

## HERE AND THERE IN S.E. ASIA

## THAI DICTATOR FALLS

## Struggle For Neutralism

AFTER ten years in power, Thailand's military dictator, recently, when another military clique led by Marshal Sarit Thanarat took over the government after a successful coup d'etat.

This palace revolution is, however, not to be explained in terms of personal rivalries or the ambitions and graft of different groups. The recent analysis of the circulation of the press of Thailand indicates what was the real motive force behind the eruption that has dislodged Marshal Pibul.

The biggest paper in Thailand, Saru Seri, circulation 20,000, is the most bitter in its denunciation of Thailand's slavish pro-American policy. It stands for ending the SEATO connection and establishing close economic and political relations with China.

Eleven other papers with a joint circulation of 50,000 are anti-American and for close ties with China. Five other papers with 20,000 supporters are against the undemocratic regime and its foreign relations.

## U.S. ARMS

At the same time, reports from Bangkok state that preparations for widespread demonstrations on the part of the population against the Government's support for SEATO were the decisive factor which made Marshal Sarit decide on his coup.

The new rulers are however by no means turning their backs on the West. Shortly after the coup Sarit sent emissaries to Mr. Max Bishop, U.S. Ambassador, with good wishes and the assurance that the country's pro-American policy would remain.

This is an important assurance, since Thailand's army of 100,000 has been fully equipped with U.S. arms and is the core of SEATO's ground forces. He informed the country that he would continue to take 34 million dollars annually in economic aid and twice the amount of military aid from the U.S.

Apart from delaying the ceremonial opening of the SEATO war talks, the military coup has not caused a major stir among imperialist circles. The opinion seems to be that there is a better man on the job.

In New York the Herald Tribune said: "Officials in Washington, keenly alert to Thailand's role as

## Sukarno Clears Rubbish

## DJAKARTA.

PRESIDENT Sukarno and other leaders of the Indonesian Government and some political parties started off Indonesia's "New Life Movement" recently by helping to clear away the rubbish heaps in the markets.

The President and some ministers went to Parsarean Market to help workers and young people remove rubbish heaps there. General Secretary of the Communist Party of Indonesia, D. N. Aidit, and chairman of the Indonesian Nationalist Party, Suwirjo, also took part in the work.

President Sukarno and others then went on to other markets to work there. Other leaders did cleaning elsewhere.

The opinion of the press in Djakarta is that although the "New Life Movement" could not solve all the problems, it could establish some good social practices.

Marshal Pibul Songgram, headed for the Cambodian border

## Viet-Nam Reads

## LONDON.

ABOUT 1,860,000 copies of books were printed in North Viet-Nam during the past two years, or nearly eleven times as much as the total output during the period of French rule up to 1939, the North Viet-Nam Minister of Culture declared recently.

A total of 111 news and scientific films were made in the same period, and 101 mobile movie teams sent

to rural regions, factories and constructional enterprises. In accordance with the policy of restoring the national cultural heritage more than 1,000 dance and folk songs of various nationalities were revived for stage performances.

Apart from the establishment of 33 libraries, Viet-Nam has exchanged books, newspapers and other cultural objects with eight countries including Britain, France, Indonesia and Burma. Cultural agreements has been signed with nearly all fraternal countries.

an anti-Communist bulwark, see no cause for alarm."

The Washington Post, however, warned that the coup might represent a setback in the efforts to strengthen SEATO and "could seriously embarrass American economic and military assistance."

## SEATO'S BACKBONE

With Pakistan and Thailand the backbone of the South East Asia Treaty Organisation, the Western powers are keeping constant watch on what is taking place in Thailand.

The appointment of Nai Pote, graduate of Wilbraham Academy, Massachusetts, as Secretary-General of the organisation, was obviously meant to please the Americans, though the ostensible reason for his appointment was his acceptability to the King, the people, and the army.

However, more significant of the mood of the people is the open and growing support for the return of Pridi Panomyong, now in exile in China, after his Premiership was ended by Marshal Pibul's coup in 1947.

## MALAYA REFUSES ATOM BASES

## Govt. Won't Meet With Communists

WHICH way is the newly-independent Malaya going to turn—will she side with the West, or the East, or will she join the neutralist bloc?

The first two months of independence have produced a few interesting straws in the wind:

● The Malayan Minister of Defence has stated that Malaya would not become the atomic war base of any country. The military agreement to be concluded between Malaya and Britain, he added, did not stipulate that atomic war bases should be located in Malayan territory.

His statement was made in reply to an announcement by British Defence Minister Duncan Sandys during his recent trip to Australia that British forces in the Far East would be equipped with atomic weapons.

● The Malayan Government has not as yet committed Malaya to joining the American and British backed South East Asia Treaty Organisation.

● Taxes on certain imports to Malaya from Britain and the Commonwealth have gone up by 25%. There have been other indications that the Malayan Government intends following an independent economic policy, particularly in regard to the marketing of rubber and tin, the country's two most important products.

In the past the British had a virtual stranglehold over Malaya's economy, particularly her foreign

trade.

● The Government of Malaya still refuses to hold talks with the Communists who are being mercilessly besieged in the jungles.

● British and Commonwealth troops are still being used in large numbers against the Communists.

● At the same time, the growing Malayan Labour Party has officially decided to call for the recognition of the legal status of the Communist Party.

Many other political parties, trade unions and other mass organisations have demanded that the Government hold talks with the Communist Party with a view to ending the war, so that military expenditure could be used instead to improve the people's living standards.

## WARY COURSE

The general trend seems to be that the Government is treading warily between a neutralist and a pro-West policy internationally, while maintaining a bitterly anti-Communist policy internally.

The indications are also strong that the desire for peace with the Communists and a neutralist foreign policy is growing rapidly in circles outside the Government.

## Khrushchov Answers Question

## WHY DOESN'T USSR HALT TESTS WITHOUT WAITING FOR AGREEMENT?

WHY doesn't the Soviet Union, in seeking an international agreement to ban nuclear tests, announce that it will itself halt nuclear tests for a certain length of time?

This question was asked by Tamoo Hirooka, editor of Ashab-Ashahi Shimbun, Japan's leading daily paper, in a recent interview with Nikita Khrushchov, Soviet Communist Party secretary.

Observing that "people all over the world and, among them, the inhabitants of the countries possessing atomic and hydrogen weapons, are expressing ever more persistently their anxiety over pollution of the atmosphere by experimental detonation," HIROOKA continued:

"I think the country taking the initiative in stopping tests will win moral prestige.

"We may presume that if the Soviet Union will say that in its seeking for an international agreement on the banning of nuclear weapons testing it will unilaterally discontinue these tests

ally begin to lag, while its partners meanwhile will do their best to leave it behind.

"Without having achieved anything we shall be forced to resume the tests after some time. What will be the result? The arms race will be intensified and will assume even greater proportions.

"Thus, a unilateral statement by the Soviet side would have no positive effect. On the contrary it would only serve to encourage the aggressors."

Khrushchov pointed out that the Soviet Union, in 1957, unilaterally reduced its armed forces by 1,800,000 men, but "our Western partners did not see their way to following in our footsteps."

This, he said, showed Hirooka's arguments for unilateral suspension of nuclear tests by the Soviet Union to be unsubstantiated.

## "ANOTHER ROAD"

"I think it would be better to take another road, Khrushchov said.

"The Soviet Union has already stated its readiness to cease tests. Let us unite our efforts, for example: the Soviet Union and Japan to sign a joint document on the subject, to be supported later on by other countries.

● "I am sure that India would support such a document.

● "The People's Republic of China and all the socialist countries will unquestionably support such a step.

● "The formerly dependent countries which have freed themselves of colonialist oppression and which have neither the desire nor the means to manufacture and test atomic and hydrogen weapons would undoubtedly join their voices in this.

"In this manner a kind of united front of states struggling for a cessation of nuclear weapon tests, for a termination of the arms race and for peaceful coexistence would be created.

"Let such a movement spread among the states, and it will lead us to the desired goal."



Khrushchov—"A better way."

for a certain time, this would have a vast positive effect. What do you think about it?"

In his answer to this question, KHRUSHCHOV noted that "despite the Western powers' refusal, we continue to favour the discontinuation of nuclear tests."

He continued: "As regards your suggestion that the Soviet Union halt the tests unilaterally, the following may be said:

## "SUPPOSING . . ."

"Imagine the situation: the Soviet Union makes a statement on the unilateral termination of nuclear weapon tests, but the other countries possessing such weapons do not follow suit and proceed with their tests.

"The Soviet Union will natur-

## Governor To Work With Jagan

## LONDON.

OPENING the new Legislative Council in Georgetown, British Guiana recently, Governor Sir Patrick Rensison said he would "work eagerly and wholeheartedly" with Dr. Jagan, leader of the People's Progressive Party.

Dr. Jagan is Minister for Trade and Industry in the new Government and will act as First Minister. His former government was turned out by British troops and warships four years ago on the charge of trying to "set up a Communist state."

At the British Guiana elections last August the People's Progressive Party won a sweeping majority of the elected seats, and took office with the determination to use the limited constitutional powers to serve the people.



SPOTLIGHT on SPORT

by Robert Resha

MOKONE THE GREAT MAKES WISE DECISION

ELIJAH Mokone, South Africa's maestro of boxing, has retired from the ring. He took this decision after Eddie "Croucher" Kekana had stopped him in the seventh round at the Bantu Men's Social Centre, Johannesburg, last Friday night.

Mokone's decision to quit has brought to an end the career of a boxer who for five years dominated the South African boxing scene. Yet it was a wise decision, for it was obvious that the once great has withered.

In this fight, for the first time, the maestro entered the ring and left it without using that faultless left which had always found a place in the faces of all those boxers who came his way. Even that once accurate, vicious right was missing badly. That cat-like movement in the ring was absent. His defence was not there. Kekana's right just found Mokone all the time.

GLIMPSES

It was in the fourth round we saw the glimpses of the Mokone we knew. In this round he attacked with precision using both hands. But his punches lacked steam.

Coming in the next round Mokone himself seemed to have realised that he had had his chips and tried to keep away from Kekana. Even this was difficult. Trying to run away from Kekana's right he lost balance and fell. Thereafter it was obvious that the fight would not last the distance and Kekana was the man to emerge the victor. In the seventh round the inevitable end came. Kekana sent Mokone to the canvas. He was up at the count of 7. This was followed by another visit to the canvas for 8. Shortly thereafter Mokone took the last "trip" to the canvas, after which he decided to hang up his gloves.

MOURNFUL CROWD

After this announcement the crowd quietly and mournfully filed out of the hall. Even outside the fans were extraordinarily quiet. Shrugging of shoulders was the manner in which most fans were prepared to express themselves.

It had to be. Mokone was not just a champion—he was a great. At best Mokone was a boxer—a scientific boxer—yet was an able mixer when the situation demanded. His ringcraft was almost perfect. That is the man who has left the ring.

COLOUR BAR

What is painful and will always make the Non-European sportsman bitter in this country is race discrimination. Because Mokone is black he had to be contented with just being a Non-European feather-weight and lightweight champion. This is in spite of the fact that South Africa has never produced a boxer of Mokone's calibre.

If Mokone were White, I haven't the slightest hesitation in saying that he would have been regarded

as one of the best lightweights in the world.

Of "Croucher" Kekana very little can be said. He had things his own way from beginning to end. In due course, the mettle he is made of will be known. But one thing is certain, he will go down in history as the boxer who took the crown from Mokone's head.

END PASS LAWS

(Continued from page 1)

- In a resolution, the conference took a firm pledge to "resist and oppose Nationalist tyranny in every possible way."
● It pledged anti-pass committees in every area "to set aside a definite date to free ourselves from the vicious passes before the elections in 1958."
● It decided that workers' committees be organised in every industry in every corner of the province to build trade unions and struggle for all-round wage increases and a minimum wage of £1 a day.
● It urged unity of all races against group areas and ethnic grouping.
● It decided to throw all efforts behind anti-Nationalist unity and the national multi-racial conference.
● It pledged "We shall stand by our leaders and not rest till they are released."
Delegates came from as far afield as Sekukuniland and Louis Trichardt.

Carltonville Raids

(Continued from page 1)

men and women milled outside the courtyard demanding the release of those arrested.

I got there when a few of the women had been bailed out but most were still in the cells.

Young policemen who appeared to be mere boys were running the show at the police station.

A young policeman said: "Wie is jy?" when I asked about the women. "Is jy 'n donderse kaffer prokureur?"

I could wait the whole afternoon for the information I wanted, I was told. I didn't wait the whole afternoon.

But the police had the last word as I went to our car near the police station. "You may ride in cars but you are still baboons!" came the shout from a uniformed constable.

A DIFFERENT STORY

The reception in the location was quite different, needless to say. There we were received like wedding guests. Women came out to greet us waving their shawls, and cries of "Afrika" rent the air.

The case of the 41 was due to be heard in court on Wednesday this week. Word had gone around that the women should not pay admission of guilt fines, and none did, though one of the 41 found that her employer had done so for her without her knowledge.

Undesirable Literature Report

(Continued from page 4)

have shown their mettle and have consequently been held in high esteem... The Commission questioned several Non-Europeans regarding their attitude towards illustrations in which European women are portrayed and depicted in an undesirable manner. One and all declared that they disapproved of illustrations of this nature and expressed their concern about the influence which these pictures can have on their fellow Non-Europeans.

"A certain Non-European who occupies a responsible position declared that the European woman is held in high esteem and that she is in effect placed on a pedestal by Non-Europeans. With reference to undesirable illustrations in which European women are portrayed and depicted in a reprehensible manner, he asserted that Europeans themselves are tumbling the European woman from her pedestal."

The Commission also deals at length with the huge quantities of "literary" trash imported from America. This importation continues in spite of the fact that the Government has full powers to ban this trash and, in fact, does ban some of it. The Commission discusses further the alarming decline in the quality of Afrikaans writing. Of more than 1,600 new Afrikaans works written since 1935, only about 8 per cent were found to be of "literary merit."

But by far the most drastic sections of the report deal with political publications. If the Commission's recommendations are accepted, a handful of Government nominees will be able to bring about the suppression of any kind of publication in the Union. Editors, publishers, owners, printers, distributors—all become liable. This provision no doubt is designed to intimidate persons in the publication trade. Fines of up to £1,000 and sentences of imprisonment of up to 5 years can be imposed.

EDITORS OF SUSPENDED OR BANNED PUBLICATIONS CAN BE DEBARRED FROM ANY JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITY ON ANY PUBLICATION.

The report adds: "A conspicuous feature of these publications (weekly newspapers intended for Non-Europeans) was the high incidence of reports, articles and other contributions which tend to engender, or which may have the effect of engendering, friction or feelings of hostility between the European and Non-European population groups of the Union."

The report makes the startling announcement that the Commission counted the number of issues in which such reports appeared, and found that in one particular publication it was as high as 52.8 per cent. In all, 5 different publications are listed as being guilty of reports "engendering race friction."

But, if this is true, why were not these publications prosecuted under existing laws?

It is clear that under cover of its blanket definition of "undesirable literature" the Commission regards political censorship as one of the most important tasks of the Publications Board, just as under the Customs Act political works have been included under the heading of "indecent, obscene or otherwise objectionable" and banned from importation into the Union. The Commission expressly approves of the manner in which the Customs Act has been used for this purpose. "The present system of control has been successful in preventing the entry into this country of an immense volume of undesirable publications and other printed matter as well as of other goods of a miscellaneous nature. The Commission was afforded the opportunity of

perusing the contents of hundreds of banned titles and is convinced that a great service has been done to this country in prohibiting the publications concerned. This finding is given particular prominence and is especially emphasised."

So now we know what we are in for. Amongst the works already banned under the Customs Act are not only filthy pictures and horror comics, but some of the great classics of world literature, political works, treatises on race relations published under the auspices of UNO. It is clear the Commission—and no doubt the Government behind it—want to see the same sort of control exercised over internal publications as soon as possible.

FOOTNOTE: The Commission quotes the names of daily and weekly newspapers which it studied during the course of its investigations. Papers like the Bantu World, The Sun, Indian Views, Indian Opinion and the Torch were included in its survey, but neither New Age, Advance nor the Guardian are so much as mentioned and there is no indication that the Commission had them in mind in framing any of its recommendations.

Liberal Party Backs £1 A Day

DURBAN.

In response to the widespread support for the £1 a day demand, a Natal £1 a Day Committee was formed at a meeting last week.

Represented on the committee are the Liberal Party, the Durban branch of the S.A. Congress of Democrats, the Natal Indian Congress, the African National Congress and a number of trade unions.

Numerous other organisations have indicated their willingness to join the committee.

The Natal £1 a Day Committee appeals to all interested bodies and individuals to give their support to the campaign for higher wages.

TALENT CELEBRATION

You are invited by the African National Congress, Alexandra Branch No. 3, to attend a Talent Celebration, in aid of raising monies for the Treason Suspects, who have been in the Drill Hall for the last ten months.

The contest will be held on Sunday the 6th October, 1957, at No. 34, Tenth Avenue, Alexandra Township, at 12 noon. ROLL UP... ROLL UP...

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"What About My Loss?"

JOHANNESBURG.

An African, Jacob Moagi, who paid £410 for a stand in Klipriviersoog and then spent £800 building a house, was told he must leave or run the risk of being charged and evicted under the Group Areas Act.

Unless Moagi left the premises, the Magistrate told the European who sold Moagi the land, he would be guilty of a continuing offence and fined £5 a day for each day it continued.

"What about my loss?" Moagi asked the court.

"The court cannot go into that matter," he was told. "This court can only go into the matter of whether you can stay there or not. It is unlawful for you to stay there."

Klipriviersoog is at present being cleared of all Africans.

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