

Berlin Crisis

THREE OUT OF FOUR BRITONS SAY: 'WE WON'T FIGHT!'

BRITISH public opinion is becoming increasingly impatient at the failure by Prime Minister MacMillan to say clearly what policy he has to offer for bringing to an end the dangerous dispute between the capitalist and socialist worlds about the use of Germany as a military threat to the Soviet Union.

The U.S. insistence that it will embark on atomic war rather than agree to the Soviet proposal that the military occupation of Berlin should be ended has horrified the people of Great Britain.

A Gallup poll last week shocked the U.S. government when it revealed that 74 per cent of Britons were not prepared to go to war over Berlin.

MAC SHILLY-SHALLIES

Knowing how strong was the public feeling, prime minister Macmillan appeared at first to be making genuine overtures for peace. During his Moscow visit his delegation allowed word to leak out that he was exploring the possibility of disengagement in Germany—that is, the withdrawal of all troops by both sides.

When this aroused alarm in the U.S., German and French governments, the rumour was quickly modified to one of a "thinning out" of troops by both sides, the degree of thinning to be agreed upon in conference.

But the Americans would not hear even of this proposal and obediently Macmillan modified his plan to one for freezing the troop position at its present level.

Finally, when it became clear that the Americans were anxious to avoid the holding of a summit conference at all, MacMillan spoke out clearly at last. He said that Britain had no proposal to make at all at this stage.

GERMANS SHOULD GET TOGETHER Grotewohl to Adenauer

Meanwhile, premier of the German Democratic Republic, Otto Grotewohl has written to his western counterpart Chancellor Adenauer, suggesting that the leaders of the two German states should get together to discuss the formulation of a common German stand on a peace treaty—a proposal which has been consistently rejected by Adenauer.

It seems strange, says Grotewohl in his message, that Adenauer is prepared to hold discussions on vital German matters with foreign powers but is not prepared to talk over the same things with fellow-Germans.

TUNISIA, while it wants to maintain solidarity with all Arab countries, cannot tolerate the insistence by Egypt that she must dominate the Middle East, Tunisian president Bourguiba said in a press interview last week. Bourguiba reiterated his firm support for the Algerian liberatory struggle.

INDIA has decided to ban the screening in Delhi of a British film—"Naked Earth"—because it insults the African people. This action is being taken in response to a request made by the African Students' Union in a letter to the Indian Government. The letter said that the film offended African sentiments and depicted their life as "barbaric."



Vicky in the "New Statesman."

ALGERIANS GET AID FROM SOCIALIST LANDS

Struggle is Growing More Anti-American

THE world-wide support for the Algerian Provisional Government in its leadership of the fight for independence from French rule has made it certain that that struggle will never be crushed.

An Algerian Military Delegation is at present in Peking, following up exploratory top-level talks held between China and Algeria last December (New Age Dec. 25, 1958) and there can be little doubt that negotiations are taking place for the delivery of Chinese supplies to Algeria.

Already agreements with the socialist countries for aid to Algeria are in full operation. Supplies have been coming to Algerian depots in Tunis from the German Democratic Republic, and wounded Algerian soldiers are being flown to socialist Germany for medical treatment.

America must now be well aware that Algeria is potentially one of the most powerful factors in Africa making for the final destruction of imperialist rule over the continent.

For the Algerian struggle, which was originally confined to a battle against French domination, has now openly become one between Al-

geria and the whole NATO alliance dominated by America.

The following report by Zdravko Petchar, a Yugoslav resistance hero during the last world war, who recently spent a month with the Algerian freedom fighters, is a graphic description of the political consciousness of the Algerian people and shows their military strength and confidence. It is from the Yugoslav newspaper Borba.

THE bombing had continued for an hour when the first napalm bombs fell. There was a high burst of fierce flame and the fire spread with terrifying speed through the wooded hills. A stream of flame from a second bomb shut off our view like a curtain.

From all sides angry cries rang out: "America! America!" For this hell-fire came from the depots established under the pact which calls itself "Atlantic."

Every Algerian fighter can talk for hours about this; and if the former proprietors of the B-26's and the napalm bombs realised the depth of the chasm which these arms have opened between them and these people, they would perhaps react quite differently in witnessing how Atlantic Pact weapons are used against the Algerians.

The arms of the Algerian forces help explain their great self-confi-

dence and optimism. In early days they had nothing but hunting rifles and revolvers, but now they are well armed.

Ready for action late one afternoon, the soldiers formed up in ranks, all well-shod with "boots manufactured in France for the Algerian soldiers," as they say jokingly. The officer saluted with his sword, then reviewed his troops: A mortar company with standard equipment, a platoon completely equipped with automatic weapons, squads with machine guns, soldiers with small grenade-throwers and bazookas.

The arms of this battalion consist of war booty, the variety of which is astonishing. One soldier is clad from head to foot in an American uniform bearing the letters "U.S.," his weapons also are American.

To check for myself their stubborn assertions that they are fighting not merely against France but against the Atlantic Pact, I carefully examined the weapons of each man and the equipment of the battalion. I found numerous American semi-automatic Garands and American carbines. The others are MAS-36's of French manufacture. The automatic-weapons platoon has French MAT-49's and PM-38's, and a fairly large number have American Thompson sub-machine guns and British Stens; there are also French FM-24/29's and American Browning automatic rifles. Most of the machine guns are American; and the others are French and British. To these must be added the bazookas and many American Colt .45 automatic pistols.

Despite the diversity of their armaments, the Algerian fighters do not complain of any munitions shortage: they have enough, for this is equally a matter of war booty . . .

FRENCH IGNORED

Over the whole of a large area, the civilian population is ordered to evacuate and withdraw to what is called the "protection" of the authorities, or rather to the fortified garrisons of the French army in Algeria. For many days, planes drop leaflets urging peasants to abandon once again their ancestral homes, their fields and harvests.

The Algerian peasant ignored the call to leave his land—a call dropped from planes in the name of an authority which he no longer recognises. He stayed where he was and went on with his work.

American-made bombers came in waves from Atlantic Pact bases, in

the course of a day several squadrons concentrated on an area as large as a big town and its environs. They were accompanied by French pursuit planes which completed with machine-guns the work of the high-explosive and incendiary bombs.

A few days ago I happened upon what was left of a village after one of those so-called "mopping-up" and "pacification" operations. The huts were blazing from the incendiary attack. Machine-gun bursts from the air had slaughtered an isolated herd of sheep.

Panting men, women and children ran toward the wood where we were sheltered. Until evening the aerial attack of fire and flame did not cease. Half-crazed mothers held their children in their arms, the men looked after the livestock that still remained, and the children, clinging to the long pockets of our battledress, dragged after the soldiers through the thorny undergrowth that tore at their legs.

Artillery fire began to fall on the mountain path along which we were advancing. Incendiary grenades set on fire the bark of the cork-oaks and the dry grass. The flames had spread to the path and it was necessary to escape quickly from this hell to reach some place for the night where one could breathe.

That is what the "pacification" of Algeria is like. And that is why, in the heart of a people, the last ties are breaking which could have attached them to any just, comprehensive policy offered by France.



Jomo Kenyatta the Kenya leader who has been released from jail after serving a seven-year sentence on a false charge of organising the Mau Mau. With vindictive savagery the British have exiled him in the desert northern territory of the colony.

The African and Indian Congresses last week wired Jomo Kenyatta their congratulations. "We salute you on your release," said the cable. "We demand your full liberty in your own country."

POPE BANS VOTES FOR PROGRESSIVES

THE new Pope has followed in giving official church backing to the capitalist parties in the forthcoming Sicilian elections in Italy.

The Vatican has published an order forbidding Roman Catholics to vote for the Communist Party or any party or candidates who stand in a united front with the Communists—even if these candidates do not advocate any policy contrary to Catholic doctrine. This announcement was issued with the Pope's personal approval.

POPULAR FRONT

It is obviously intended to affect the result of the forthcoming elections in Sicily where the right-wing Christian Democratic party backed by the Catholic Church recently lost its majority in the provincial council when one of its leaders

the footsteps of his predecessor by to the capitalist parties in the forth-

Signor Milazzo, broke with the party and accepted Communist and Socialist support to form a popular front type of administration.

Signor Milazzo's Communist-supported Christian Social Union is due to go to the electorate for a vote of confidence on June 3, and because a popular front election victory in Sicily would have far-reaching results throughout Italy the right-wing parties are throwing everything they have into the attempt to stop the Christian Social Union.

Undoubtedly the Pope's intervention is their strongest weapon in their fight to prevent the return of a progressive administration.

LITTE LIBBY - THE ADVENTURES OF LIBERATION CHAGALALA

by Alex ha Guma



SPORTLIGHT

by

"DULEEP"



IN DEFENCE OF TABLE TENNIS BOARD

THE recent remarks about table tennis made by a fellow columnist in the "World," Mr. Leslie Sehume, have raised my ire. He says the game is controlled by Indians.

As a journalist he should acquaint himself with the facts before he offers criticism.

Why does he not refer to the S.A. Cricket Board of Control in the same light, for there are more Indians there than any other group? But in any case, why make any reference to a man's race? Let us, as sportswriters, refer to any administrator as an individual, and judge him on his merits, not by his racial group.

For Mr. Sehume's information, and perhaps those who have believed what he has said, the S.A. Table Tennis Board has affiliated to it Southern and Northern Natal, W.P., Transvaal and Eastern Province, and practises no racial discrimination whatsoever.

When the headquarters of the national body was in Cape Town, international recognition was sought and attained. At that time the officials were all Coloureds. But what does it matter whether they were Coloureds or Indians? The fact is that they gained international recognition, and we should be proud of that achievement.

Is the running of numerous national tournaments on a highly successful scale a small achievement? Is the sending of a team to Stockholm in 1957 not progress? Is the complete defeat of the Europeans by the Non-Europeans in Cape Town after the National Championships in 1958 not advancement of our talents? Was the Transvaal's affiliation not an indication of the Board's embracement of all provinces where table tennis is played? I can quote many other instances where the Board has made much progress.

ROTATING HEADQUARTERS

The Table Tennis Board has a system of rotating its headquarters. When in Cape Town it was controlled by Coloureds. Now in Durban it has Indians. Who knows when it goes to Johannesburg it may be controlled by Africans! But these men were not elected for their racial qualifications, but for their service to the game.

No, Mr. Sehume, if you want to be of service to sport, criticise at all times and by all means, but be constructive, and please discard that racial tendency.

One cannot help feeling that there is a certain amount of jealousy towards the T.T. Board, for they are the only branch of sport that enjoys international recognition. Let us not be envious of this unique achievement, which was acquired through hard work by devoted men like Mr. Maurice and Mr. Eksteen of Cape Town who went overseas to achieve their ambition. Instead, we should be proud of the fact that they have acquired what other branches of sport are still striving for, and which we hope one day they will also gain. Who knows, that day may be nearer than we think.

St. Augustine C.C. - Diamond Jubilee

The St. Augustine Cricket Club, affiliated to the Metropolitan and Suburban Cricket Union, this year celebrates its Diamond Jubilee, having been founded in the year 1899.

This club is considered by many to be the strongest in the country. They have such great players as D'Oliviera, Witten, and Jeter January, who have already represented the S.A. Coloureds, while six others have played for their Union and Western Province in representative games.

The club has three teams, two of which are in the senior division. Not to be outdone, the junior team this season won the League championship, and thus gained promotion into the senior section.

With its wealth of talent, especially among the juniors, the prospects of the club are very bright. Thus far, they have been league champions of their Union for the last five seasons, having been defeated only twice during that time, and then only because of the demands for their star players in Board matches. In addition they are holders of the renowned Fester Trophy which is competed for by the League champions of each of the eight Unions affiliated to the Peninsula and Western Districts Board. They have annexed this cup for the last four seasons.

Who is the inspiration behind the success of the club? None other than Mr. D'Oliviera, Sr., who is the present chairman. Popularly known as "Lulu," he has been connected with the club for the last 35 years. As a player himself he was quite outstanding. No wonder the chips of the old block are blossoming into such great products—Basil and Ivan—his two sons.

One of the strongest points of the club, is its insistence on physical training and practices. These are all conducted under the personal supervision and control of Basil. Thrice a week, the players could be seen on their Green Point ground undergoing the rituals of reaching peak fitness, and how well they have succeeded can be borne out by the results.

We Hear It Said ...

● That Yotham Muleya, the athlete from Northern Rhodesia, who attracted world-wide attention by convincingly defeating Gordon Pirie, will be seen in action in Johannesburg next month. Here's wishing him luck, that he may smash some of the existing records, and thus break the theory that his achievement was a flash-in-the-pan.

● That there are certain members in the W.P. connected with soccer, who have affiliations in units connected with the S.A. Soccer Federation and also in the "rebel" United F.A. These members should make their position clear, and the only way to do so is via the press, so that one knows where they stand. This type of dualism must cease for the good of the Non-White cause.

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