

ALL ROADS LEAD TO KLIPTOWN!

DEC 2 1955
REFERENCE

NEW AGE

Congress of the People will be Greatest Conference Ever

Members of Parliament Invited

JOHANNESBURG.—This week-end people's representatives from all corners of the country are taking the roads that lead to the Freedom Assembly of the Congress of the People. This holds every promise of being the greatest conference that South Africans of any generation have ever seen.

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PRIME MINISTER OF CHINA'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS OF PEOPLE

"We Support Your Just Struggle," Says Leader of Six Hundred Million

"ON behalf of the Chinese people, I warmly greet the convocation of the Congress of the People, and wish that the Congress will achieve new success in uniting the people of different origins and all sections in South Africa to oppose racial discrimination and to win freedom and democratic rights," says a message to the Congress of the People from the Prime Minister of People's China, leader of 600 million people, about one-quarter of the world's population.

"The Asian-African Conference has solemnly condemned colonialism and racial discrimination.

"The Chinese people, together with the peoples of other Asian and African countries and the people of the whole world, will continue to support the just struggle waged by the people of South Africa," Chou En-lai concludes.

AMONG OTHER EARLY MESSAGES ARE THESE:

● From the Eenheidsvakcentrale, Holland. (The Dutch United Council of Trade Unions.)

The Dutch workers and all respectable Dutchmen are greatly indignant at the fascist discriminatory measures taken by the South African Government, particularly in recent times. The Dutch people have always felt great dissatisfaction against fascist "race theories." . . . We follow with great respect the courageous fight of the South African people for freedom and justice and against fascism and racism.

We are convinced that the Charter and the fight for its realisation will be a contribution in establishing unity, the principal condition for success in the fight for freedom, equality of rights and a life in accordance with human dignity for all workers. Long live the fight of the South African people! Long live the friendship between the South African and Dutch peoples!

● From British Guiana People's Progressive Party.

We send our sincere greetings to the assembly of representatives of the peoples of South Africa who are attending the historic Congress of the People. We await with the deepest interest the results of your meeting and realise the significance of the drawing up of a freedom charter. The people of British Guiana have for years been watching the South African situation with intense interest. Your sorrows have been our sorrows—your achievements have inspired our people. Our fraternal greetings to your people. Success for the Freedom Charter! Long live the movements to end colonial domination and misery. — Janet Jagan, People's Progressive Party.

● From the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The W.F.T.U. is deeply concerned at the increasing restrictions on trade union and demo-

cratic rights in South Africa and has repeatedly undertaken actions of protest against such restrictions and of solidarity with the workers fighting against them.

The W.F.T.U. sends the Congress of the People its best wishes for success in its efforts to unite the South African people in struggle against anti-trade union and anti-democratic laws, against race discrimination and for the advancement of the standard of life of the people.

● From the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

In the name of 86 million youth we send warm fraternal greetings to your Congress and wish you every success in your struggle for peace, freedom, people's rights and a happier life.

● From the All-China Federation of Democratic Youth.

On the occasion of your Congress, on behalf of the Chinese youth, we extend our warmest greetings. The Chinese youth deeply sympathise with your struggle against racial discrimination and national oppression. We wish the South African people further success in the struggle to defend world peace for democracy, freedom and rights.

● From the President of the Indian National Congress, New Delhi.

THIS UNITED EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE OPPRESSED IS REALLY PRAISEWORTHY AND WE ARE SURE WILL BRING YOUR PEACEFUL STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO A SUCCESSFUL END VERY SOON. YOU ARE AWARE THAT THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ARE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE DISCRIMINATORY POLICY FOLLOWED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT THIS TYPE OF THING CANNOT CONTINUE FOR LONG IN THIS MODERN DEMOCRATIC WORLD. WE EXTEND OUR MORAL SUPPORT TO YOU AND WISH YOU ALL SUCCESS.

THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE HAS BEEN A YEAR IN THE MAKING. IT IS THE CULMINATION OF A YEAR'S CLOSE CAMPAIGNING BY THE FOUR BODIES THAT HAVE COME TO BE KNOWN AS THE CONGRESS MOVEMENT: THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS, THE S.A. COLOURED PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION AND THE S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

From these bodies, meeting together, went out that simple call, "Let us speak together of Freedom," that called people to countless meetings to speak of the changes they want in life to make them free. For months now the demands have been flooding in to C.O.P. headquarters, on sheets torn from school exercise books, on little dog-eared scraps of paper, on slips torn from C.O.P. leaflets.

All these demands have now been collected together and framed in the draft charter to be put before the thousands of delegates who will meet in the open at Kliptown this Saturday and Sunday. Then for the first time South Africa will have in its freedom charter a real statement of the hopes and aims of the ordinary people, which will inspire the freedom struggle; and lead all fighters for freedom together, in harmony and common purpose which rises above the barriers of race.

● Invitations have been sent to M.P.s, M.P.C.s, political and church leaders and democratic public leaders to attend the assembly and watch its proceedings, certain to be a most striking contrast to the proceedings of Parliament and restrictive organs of government.

● This week Johannesburg and Reef volunteers are at work mobilising the public to attend the assembly, whose proceedings will be held throughout in public.

(Continued on page 8)



On Trial for Teaching Children

JOHANNESBURG.—In the first-ever prosecution under the Bantu Education Act, Germiston parents crowded out the Magistrate's Court during the trial last week of five for conducting an unregistered school.

The five were arrested on May 3. They are charged with teaching 300 young African children between the ages of seven and 14, without registering their school under the Act and obtaining permission from the Minister.

Exhibits in the courtroom during the hearing were blackboards, their simple lessons still chalked on them, piles of children's exercise books and standard school text-books.

Two police officers and an inspector of Bantu schools gave evidence for the Crown. The police

described to the court how they had seen young children sitting on benches before blackboards, on which lessons were chalked in English, Afrikaans and vernacular, and that the five accused were in the various classes.

The five had been warned that they were being arrested, and had been taken to the police station.

This case was adjourned after the first day's hearing, and will be continued on July 1.

"IT SEEMS LIKE AN UGLY DREAM, DOES IT NOT," ONE PARENT COMMENTED TO NEW AGE WHEN THE TRIAL OF THE FIVE ADJOURNED. "THOSE WHO TRY TO TEACH SMALL CHILDREN THEIR ABC AND THEIR SUMS ARE BROUGHT TO COURT AS CRIMINALS. THAT IS BANTU EDUCATION!"



Women's Federation —Some Criticism

I was happy to see the women who attended a meeting in Johannesburg a while ago to talk of the fight for freedom. It gives me joy to see women taking up the fight alongside their men.

I, too, was at this meeting of the Federation of South African Women, and so I have a right to speak my thoughts.

You are proud of the demands made by this federation—of this I am sure, for you put them down in much detail. But I am ashamed of them.

Ashamed because I think they show that we are still thinking like slaves. Let me prove this.

It is said, "We demand better shopping facilities, particularly in the Non-European townships."

This is a disgrace, for it means we still accept the idea of Non-European townships! For me, freedom means the right to live where I like, and not the right to live in improved "Native or Coloured" locations.

Point 2 makes me even more angry. "We demand more and better land for the reserves." This is a tragedy that people should still accept the idea of reserves. We should know by now that the reserves are the very backbone of apartheid—that by creating reserves the rulers have taken away the people's land and so forced them to work for pennies and tickets to make them (the rulers) rich.

It is wrong to say "we want bigger and better reserves" and in the same breath call for the abolition of the migratory labour system. When we achieve the abolition of cheap labour we will have to be strong enough to achieve full freedom, for the present-day police state is built on the back of cheap labour. And we are still thinking with slave minds if we ask for better reserves.

There are many right things in the demands that were set out, but as I have said, there were bad things, too. Perhaps this confusion comes because we are never encouraged to criticise what our leaders tell us.

I would ask you not to print my name or address, as I am a teacher and there is no freedom of speech for me!

TEACHER.

Orlando-White City,
Johannesburg.

Waiting Impatiently

We, to this day, were waiting impatiently for news from you in connection with the J.N.A. (Junior New Age). Have you had any approvals from anybody yet?

Please could you let us know soon in spite of the fact that you are a busy man? We would be extremely grateful.

BARBARA HARMEL
and

TONY BERNSTEIN.
Johannesburg.

Well, Barbara and Tony, we really have been hunting high and low for someone clever enough to write a regular column for the Juniors, but everyone is too shy. Why not ask one of your fathers or mothers to have a shot at it?—
Editor.

Boksburg Blot

Another black spot has been built at Stirtonville by the Boksburg Town Council for Africans. The place is called Galeview. It is rightly called Galeview, as one can view a gale from any angle when inside its municipal stone houses, which leak when it rains and with unnecessary ventilation in all weathers.

The houses have no ceilings inside, and there are no street lights outside. It is difficult to find your house after sunset, and when you do find it at last you find the weather is as bad inside as it is outside. To crown all, the rent is £2 10s. for people earning £2 5s. per week.

If you are unfortunate enough to live in the place you will find your health becoming poorer and poorer as you pay more and more rent, because the houses resemble ice chests in winter and ovens in summer.

Tsotsis like the place for their nefarious deeds, as there are plenty of hide-outs on account of the absence of street lights.

The Council finds it unnecessary to grant an increase in the number of African taxis, which at present are five serving a population of 12,000 Africans. Imagine waiting for a taxi on a cold or rainy day. One wonders what transport will be like when Boksburg has a new Meadowlands, which is to be built 11 miles away from the old city of Boksburg.

The Advisory Board of the place has failed to make the Council understand these grievances, and its members are told by officials not to waste time gossiping.

K. B. NOBADULA,
Advisory Board member,
Stirtonville.

Didn't Know Answers

Recently we had a meeting in Kliptown with the Native Commissioner of Johannesburg. His aim was that at the end of the month 150 people are going to be moved from Kliptown to the new shelters near Moroka Township.

Representatives of the Kliptown Vigilance Committee asked him many questions which the Commissioner did not know how to answer. The Vigilance Committee refused point blank to let our people go to the shelters, because a person cannot be taken from a home to shelters.

An old woman asked why the Government does not allow her 18-year-old child to live with his parents. "God gives it to me. How can I throw my blood away?" The Commissioner also failed to answer.

I call on the people of Kliptown, of the African National Congress, Vigilance Committees and Indians, all residents, not to sell stands to the Government.

We are going to fight tooth and nail to go to live in better houses—not to shelters where our children will die of bad health.

D. CHANINGA KAUNDA,
A.N.C., Kliptown.

Good Wishes

We members of the Youth League, Veeplaats, wish to extend our thanks to New Age. We hope that your paper will have more and more success. We send our greetings to those in Benoni who have been already in action to boycott Verwoerd schools.

Z. R. STEMELE,
Port Elizabeth.

Attack on Women

Early this month 1,000 women led by the Congress's Women's League, organised a procession to go and see the District Native Commissioner, Ndola.

The women had two grievances to present to the District Commissioner:—

1. From time immemorial women used to cut wood for fuel. We, in the Federation, don't use coal. It is a scarce commodity. From wood charcoal, women obtained a little money by selling at the market to supplement the meagre wages of their husbands.

2. Our women used to brew beer both for sale and drinking. This was also a source of income for the poverty-stricken families.

Now the Ndola Municipality has prohibited all this. The women wanted to air their views by going to the authority. Instead of being welcomed peacefully—they were greeted by tear gas and baton charge. The traffic was jammed as the women scattered all over screaming. Ten women lay unconscious overcome by gas. The women were chased by the police, armed, for a mile.

After that the police marched into the compound, singing, "Tina Ngwenyama"—"We are wild beasts." They were really brutes on that day.

NEPHAS TEMBO.

Ndola, N. Rhodesia.

Apartheid's Body?

Recently a group of youth toured Natal. After having met Chief Luthuli they composed a song which would help inspire us to the Congress of the People.

May I suggest to readers that by composing songs of the struggle we would carry the message of the Congress of the People sooner than ever.

The Congress of the People
(To be sung to the tune of "John Brown's Body")
Chief Luthuli has a 50,000 men
(Repeat thrice)
And we will rally more.

Chorus
Forward, forward, on to freedom

(Repeat thrice)
Mayibuye Afrika!
The Congress of the People will triumph eventually
(Repeat thrice)
As the wheel goes rolling on.

Chorus
Freedom is our goal, and we are sure to win
(Repeat thrice)
Under the flag of Afrika.

Chorus
Let us speak together of freedom.
PETER EDWARDS.
Fordsburg, Johannesburg.

Africans, Unite!

Africans, unite!
The tree is high that must be scaled;
The sea is wide that must be sailed;
Yet our freedom is not far
If only we unite.

D.T.M.

Sophiatown, Johannesburg.

Beyond Their Standard

I was very glad to read that Mr. Sam Kahn won his appeal.

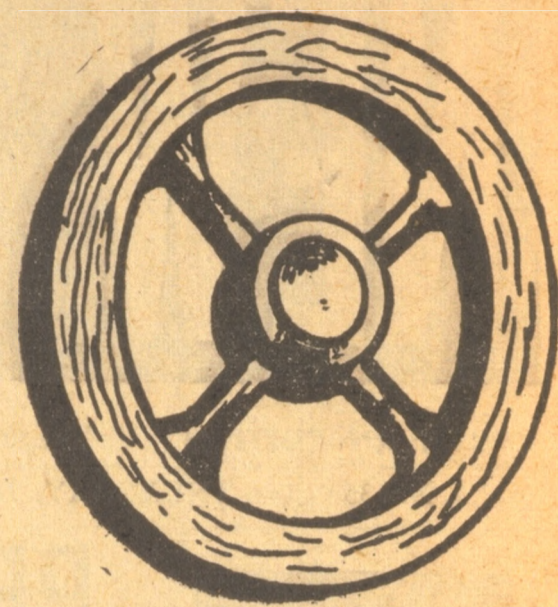
Over 100 men are sitting in Parliament making laws and yet they keep on making them wrongly!

It is plain that the Government prohibited Sam Kahn from staying in Parliament because his brain is beyond the standard of this Parliament of South Africa.

ALFRED YOBOLOLO,
Cape Province.

EDITORIAL

NEW AGE SALUTES THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE



THIS week-end, the great Congress of the People is meeting at Kliptown, Johannesburg. Although the Parliamentary politicians and their kept Press have attempted to black out all news of the Congress, the elected representatives of the common people are gathering together in their thousands to discuss their problems and grievances, and to draw up the Freedom Charter incorporating their demands for a better life for all South Africans, irrespective of race, creed or colour.

The delegates to the C.O.P. have a great responsibility and a great mission to fulfil. Millions of their fellow-men and women, not only in this country but also abroad, look to the C.O.P. to produce the vision of a new South Africa, free from inequalities, race hatred and violence, as an answer to the vicious inhumanity of the Nationalist apartheid state. The conference must give a clear lead to all South Africans who are willing to defend existing liberties against the offensive of the Government, and to join in the struggle to enlarge the boundaries of freedom until all without exception are included in its scope.

New Age salutes the Congress of the People and all the men and women who have laboured for so long to make it a success. We wish the delegates every success in their deliberations and pledge to do everything in our power to convey the message of the conference to the four corners of the land—indeed of the whole world!

Forward to Freedom—in our lifetime!

WORLD PEACE ASSEMBLY OPENS IN FINLAND

But U.S. Refuses to Let Its Citizens Go

LONDON.—Hundreds of delegates from 75 countries, including South Africa, are attending the World Peace Assembly, which opened in Helsinki, Finland, this week. Hundreds of millions of people the world over will be looking to the Assembly to give a lead in the struggle to avert world war and guarantee enduring peace.

The agenda will cover three main heads:

1. Atomic weapons and disarmament;
2. Military blocs and the maintenance of bases in foreign countries.
3. Co-operation between nations, the independence of nations and the maintenance of peace.

In view of the refusal of the United States Government to grant passports to American citizens wishing to attend the Assembly, a number of public figures in several countries have written an open letter to the citizens of the United States urging their participation in the fight for peace.

WORLD TORN APART

"Ten years ago the world was shattered," their letter reads. "After 10 years, after various stages of hope and disappointment, the world is still torn apart.

"Each and every one of us knows that war is no solution whatsoever, and that a clash be-

tween the two main military blocs . . . would lead to a disaster without solving any problems.

"The whole of mankind yearns for knowledge, prosperity and happiness. . . . We all know that Americans are devoted to peace. We know the importance of their contribution in the past; we believe it can be decisive in the days to come.

"We all earnestly wish that representative Americans may join in. If Americans were not to be present at Helsinki at a moment when the world is entering the path to negotiation—and maybe to mutual understanding — it

would be a great disappointment for all men of goodwill, for it would be very regrettable for a great people not to be represented at such an important assembly.

FIND THE WAY

"By a free and thorough discussion we must find the ways and means towards world peace."

Signatories to the letter include Mr. Edouard Herriot, Honorary President of the French National Assembly; Mr. Frederic Joliot-Curie (France); Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru (India); Mrs. Soong Ching-ling (Madame Sun Yat-sen) (China); Professor J. D. Bernal, F.R.S. (Britain); Mr. George Branting (Sweden); Mr. Josue de Castro, M.P. (Brazil); Mr. Alexander Fadeyev (U.S.S.R.); Mr. Akira Kazami (Japan); Mr. Oscar Lange (Poland); Mr. Pietro Nenni (Italy); and the Rev. Martin Niemoller (Germany).

60,000 Women Can't Be Wrong

BRISTOL.

Representatives of 60,000 women Co-operators at their annual congress here asked the Labour Party to reconsider its decision on German rearmament.

This request was carried as an addendum to a motion, passed with only one vote against, pledging the Women's Co-operative Guild to work for peace.

The resolution declared that the rearmament of West Germany would divide Germany and Europe and constituted a grave threat to world peace.

It demanded that China be allowed to take her rightful place in the United Nations.

SEBATA-KGOMO is the new peasant organisation established recently in the Transvaal, after a conference to which delegates representing farm squatters and from trust and tribal lands came. The new organisation's programme demands land for the landless, the right of all to possess unlimited cattle without the interference of culling regulations, the abolition of the period of unpaid service which squatters must give to farmers, among other demands.

BRITISH CIVIL SERVANTS CONDEMN ALL RACIALISM

LONDON.—A motion condemning "all manifestations of racial discrimination or colour prejudice, whether by governments, employers or workers," was passed at the conference of the Civil Service Clerical Association recently.

The motion urged the Trades Union Council to make the position of the trade unions absolutely clear by way of a public declaration, and to give special attention to the problems emerging in Britain from the influx of workers of other races.

Proposing the motion, Mr. K. P. O'Donoghue (Pension Dept.) said the declared policy was to use all the power of the State to keep non-White people in subjection.

Mr. T. King (National Assistance

United Nations Report:

Living Standards Rising In People's Democracies

LONDON.—AN IMPROVEMENT IN LIVING STANDARDS IN THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACIES OF EASTERN EUROPE IS RECORDED IN THE LATEST REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE.

At the end of 1954 real wages in Czechoslovakia were 20 per cent. higher than a year earlier, 15 per cent. up in Hungary, Bulgaria and East Germany, and 12 per cent. up in Poland.

The commission adds that available information "on the development of personal consumption points to considerable gains in this field during the last year or so."

In Czechoslovakia and Eastern Germany the bulk of the extra purchasing power in people's pockets came from price reductions. In Poland increases in wages were more important than price reductions, while in Hungary both factors were of about equal importance.

"These increases in personal incomes," says the report, "naturally brought a sharp increase in retail sales." This increased buying has, however, resulted in a shortage of certain kinds of food—mainly animal products—in the more industrialised countries, particularly Czechoslovakia and East Germany.

Of the increased emphasis on heavy industry in the Soviet Union and East Europe, the commission says, "There is no sign that the gains made by consumers are to be reduced nor, indeed, that further increases in consumer goods production are not contemplated."

Higher priority given to agricultural investment is being maintained and even extended.

Since the figures on which the report is based were collected there have been further retail price cuts in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria and Rumania, smaller than last year but resulting in still further increases in the real wages of the workers.

MEXICAN ARTISTS BACK WORLD PEACE CALL

MEXICO CITY.—Mexico's three greatest painters, David Siqueiros, Diego Rivera and Leopoldo Mendez, have issued an appeal to American artists to join them in opposing the drift to war with nuclear weapons.

Such a war, their statement reads, would "destroy human beings" and "expose to annihilation . . . all the monuments of human culture that have lasted through the ages," including the "great cultural centres and museums of the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Peru."

They add: "Where an atomic or hydrogen bomb falls, it is not only the architectural and sculptural monuments that will perish, books, written music, the printed works of poets will be reduced to ashes. It is the whole treasure of science, technical theory, historical archives, all these sources of human knowledge; it is the best teachings of philosophy, medicine and law, the sum of thousands of years of human experience and work; it is this treasure of beauty which strengthens the highest emotions that will disappear."

The three artists call upon the artists of the Americas to play a leading role in the "struggle against the forces that would destroy human culture," and to join them in signing the Vienna Appeal calling for the destruction of atomic weapons.

At the recent Mexican National Assembly for Peace and Security, Rosaura Revueltas, the star of the film "Salt of the Earth," took a leading part.

"There are millions of people who want peace but who think it is useless to do anything," she said. "This is where our work lies, in every corner of the world. We must organise those who are afraid, awaken the sleepers and stimulate the pessimists."

The assembly made plans for Mexico's participation in the World Assembly for Peace to take place in Helsinki. It was decided that twenty delegates would be sent from Mexico.

Others who took part in the

Assembly included Vincente Lombardo Toledano, president of the Confederation of Latin American Workers, and the painter Miguel Corvarrubias. General Lazaro Cardenas, former President of Mexico, sent a message of support.

NEHRU RECEIVES KOTANE AND CACHALIA

NEW DELHI.

The South African representatives at the Bandung Asian-African Conference, Mr. Moses Kotane and Maulvi Cachalia, had an interview with the Indian Premier, Mr. Nehru, when they passed through New Delhi recently.

Mr. Kotane said afterwards he had been deeply impressed by a speech he had heard Mr. Nehru make in New Delhi.

"Mr. Nehru spoke with intense emotion in condemning the 'barbarity and tyranny of the South African Government,'" said Mr. Kotane.

"We were received by him and treated with the greatest courtesy and understanding. It is clear to me that India, far from restricting its interest to the fate of South Africa's Indian population, is deeply concerned about the position of all victims of the Government of South Africa."

CHINA'S first National People's Congress of the People's Republic will hold its second session in July to discuss and adopt China's first five-year plan for developing the national economy. Other items for the session will be the examination and approval of the 1954 financial report and 1955 state budget and the enactment of the conscription law of the People's Republic of China.

BRAZIL MILITARISTS PLANNING PUTSCH

NEW YORK.—A military coup is brewing in Brazil, according to a New York Times report from Rio de Janeiro recently.

The object of the threatened military dictatorship would be to forestall the October 3 election, which might return to power a popular coalition grouped around the followers of the late President Getulio Vargas.

The Times' correspondent Sam Pope Bruwer wrote: "The Getulista or Vargas forces are strong enough with the electorate to present a serious possibility of a comeback in the October 3 elections for the presidency. . . .

"The possibility of a coup by the armed forces is being discussed in Brazil as much as is a possible change in the weather. . . ."

The immediate target of the military clique is Joao Goulart, 36-year-old former Minister of Labour, who has been nominated for vice-president by the Brazilian Labour Party (Vargas' old party). Goulart would be the running-mate for Juscelino Kubitschek, Social Democratic nominee for President.

Bruwer reported that the Defence Minister, General Enrique Teixeira Lott, "has warned politicians that he could not answer for the army's actions" if Goulart

persisted in standing.

"If he runs," Bruwer went on, "with a good chance of becoming vice-president, many observers believe means will be found to suspend the election. The only obvious means is for the military to suspend the Constitution."

NOT ELIGIBLE

The present President, Joao Cafe Filho, who took over, with American approval when Vargas committed suicide last year, is not eligible for re-election in terms of Brazil's constitution. But the reactionaries have no other suitable candidate in the running—hence the suggestion they will resort to force to retain their grip on the country.

Cafe Filho has lost popularity in Brazil because of his failure to control inflation, which has sent living costs soaring. He has also lost his popularity with the Americans because of his failure to hand over to them the right to exploit Brazil's oil resources.

Luis Carlos Prestes, the Brazilian workers' leader, charged in a recent article that the events of last August (when Filho came to power) "developed under strong pressure from (fascist) generals and other direct agents of the U.S. Embassy, which was the actual headquarters for the organisation and leadership of the coup d'etat."

Following the August events, the outlawed Communist Party appealed to the Labour Party for a united front to defend the social gains of the Brazilian people against the offensive of the reactionaries, and it is more than possible that as the election approaches, such a united front will come into existence.

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