

KADAR ANNOUNCES HIS NEW PROGRAMME

Hungary's Democratic Reforms

A TEN-POINT programme for the further democratisation of Hungarian political life and the strengthening of Socialist democracy was put forward earlier this month by the Hungarian Government.

The programme is part of the Kadar Government's policy declaration which is to form the basis for discussion with representatives of other parties and non-party progressives with a view to their entering the Government in the near future.

It states that "all law-abiding citizens, all workers, peasants and intellectuals, loyal to the people, have the right to democracy and liberty. But the agents of counter-revolution and imperialists who are striving to overthrow the basic institutions of the State have no right to the same liberty."

ELECTIONS

The democratisation programme provides for the democratic functioning of Parliament and locally elected bodies, and the active participation of the people in State affairs and in the construction of Socialism.

The State apparatus is to be reduced and a wide programme of decentralisation is to be carried through with the amalgamation of a number of Ministries.

The Government considers that the most important aspect of its activity is to guarantee Socialist legality and defend the rights of lawful interests of its citizens.

The leading force will be the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party together with the patriotic People's front, which is the body uniting all democratic forces and is led by the party of the working class.

The declaration provides for freedom of religious worship and religious instruction in the schools where the parents request it. Freedom of scientific and artistic thought and work are assured, with support to all artists and scientists, irrespective of their political opinions, except the enemies of Socialism.

ECONOMIC PLAN

The Government points out that despite recent losses Hungary has much greater economic possibilities than in 1945, important economic resources, a well-developed industry and agriculture and strong friends. A plan for 1957 has been prepared to meet temporary difficulties while a three-year plan in which capital investment will be reduced until the economy of the country has been re-established and living standards raised, will be considered.

The programme provides for increased support for individual peasants while maintaining the co-operative and State farms and the machine and tractor stations.

RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

On its relations with the Soviet Union the Government points out that in the latter part of Stalin's life much was left to be desired, but that in future they would be governed in the spirit of the Soviet Government's declaration of October 30. The question of relations with the Soviet Union, including the question of Soviet troops, will be settled by the two Governments on the basis of negotiations.

Meanwhile two important steps have been taken to ensure greater democratisation of the country's life. A 30-member commission has been set up in order to democratise the running of the economy and industry. Included in its membership are six members of the former Budapest Workers' Council, the chairman of the Workers' Council of the great Csepel combine, the secretary of the reorganised T.U.C., and the directors of key plants.

Premier Kadar told a British re-

porter that the Government was determined to assist the workers' councils in every way. Their setting up had been discussed before October, but as a result of what had happened they had been set up under abnormal conditions of which counter-revolutionary forces had taken advantage. People got on to the councils who were either not workers at all or who had only recently become workers following nationalisation of their property.

No central control over the composition of the workers' councils was intended, the Premier said. The workers themselves must clean them up where they found it necessary.

SECURITY POLICE

Secondly, the hated A.V.H., the security police, has been completely disbanded. A political department of the police has been set up to combat counter-revolutionary activity, sabotage, espionage and acts of terror. The deputy chief of the department, Lt.-Col. Galambos, has declared that while the establishment of such an organisation was absolutely necessary at present, no one need fear that it would adopt any of the methods of the A.H.V. He gave the assurance that the strictest legality would be observed, pointing out that the present Prime Minister, and the Minister of State, Gyorgy Marosan, had themselves been imprisoned for many years by Rakosi. Further, the new head of the department, Col. Laszlo Matyas, had also been held in A.V.H. prisons for many years and knew from personal experience what A.V.H. "investigation" methods were like.

DEATH TOLL

Official estimate of the death toll in the fighting in Hungary shows that claims published in the West have been grossly exaggerated. Between 1,800 and 2,000 Hungarians were killed in Budapest, with a much smaller total in the rest of the country. Total wounded in the country were 12,971, of whom 11,513 were in Budapest. The figures do not include Soviet killed and wounded. About 150,000 people left the country, of whom about 10,000 had returned.

British Condemn Treason Arrests

LONDON

The Union of Democratic Control has issued a statement most strongly protesting against the wholesale arrests of progressive people of all races in South Africa. Under the pretext of charges such as breaking the Suppression of Communism Act, sedition and even high treason, the last vestiges of liberty are being destroyed by the racist policies of the South African Government and the widespread support they receive among the White people of that country.

"We call upon the progressive people of Great Britain to make themselves heard against this tyranny and warn South Africa that the ability of the White population to have a future in any part of Africa depends on its being prepared now to co-operate in creating a truly multi-racial community on a basis of equality."

LONDON.

★
**WHAT ARE YOU
DOING TO HELP
NEW AGE?**

PORT ELIZABETH

A British freighter has been delayed at the Port Elizabeth harbour since the end of December because of a go-slow strike by dockside workers.

The freighter, which should have left on January 7, was still anchored in the harbour over last weekend, because it was still being slowly loaded with manganese ore.

New Age learns that the Railways generally have a big accumulation of goods on hand.

The action of the workers has brought about wild rumours of a political strike which the authorities fear may spread to other ports.

The railway authorities are reported to have sent an S.O.S. to recruiting agents in the Reserves for the immediate delivery of 200 workers. Suggestions are also being made to recruit Coloured labour to make up for the deficiency.

THE CAUSE

New Age learns that among the reasons that have led to the go slow

is the fact that the Railways want to impose on the workers a "Complaints Commissioner" to whom they should submit their complaints. The workers claim the right to negotiate with the employers through their own union representatives.

Even the loco workers who had at first accepted this commissioner have now rejected him and are unanimous in their decision to negotiate through their union.

Furthermore, when employers wanted to know their complaints, the workers refused to speak.

They told New Age that for some time the Special Branch have been posted where they work and they are not prepared to speak to the employers until the detectives are removed.

"We are not going to submit to intimidation," they told New Age.

The workers also demand higher wages and that the two shillings levy be paid by employers and not by them.

The go slow has been carrying on for ten days now.

"STALIN WAS MORE RIGHT THAN WRONG"

Chinese Reply to Tito's Speech

LONDON

"AMAZEMENT" at Tito's recent attacks "on almost all of the Socialist countries and many of the Communist Parties" has been expressed in an article published recently in the Chinese "People's Daily".

In a 16,000 word statement the newspaper summarises high-level discussions held in China last month to review international developments, more particularly in the socialist world, in the past years.

It says that the path taken by the Soviet Union was basically right, but naturally there were some errors. Stalin was more right than wrong.

Turning to Hungary, the paper expresses the opinion that imperialism played the main and decisive part in events there, and stresses that, as the imperialists are massing their forces against Socialism, all socialists must unite to beat back their attacks.

NOT BALANCED

The article says: "The attitude taken by Comrade Tito and other leaders in Yugoslavia to Stalin's errors and other related questions cannot be regarded by us as balanced or objective."

"It is understandable that the Yugoslavs are particularly resentful of Stalin's errors — in the past they made worthy efforts to stick to Socialism under difficult conditions."

"But we are amazed that in his speech Tito attacked almost all Socialist countries and many of the Communist Parties."

After criticising a recent speech by Yugoslav Vice-President Kardelj as encouraging counter-revolution in Hungary, the paper goes on: "Clearly the Yugoslavs are going too far. Even if their criticism of brother parties is reasonable, their basic stand and method infringe principles of comradely discussion. We must never forget the world class struggle."

The article says that it is harmful to pick up the enemies' phrases about "de-Stalinisation" and "Stalinist" versus "anti-Stalinist" elements.

Stalin led the life of a great revolutionary, and both his achievements and his errors had to be weighed. His errors took second place to his achievements. But

democratic procedures and law should have been developed in the Soviet Union, the paper adds, and Stalin was wrong to stress the intensification of the class struggle.

TITO'S REPLY

In a speech made after the appearance of the article in the People's Daily, President Tito said he welcomed the fact that the Chinese press had published the texts of recent speeches by himself and Kardelj. He added: "The essential thing is not whether the Chinese will come to criticise individual delj. He added: "The essential that both speeches have been published in full."

Yugoslavia wanted serious discussion with others, he said, not noisy polemics, and she was not frightened of others' opinions.

Differences in ideas between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union must not be allowed to prevent the co-operation of the two countries, he said. "Such differences will exist in the future and thus there will be discussions. But these must not be allowed to influence our inter-State relations."

The Party could not be identified with the State, and it was necessary to differentiate between inter-Party and inter-State relations.

He added that he believed that general world conditions would improve in 1957, and that people should not be pessimistic about recent events.

POLISH VIEW

A communique issued after talks between leaders of the Polish United Workers' Party and the Yugoslav Communist League recently stated "that in the present conditions bilateral relations between parties constitute the best form of relations", but this form

d'd not exclude wider co-operation on problems of common interest.

Commenting on the talks, the leader of the Yugoslav delegation said that the exchange of views had been very successful. Both Poland and Yugoslavia were "replacing the old obsolete forms of Socialist development with new forms by which it will be possible to encourage more directly the widest working masses to take part in the management of economic and social life".

Unless open and creative criticism was made possible "Socialist thought cannot develop because dogmatism will prevail and the movement toward Socialism will suffer"

In terms of changes brought about by the new Polish Government, the Sejm (Parliament) will become the supreme legislative and controlling body. The party leaders will submit themselves for democratic election to the Sejm, where they will aim to give practical political leadership, as will the party members in the trade unions and other organisations. The emphasis will be on leadership through conviction and not on decrees from above.

A.N.C. MEN WIN BOARD ELECTIONS

JOHANNESBURG.

Supporters of the African National Congress claimed sweeping victories in recent Advisory Board elections. The joint Advisory Boards, as a result of these victories, will now have a majority of ANC men.

Leslie Massina, secretary of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, scored a smashing victory over his opponents, although at the time of the elections he was in the Fort as one of the treason prisoners.

Members of the Bantu National Council, which supports apartheid, were hopelessly defeated.



SPOTLIGHT on SPORT

by

Robert Resha

FOR A HAPPY

SPORTING NEW YEAR

DEAR Fans,

I wish all sportsmen, administrators and fans a happy sporting year and hope that during the year 1957, we will see our day-dreams come true — better sporting facilities for all sportsmen irrespective of colour or race, better administration and a higher standard of play.

While it is not my wish to bring forward to this new year the hardships, successes and failures of last year, it is, however, important to express regret at the fact that for nearly two months this column has been missing. The reasons for this are known to every New Age reader by now.

“Naught For Your Comfort”

WE learn that the M.C.C. players now touring South Africa threw away into the deep sea copies of the book “Naught for your Comfort” by Father Trevor Huddleston, which were given to them when they left England.

A number of reasons have been offered by the M.C.C. for this strange behaviour, but they all amount to this. These English players do not want to do anything outside the field of play that will embarrass their hosts and annoy the Government. But it is difficult to understand how the reading of this book could have annoyed the authorities and embarrassed their hosts. This shows a queer way of reasoning, perhaps peculiar to the M.C.C. team.

On the other hand the members of the Kenya Cricket Team that toured the Union were very keen to read the book. I asked one of the players why. He said: “It might well be for the reason that made the M.C.C. players give the books to the sharks before reading them.”

Toweel—Van Rensburg

THIS Saturday, at Hartleyvale, Cape Town, Willie Toweel, Empire lightweight champion would have defended his title against Johnny van Rensburg. The bout has been postponed because of Van Rensburg's injury. This will be the fourth time these two boxers meet.

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The first time, Van Rensburg stopped Toweel in the ninth round. The second went to Toweel on points. The third time they drew.

Van Rensburg's manager, Dolf du Plessis, seems to be confident that Johnny will beat Willie this time.

Willie is as determined as ever to prove that he is the Empire boss and is the ninth best boxer in the world at his weight.

TO begin the year on a high note, Seaman Chetty, Durban's ace promoter, flew to the Rand two weeks ago to sign Elijah Mokone, national featherweight champion to defend his title against the Transvaal champion E. Nhlapo.

PROTEST AT P.E. DEPORTATION

JOHANNESBURG

The conference of Cultural Club Leaders which met in Johannesburg last week-end condemned the vindictive action of the municipality of Port Elizabeth in endorsing Mr. Tyesi out of the municipal area.

“The conference recognises in this inhuman action the desperate hand of the Minister of Native Affairs attempting once more to destroy the militant opposition to the: poisonous Bantu Education Act, by his attack on the senior cultural club leader,” stated the resolution.

“The conference sends a message of sympathy and solidarity to Mr. Tyesi and his family and urges the Port Elizabeth Municipality to withdraw immediately the endorsement order and to permit Mr. Tyesi to continue his invaluable and courageous services to the community of New Brighton.”

China's New Industries

PEKING

China is now able to produce motor vehicles, ships, large machine tools, powerful generators, precision electric instruments and complete sets of textile machinery. A new year industrial round-up has shown that in the four years since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan 33 major machine-building plants have been built or reconstructed with a combined capacity far exceeding that of the entire machine-building industry in 1949.

YOUR PORTRAIT—

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The New Age Photographer
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BETHAL FARM LABOUR BEATINGS CONFIRMED

New Age Informant Acquitted of Perjury

JOHANNESBURG

How a Bethal farm labourer was assaulted because he forgot to pick up some potatoes and later died, was related in the Johannesburg Regional Court last week when Joseph Molefe, aged 46, of Joan Street, Newclare, appeared on a charge of perjury.

Molefe, who was charged with making a false sworn statement that he and the deceased were assaulted, was acquitted.

The prosecution of Molefe arose after the publication in New Age last year of his account of the death of the farm worker.

POLICE BIASED

Mr. Bizos (for Molefe) said the police investigations of Molefe's complaint were “biased” and “savoured of a comic opera”.

Molefe stated that he was arrested last year on an alleged pass offence and taken, not to a court, but to a pass office, where he was told that if he served three months on a farm, he would be issued with a pass. He agreed to work on a farm.

After his arrival, he and the nineteen others who accompanied him, were subjected to beatings. A fellow-labourer lost a number of teeth after being struck in the face by the foreman, Mr. Smith, and escaped from the farm. Molefe himself was so badly hurt that he was unable to work for a time.

HIT WITH SJAMBOK

Later, a group of eight more labourers arrived, including his uncle Rakikiledi Masuko. Masuko was set to work picking up potatoes after they had been ploughed up. While Masuko was working, he left some potatoes lying in a furrow. The foreman ordered him to pick them up and struck him with a sjambok. As he fell, Moses,

the African boss boy assaulted him.

The following day Masuko was beaten again and had to be carried on a tractor back to the compound. Molefe made his uncle comfortable on a mat that night. The next morning his uncle was dead.

EXAMINATION

A police sergeant and doctor came to examine the body. Before they arrived the foreman warned the labourers: “When the doctor comes don't talk nonsense”. As a result the workers denied all knowledge of any fight having taken place.

Molefe and four others took the body to the Bethal police station. There, a truck driver asked them why they did not report the assault to the police.

“We did not answer. We were afraid.”

Later, Molefe gave the police the name of the labourer Daniel who could corroborate his story. The police detective did not approach Daniel, but asked Moses, the boss boy, to pick three labourers, the choice being left to him, who did not see him (Moses) assault the deceased and Molefe.

PROMOTION

One of the witnesses who testified that there had been no assaults, Thanas Tshabala, is now a boss boy on the farm.

Addressing the Court, Mr. Bizos

said: “The police investigation of Molefe's complaint was biased — biased against Molefe, and in favour of Smith the foreman and Moses the boss boy. The detective who investigated the matter did not even bother to interview Molefe's witness”.

Acquitting Molefe, the Magistrate said he was satisfied that Smith and the labourers who had testified that there were no assaults were untruthful. He was not satisfied that Molefe had not spoken the truth, as alleged by the Crown.

BASUTOLAND DEPORTATION

PORT ELIZABETH.

CHARGED with wrongfully and unlawfully entering and remaining in Basutoland after having been prohibited by the Resident Commissioner, Mr. Isaac Mathibela was sentenced to one month imprisonment or £5 at the Leribe magistrate's court recently. The sentence was suspended provided he left Basutoland within 8 days.

The case arose from an order which was served on Mr. Mathibela in December, 1955. He had attended the Conference of the ANC (Basutoland). He was then working at Port Elizabeth, and in April he returned to Leribe, his home district.

Mr. Mathibela has noted an appeal, and he told New Age that Advocate Molapo was being briefed to appear for him at Maseru on January 21, 1957.

Cultural Club Leaders Lose Appeal

PORT ELIZABETH

A decision of the Supreme Court here has upheld the magistrate's judgment which established that Misses Jean Hina and Eleanor Masuabi, cultural club leaders at New Brighton, had addressed a crowd of about 200 children.

They were each fined £30 on the first count of addressing more than 10 Africans without the approval of the Native Commissioner.

On the second and third counts of malicious injury to property and failure to give their names and addresses to the police the sentence was suspended provided they did not commit similar offences for a period of three years.

The fine of £60 for both was paid.

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ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR “WE STAND BY OUR LEADERS” CAMPAIGN

CAPE TOWN

The Cape Town “We stand by our leaders” Committee has launched a vigorous political campaign throughout the Western Cape for the release of the “treason trial” leaders.

Among the successful meetings held over the last weekend was one at Langa where several hundred people voiced their protest against the Government's attacks on their organisations and leaders. A record collection for funds to conduct the campaign was taken at this meeting.

A similar well-attended meeting was held at Nyanga where the Special Branch of the C.I.D. seized the collection tin. Amongst the speakers at these two meetings were representatives of the ANC, SACPO, COD and also of the recently formed Cape Western Indian Congress.

Meetings have been planned to cover areas as far afield as Lamberts Bay, Worcester, Stellenbosch, Hermanus, Paarl and other country districts of the Western Cape within the next few weeks, all to culminate in a mass demonstration on the Cape Town Grand Parade early in February.

The foundations for these country meetings were laid during a 300-mile trip of the Western Cape by representatives of the committee last Sunday.

“Everywhere the idea of hitting back hard at the Government was enthusiastically acclaimed,” a member of the committee told New Age on Monday.

“In Worcester, for instance, three meetings had already been held and the different racial groups representing trade unions, the Congresses and other organisations have initiated a plan to form a united action committee which will undertake not only to provide food for the families of the arrested people, but also to collect funds towards their defence.

“This Worcester committee is planning to hold further meetings both in the location and in the town itself and also in country areas several hundred miles beyond Worcester.”

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