessment.

## MOLL FLANDERS BANNED

CAPE TOWN.

One of the great classics of English literature—the novel Moll Flanders, by Daniel Defoe—is included in the list of banned books published in the Government Gazette last week. The offending edition is that issued by Pocket Books.

Other items banned are sex and crime books, and a number of publications from the socialist countries, including 'The Eye and the Sun' by the Soviet writer S. Vavilov.



# HE WANTED THE DEATH PENALTY FOR COMMUNISTS

## U.P.'s New Leader is no Friend of the Left

(By our Political Correspondent)

THE progressive movement in South Africa made the acquaintance of Sir de Villiers Graaff six years ago when he was the United Party's chief representative on the Parliamentary Select Committee on the Suppression of Communism Bill. On behalf of the United Party, Sir de Villiers proposed that persons convicted of Communism should be sentenced, not to five years' imprisonment as the Bill provided, but to hanging.

Even the Minister of Justice, "Blackie" Swart, thought this was a bit extreme, although he took the opportunity to double the penalty from 5 to 10 years' imprisonment.

In the past six years, Sir de Villiers has shown again and again that democratic ideals have no particular appeal for him. He is one of the U.P.'s arch-reactionaries. He served as one of Strauss' right-hand men in the various phases of capitulation to apartheid, and he has consistently played a restrained role in Parliamentary debates, going out of his way to avoid serious clashes with the Nationalists.

A shallow thinker, he lacks even Strauss' astuteness. His chief qualification for the leadership is that, contrasted with Strauss' unpopularity, he is popular—a glamour boy.

### SCAPEGOAT

Strauss was removed from the U.P. leadership because the party was sinking so rapidly into oblivion, that something had to be done, and done quickly. Strauss became the scapegoat. The inner circle of party leaders—who had contributed as much as Strauss to the party's decline, and who had been equally responsible with him for the actions which led to Strauss being criticised for weakness and indecisiveness—made Strauss bear the sole responsibility, and delivered him up as the sacrificial victim.

The whole move was planned in secret. When everything was in readiness, Strauss was accosted by the party's four provincial leaders and ordered to resign. His refusal temporarily upset the scheme, but it was decided nevertheless to press the matter to finality at the Union Congress. A Press campaign was launched (in the "Star" and "Rand Daily Mail"), and by the time the Union Congress met Strauss' removal was an accomplished fact. Judging by reports, nearly all his friends deserted him. He was virtually isolated when the axe fell.

Immediately before the Congress assembled, two top-level meetings were held—one of the Central Executive Committee and the other of the Central Head Committee. Both committees backed the "Strauss must go" move, so that when the 500-600 delegates were asked to make their decision, the matter was virtually out of their hands.

The reason why the plan worked so smoothly was that Strauss, because he represented so completely all the weaknesses of his party, and also because of personal mannerisms which had antagonised people, could not rely on anyone of substance to stand at his side. Also, his decision to flee the country rather than face the struggle over the leadership, did not earn him respect.

The move was brilliantly executed. The execution was almost pain-

less. If only the U.P. would fight the Nationalists with equal skill!

### RANDLORDSHIP

But Mr. Strauss' removal is not merely a question of getting rid of an unpopular personality and pepping up interest in the U.P. again. The indications are that all those influential, inner-circle individuals and organisations who represent the true U.P.—the U.P. of Randlordism and Press magnates—were behind the move.

They are making a desperate bid to get back to power. Their first obstacle was Mr. Strauss, and he was removed in the quick, ruthless way capitalists know so well. The next step was to find a stooge who would be popular with the apathetic United Party electorate—hey presto! Sir de Villiers Graaff!

The "Star" has hinted what the third step will be: an approach to "other anti-Nationalist forces" to join the U.P. This does not mean that De Villiers Graaff will seek to create another "United Democratic Front" along the lines of the 1953 front, which included the Torch Commando, etc. Not that. The new front is intended to embrace the U.P. and everyone who stands between the U.P. and the Nats—like the Bekker group, for example, and those wayward businessmen who have been drifting into the South African Bond. The U.P. said recently that it will have nothing to do with the Labour and Liberal Parties, etc., and the change in leadership does not alter this decision in any way.

Seen in this light, the change in the U.P. leadership assumes con-

siderable political significance. It means an intensification of the pro-apartheid propaganda line and more systematic wooing of "disgruntled" Nationalist voters. The election of De Villiers Graaff, therefore, is a distinct step backward.

If there is any doubt about this, one need only read Graaff's speeches at the Union Congress. It has become fashionable for U.P. leaders to talk airily of "strengthening resistance" and "firm opposition," but they are silent on the practical issues which come before them day by day. The U.P. has found a useful formula: it opposes apartheid in the abstract, and supports it in practice.

At the same time, progressive White organisations in South Africa should take warning from the changes in the U.P. The U.P. will try to lure away their members, too, with promises of a "better deal" under the new leader. The Labour, Liberal, Federal and other groups can expect strong onslaughts from the U.P. If even Dr. Bernard Friedman, can be hoodwinked into saying that he will reconsider his relationship with the U.P. if he sees it moving along "progressive" lines under Graaff (see the "Star"), then it shows how quickly the illusion can spread.

Though Graaff will not formally negotiate with their leaders, he will not hesitate to dangle the Copes, Suzmans and Fouries before unsuspecting progressives to induce them to join the United Party—and thereby forfeit their progressiveness. When he does this, the progressive White organisations must not hesitate to expose the manoeuvre. Their existence is directly threatened.

## INDIAN WOMEN PROTEST AGAINST GROUP AREAS ACT

### ROODEPOORT.

Indian women from Roodepoort and other West Rand towns braved the rain to march through Roodepoort under the Congress flag last week to present signed protest forms against the Group Areas Act to the Group Areas Board sitting in the Roodepoort Town Hall.

For several hours before the protest march small teams of women visited every Roodepoort Indian home with blank petition forms and by 11 a.m. every one of the 300

forms had been signed. Then the women formed into a procession to make an impressive sight as they walked through the town's main streets to the Town Hall.

The Group Areas Act is a violation of basic human rights, the protesters said.

"Do you expect us to make a fresh start? What about the old ones among us? Do you expect them to have the heart to face a completely new life in a barren and deserted place?"

## APARTHEID MEANS INEFFICIENCY

By GOVAN MBEKI

PORT ELIZABETH.—The Chief Native Commissioner for the Ciskei, Mr. J. A. C. van Heerden, recently told a meeting of farmers in Grahamstown that the country's "labour supply was in a chaotic state. The rural areas suffer an acute shortage while the urban areas are congested with thousands of unemployed," he is reported to have said.

Recently Mr. van Heerden has been attending meetings of farmers where he has been attempting to show them the methods which the government is using to relieve the acute shortage of labour on farms.

The Labour Bureau, Mr. van Heerden told the Grahamstown farmers, has been established to ensure an equal distribution of labour throughout the country.

But is this really so, and do the

facts of the situation bear out the Chief Native Commissioner's contention that the urban areas were "congested with thousands of unemployed" while the rural areas suffer an acute shortage?

If there is such a glut of "Native labour" in the towns, why is the employment of convict labour such a common feature?

Recently when trade union officials here interviewed one firm on the undesirability of employing convict labour, the management told them that the Labour Bureau was not supplying labour. Since the Bureau had started they were always short of workers, the manager complained. "We tell them (at the Bureau) that we want 50 workers. They send us two."

If by "congested with thousands of unemployed", the Chief Native Commissioner means the hundreds of workers who are daily

made to shuffle in zig-zag queues around the fenced yards of the Labour Bureau, then the Government is to blame for the "chaos".

It employs and encourages the employment by Local Authorities of an army of officials to prevent labour from being gainfully employed. The purpose of these officials is to stop the normal flow of labour, so that the men who spend days lining up at the Labour Bureau may be described as "thousands of unemployed" and sent to the farms.

To justify the need for Labour Bureaux and the Reference Book, the Chief Native Commissioner is reported to have said: "Our Native labour is expensive because it is inefficient and this inefficiency is due to the constant changing of jobs."

The Reference Book can certainly give the employer cheap

## Slogan-Painters Released From Jail Last Week



Lionel Morrison (above) released after serving three of his four-months sentence for painting Freedom Charter slogans on walls in Cape Town, gives the Afrika salute as friends welcome him back outside the jail in Johannesburg. Abdurahman Hurzuk (below, right) with fellow prisoners, poses for the New Age photographer, upon his release from Pollsmoor Jail, Cape Town, where he served his sentence for the same offence.



labour: If the African is pinned down to one employer as the Reference Book seeks to do, the tendency will be to lower his wages. And the African worker will acquire such efficiency as a slave does when he is tied down to his owner.

But whatever efficiency the African worker may so acquire, is rendered ineffective by the amount of inefficiency which the Government fosters among the white aristocracy. One has only to go to a post office or any Government department where Non-Europeans are served to realise the extent of inefficiency in the "high places" themselves.

Thousands of man-hours per day are frittered away in the shrines of the Nationalists' all-knowing god, the Superior Race Myth, whom Non-Europeans are expected to approach on bended knee at the Post Office, Native Commissioner's Office, Pass Office and Railway station counters and windows.



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