

U.S.S.R. An Eye-Opener For American Tourists

FOR years and years the capitalist press of the world has pumped out lies about conditions in the Soviet Union. Many sincere people have been deceived.

Now the lies are coming home to roost. Since the Geneva conference in July very many Americans have been visiting the Soviet Union to see for themselves. Among them have been the most reactionary of U.S. Congressmen and Senators. What they have seen has shaken them. Try as they may, they cannot reconcile what they saw in the Soviet Union with what they expected to see.

Take the cases of Congressmen Joseph Holt and Patrick Hillings, both pro-Nixon Republicans, both violently hostile to the Soviet Union. In their press statements when they returned from the U.S.S.R. they tried to twist everything they saw into crude anti-Soviet propaganda. Yet they paint a picture of

WORLD STAGE BY SPECTATOR

a land eager for peace, economically sound, with religious freedom, keen on cultural exchange and trade.

"The ordinary Soviet citizen is genuinely friendly and anxious for peace," Holt told newspapermen. "Top officials also are extra congenial to Americans." Hillings agreed with him.

DOESN'T IT MEAN EVERYONE?

Top officials friendly, ordinary citizens friendly—doesn't that mean everyone was friendly asked a reporter. "I'm not so sure about the middle-echelon Communists," was Holt's idiotic reply. The whole thing's a bluff, declared Hillings!

No American films permitted? "The number one hit in Moscow now is 'The Merry Widow' with Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald," reported Holt.

Is it true that the Soviet leaders are so terrified of the Voice of America broadcasts that they spend a fortune to jam it? The Congressmen revealed that there is no jamming. "Reception is no jamming," said Hillings, "but is good away from the big cities." Other travellers confirmed this, he added. (Voice of America officials howled with rage. They have carefully fostered the jamming myth in order to keep Congress voting huge subsidies to pay their wages.)

Soviet leaders constantly called for free interchange of tourists, as well as cultural delegations, Holt and Hillings both reported.

CRISIS? POPPYCOCK!

Is it true that the country is in the throes of a crisis? "I saw no evidence of hunger or signs of impending economic collapse," Holt said. "In Moscow one store has a waiting list of over 4,000 for television sets." This was confirmed by Republican Senator George N. Malone of Nevada. State Department talk of crisis was "poppycock," he declared.

Any exploitation of sex in films, any prostitution? "No," said Holt, "The Russians are prudish." "They're well-informed," Holt admitted sadly. At one place where he had expressed his friendship somebody quoted to him a recent speech of his in Congress where he had declared: "Russia is the greatest threat to world peace."

Like all U.S. tourists both Holt and Hillings complained of "the unfavourable dollar-rouble rate of exchange." In countries this side of the iron curtain the need for U.S. dollars is so desperate that wads of the local currency can be got in exchange for the precious dollar—the Soviet economy is sound, there is no need to chase for U.S. money.

Holt and Hillings tried to cast a bad light on the things they saw. But this was not typical of all the high-placed U.S. visitors.

INTERVIEW WITH BULGANIN, KRUSCHEV
Idaho Republican Senator Henry Dworshak reported how he and four senator colleagues were received for a two-hour interview by Soviet leaders Bulganin and Krushchev. Writing for United Press, Senator Dworshak said:

"When the question of the Cominform was presented, the two Soviet leaders made a forceful defense of their ideology and declared they considered nothing more honourable than to bring about a society which they deem better for the individual.

'FORCEFUL, IMPRESSIVE'

"Secretary Khrushchev did most of the speaking, in a forceful, impressive manner. Premier Bulganin, who is dignified and suave, frequently smiled and nodded his approval and interjected occasional comments.

"These Soviet officials apparently were proud to remind our delegation that the iron curtain has been lowered and that travel by Americans is being encouraged. Khrushchev asked us 'what kind of a curtain there is in the United States' with the stringent restrictions like fingerprinting 'which is for criminals.'

"He added: 'You are accustomed to things like this—we are not.'

"Throughout the conference I felt that these two Soviet leaders had obtained their positions of leadership by virtue of their abilities and their devotion to their ideology as a highly desirable pattern of political and social organisation."

NEGRO VISITORS

Visitors from the U.S. were not confined to the senatorial level. A twelve-man, non-political agricultural delegation also came back with interesting reports. Said Dr. William Reed, dean of the school of agriculture at North Carolina, and the only Negro member of the delegation:

"I saw no signs of racial discrimination. I think it is fair to say that racial discrimination is non-existent in the U.S.S.R. I observed no religious discrimination."

In the Uzbek Republic where the majority of the people are non-white, Dr. Reed was sometimes greeted as one of them. He noted that non-white people held responsible positions and served as members of the Supreme Soviet Council.

"I saw no difference between the way the non-white and the white people live in the U.S.S.R.," he said. "They are not segregated anywhere; those who attend church worship in the same churches; they attend the same schools."

FREEDOM OF WORSHIP

Another Negro visitor to report back was the Rev. Joseph H. Jackson, president of the five million strong Baptist Convention. "There is full freedom of worship in the Soviet Union," he said. He was the guest of the Union Council of Evangelical Christian Baptists of the U.S.S.R.

The Baptist leader stated that he went to the Soviet Union for religious not political reasons. Foreign policy is safe in the hands of the U.S. State Department, he declared. "American officials told me what I should say and what I should not say in Russia, but when I got there I said what I wanted to say."

"A GREAT TIME"

"There is great interest in religion in Russia. You could hardly get into any building where people spoke. What impressed me most was the vitality of Christians there. The services are more like Negro services in America than the restrained worship of whites. The Russians sing, shout, and weep just as we Negroes do. We had a great time . . ."

American was not the only country whose press was carrying reports like this for the first time. The Italian newspapers had detailed reports of Socialist leader Nenni's successful visit to China and the U.S.S.R.

A Belgian parliamentary delegation to the Soviet Union, led by M. Camille Huysmans, President of the Chamber of Deputies, told the Belgian press of the Soviet Union's "great achievements in construction."

"On all building sites we visited," said M. Camilles, "we saw a high rate of construction, great scope and good taste."

"IRON CURTAIN—WHERE?"

After their month's visit, he added, they were happy to note the ease with which they had been able to get information on any question they chose to raise. "I looked everywhere for an 'iron curtain' but failed to find one."

Similar sentiments were expressed by M. Pierre Schneider, President of the French National Assembly and leader of the all-party French parliamentary delegation to the Soviet Union. At tour's end he invited a Soviet parliamentary delegation to pay a return trip to France. The invitation was accepted.

Other recent visitors have included the Prime Minister of Burma, U Nu, and Mr. Keith Holyoake, deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand, who had a 3-hour conference with Mr. Krushchev and invited a Soviet parliamentary delegation to visit New Zealand.

Soviet parliamentarians will do a lot of travelling. They have also accepted an invitation from Mr. Mose Pijade, President of the Yugoslav parliament, to tour his country, following the successful visit to the Soviet Union of a Yugoslav delegation. "The visit," says Mr. Pijade, "will be of great benefit for the further development of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia."

'FOR WE'RE MARCHING TO PRETORIA...'



Our pictures of the women's demonstration last Thursday show:

(Top Left): Up they come! Giving the Afrika salute the women of the first group reach the amphitheatre after the long climb from the bottom of the gardens of the Union Buildings.

(Bottom Left): For some hours there was a steady stream of women filing up the steps, carrying sunshades, rugs, lunch baskets and dispatch cases with petition forms. They had come prepared for the day.

(Top Right): The four leaders of the demonstration have collected the protest forms and are on their way to deliver them to the Ministers. From left to right, Miss Sophia Williams, Mrs. Rahima Moosa, Mrs. Lillian Ngoyi and Mrs. Helen Joseph.

(Below): Once again the women file down the steps. The day of protest is over.



Million Signature Campaign Opens in Eastern Cape

PORT ELIZABETH. — The first shots in the Eastern Cape's campaign for the collection of a million signatures for the Freedom Charter were fired at Veeplaats on the 23rd of October, at the regional conference of the A.N.C.

As hundreds of people milled around the tables eager to attach their signatures, the hall resounded with thunderous voices singing freedom songs.

The Freedom Charter is now carried and explained to the workers at the factories, at meetings, on buses. People repeat:

The People shall govern!
The land shall be shared among those who work it!

All shall be equal before the law!
All shall enjoy equal human rights!

So enthusiastic are the people over the Freedom Charter that many recite large portions of it from memory.

African Strikers Fined

JOHANNESBURG.—Fines totaling £1,690 were imposed on Randfontein textile workers in the Magistrate's Court last week in the largest prosecution yet for an illegal strike by African workers under the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act.

In all, 169 workers were found guilty of striking illegally and each was fined £10. The charges were withdrawn against 18 workers.

The firm employing the workers paid the fines but the court ordered that the amounts be deducted from the pay packets of the workers, the entire amount to be repaid over a period of eight weeks.

The cases arose from the strike action taken in the Randfontein Textile Mills on August 10 and 11.

Soviet Anniversary Celebrations

On November 7 the people of the Soviet Union will be celebrating the 38th anniversary of the foundation of the U.S.S.R. The South African Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet Union will be holding a public meeting on Sunday, November 6, at the Trades Hall, Johannesburg, to commemorate this historic event.

WHY WAS HUDDLESTON RECALLED?

A Blow to the Democratic Cause

(From a Special Correspondent)

The news that Father Trevor Huddleston ('Isitwalandwe' to the tens of thousands who were represented at the Congress of the People) has been ordered by the British headquarters of the Community of the Resurrection to leave South Africa has come as a serious shock to the country. It would be hard to overestimate the countless services this dauntless and upright man has rendered to the democratic cause in this country, and particularly to the movement for the emancipation of the oppressed Non-European majority.

His impending departure has brought joy to the Nationalists. He has ever been a thorn in their flesh, denouncing every new invasion of human decency which they have perpetrated, and they have long sought, without success, to silence his voice. How comforting it must be to Swart, to reflect that no banning notice of his, but a ukase for which he can-

not be blamed, has rid him of this turbulent priest.

Father Huddleston's departure will be a sore loss to the African National Congress and its allies in the Congress movement; a loss which they can ill afford. Equally serious, if not more so, will the loss be to the Anglican Church, indeed to Christianity in general, in this country. For the new generation of South Africans, in particular African youth, trained in the hard school of struggle against apartheid, judges people and creeds by actions, not words. And, to speak bluntly, they have no confidence in those many church leaders whose pious professions of adherence to the concept of human brotherhood contrast with their own evasions and compromises with basisskap.

It is hard to believe that the

themselves of this embarrassment.

Viewed in the light of this behind-the-scenes tussle, the recall of Father Huddleston becomes perfectly understandable, as a victory for reaction.

However, the cheers of the Nationalists may be premature.

Isitwalandwe Trevor Huddleston belongs to South Africa. He belongs to the embattled people of our country in the place where he has always stood, in the front ranks of the struggle for freedom and human dignity.

He is too big a man, and his departure will leave too great a gap in the ranks, for it to be accepted by the people without protest or question. There can be little doubt that, once they have recovered from the shock of the announcement, a mighty cry will go up from our people of all races and creeds for Huddleston to remain. For his name has become a symbol of struggle, courage and resistance, and we shall not easily let him go.

Will the Church leaders in Britain hearken to the voice of the millions of South Africans, in preference to that of a handful of selfish, frightened people? They would be well advised to do so.

PILLAR OF SOCIETY

The answer must be sought in an examination of the Church of England itself, which is no pioneering militant body, but a pillar of British society, closely allied with the Tory aristocracy. To many leaders of such an institution, Trevor Huddleston's association with the radical democrats of the Congress has been a grave embarrassment—and even more so to the wealthy White congregations of the Church of the Province of South Africa.

Indeed, it is an open secret that conservative elements in the Church in South Africa have endeavoured for some time to pull the necessary strings to relieve

DO YOU WANT TO SEE US DOWN TO 4 PAGES?

DO you remember March 3—exactly eight months ago? It was quite an important date for us, for the issue that came out on that Thursday was the last of a series of four-pagers. We'd been forced to cut down the size of New Age because we weren't receiving enough financial support from our readers.

When they experienced the starvation for news and comment that a four-page New Age meant, our readers rallied round, and we were able to announce that we would be issuing an eight-pager throughout March. The support didn't stop, so the eight-pager didn't stop.

Now after eight months your memory appears to have dimmed. In spite of our urgent appeal and the announcement that we have to find the money for a new shipment of paper, your money is not—repeat not—rolling in.

UNLESS IT DOES WE WILL HAVE TO GO DOWN TO FOUR PAGES AGAIN—AND SOON. AND THAT WOULD BE SEEN BY THE NATS AS A MAJOR DEFEAT FOR THE WHOLE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT. DON'T GIVE THEM THAT SATISFACTION.

Let us have your contribution without delay.

NAOMI SHAPIRO, who spent 16 hours at the Cape congress of the Nationalist Party, reports that years of power have made the Nationalists

MORE GREEDY

CAPE TOWN.

Years of power have only made the Nationalists more greedy, more selfish, more narrow. This is the overwhelming impression I gained after listening to the Cape Nationalists in conference for 16 hours last week. Their demands were all aimed in one direction: to see that they got more and more and gave less and less.

By "they" I mean the rich Afrikaans Nationalist minority who rule this country. The Afrikaans workers and lower middle-class are not even included in this clique.

As for the Non-European people of South Africa, they were never mentioned at the conference except when delegates and Ministers rose to abuse and slander them.

From Mr. Sauer, Minister of Lands, delegates demanded that more Crown land be made available for their "sons of the soil" and more financial help given to enable them to buy land. "There is a great land hunger among the Afrikaners," they said. The point was also made that on many farms Natives (naturelle) ran the farms for absentee white owners and, crowning horror, lived in houses in which Europeans had once dwelt. Minister Sauer agreed this was a very sad thing and shocked him as much as it did the delegate who brought it up. "We must see what we can do to stop it," he said.

RACIALISM EVERYWHERE

Said another "land-hungry" farmer: "One of the richest Jews in Upington has a wonderful piece of land which the State should buy and divide up amongst the farmers whose holdings are too small. One of the richest Jews in Upington . . ."

Racialism pervaded everywhere. Said one delegate from Knopdaar, speaking to a motion for control of underground water: "In one house, there are white men; in another there are Hotnots."

"Would the Minister (of Justice) please make the noose a little tighter round the throats of the kaffers and kleurlinge?" asked another delegate. "The nie-blanke damages your farm machines and you can't do anything about it."

"Why is it that the Elgin farmer gets only 6d. a head for cabbage, and we have to pay 1s. 6d. from a coolie?" asked another.

Speaking on education, a delegate from Loxton complained: "I see the day when we will have a high school for Coloureds in Loxton. We already have a primary school and a secondary school. I can talk for hours on this subject."

Middelburg wanted the Minister of Social Welfare to investigate the grants which Coloured and African women get for their illegitimate children. The position, said Minister Serfontein, was alarming. Yes, he would see if grants could be refused to families where there were children over 16 years of age in the house.

The debate on Native Affairs (naturelle sake) lasted only 15 minutes, most of the time being occupied in dealing with a request from Queenstown that the Government make sure that it appoints officials in the "Native areas" who will carry out Government policy. "It is a pity we did not discuss this in Committee," said the delegate from Queenstown.

Minister Verwoerd was not at the conference, but Mr. F. E. Mentz, M.P., member of the Na-

tive Affairs Commission, gave the delegates the answers they wanted to hear. "Every official knows it is his duty to carry out the policy of the Government. But if any congress delegate knows of any official who is not doing so, he must just tell us and we will put the matter right. But I must tell delegates that since our Dr. Verwoerd took control, the N.A.D. officials are most eager to carry out his policy. I can say with assurance that we are busy solving the Native question . . ."

NO PLACE TO PLAY

Mr. Mentz also told the delegates that the Government would under no circumstances provide recreational facilities in "white" areas for those naturelle servants who worked there. "It would be a most dangerous thing." A woman delegate: "What of the Roman Catholic centres like the one

MORE SELFISH

in Aliwal North where on Sundays there is a great gathering of naturelle right in the middle of the town?" Mr. Mentz: "Let the delegate write to us in Pretoria about it. We will see what we can do."

Mr. Mentz then went on to inform the conference that the Government was working on legislation which would give local authorities the power to get rid of "undesirable Natives."

The Nationalists claim they are also a workers' party, but there was only one item on the agenda under the heading "Labour." And at the conference it was pointed out that this item should have been under Health! What was it? Just another bit of apartheid mania—Uitenhage wanted dry cleaners to have apartheid both at their receiving depots and in their factories.

CAN'T DO WITHOUT AFRICANS

A strange request from the dairy farmers of Reivilo: "We need 20,000 gallons of milk a day for the cheese factory, and we need our naturelle to milk our cows. But in April they go to the Transvaal for the mealie harvest, and when they come back they won't work because they've got food, and so for six months we sit without labour, while our wives and children have to milk the cows."

"Will the Minister please see to it that harvesting machines are sold to the farmers cheaply or are subsidised, so that our naturelle don't go to the Transvaal? It is most essential that we have naturelle to milk our cows. Milking machines are not satisfactory at all. (Automation-minded Ministers Verwoerd and de Klerk please note!) We can't do without our naturelle . . ."

As for beef, could not the Minister see to it that producers get a higher price? delegates asked. No one complained that the people can't afford to pay prevailing prices.

No Minister had quite such a tough time as the Minister of Finance, Mr. Eric Louw. No less than 12 branches wanted the total abolition of estate duty. Many others wanted it modified in some way. Really, said Mr. Louw, much aggrieved, this is most unfair. What is the meaning of this sudden campaign against me? And he went on to show that in addition to other concessions in the budget, he had actually reduced estate

duty on estates worth up to £30,000, and only increased it above that.

The moral to be drawn from this? That the farmers have prospered so much under the Nat government that they're above the £30,000 category—and what they have, they want to hang on to.

Minister of Justice Swart also found much cause to pat himself on the back. "If we did what other countries did who today criticise us as oppressors of the naturelle, and gave our naturelle much more alcohol, then perhaps today we would have many less naturelle in the country."

NO REPRIEVES

Very proudly Mr. Swart also told the conference: "In all cases where non-whites have been sentenced to death for raping European women, no one has been reprieved. All were hanged." Modestly he went on to relate how he had been praised by the Penal

Reform League for his "great advances" in the rehabilitation of convicts. But Mr. Swart knew, and his Nat delegates knew, that he was talking only of white convicts.

However, when it came to discussing the rights of European and Non-European policemen, Mr. Swart managed to find a use for the black constable: "If a white man is breaking into my house or attacking my child, and there is only a naturelle policeman passing, would you want the criminal to escape, rather than be arrested by a kaffer, er . . ." (he corrected himself) "naturelle?"

MORE NARROW

A woman delegate from Aliwal North spoke up for racialist nurses. Apartheid is sweeping the country like a powerful wave, she said. It is irresistible. Our nurses don't want Non-Europeans to have the same titles as they, or to wear the same uniforms. We know the non-white brain is not capable of absorbing as much as the white. Will the Minister please do something about all this, and also about the fact that there are still a large number of nurses on the S.A. Nursing Council who are not colour conscious?

The main demand to Dr. Donges, Minister of the Interior, was that he must hurry up with the

implementation of the Group Areas Act. "We in Maitland are in a most uncertain position," said one delegate. "The whites are living around the Coloureds, Jews are buying up properties. It is such a mixed area. Regte (true) Afrikaners are moving away."

A delegate from Woodstock: "If only the Minister would proclaim group areas, all would be well. We know it is a difficult task and unpopular, but we have taken this step and must go on with it."

Dr. Donges did not deny the difficulty nor the unpopularity of the task. "Please don't hurry me," he asked the conference. "You can't expect that in five or even ten years one can undo the bad work of the last 100 years and more. I expect that in the years to come, I will be one of the most unpopular ministers. People who are today asking me to proclaim areas will themselves be dissatisfied once areas are proclaimed. But I must do my duty."

NO DISCUSSION

Time was getting on, and conference was behind schedule. Hurriedly delegates tackled resolutions under Provincial Affairs. There was never any voting on the resolutions. Delegates were always "satisfied" with the Ministers' replies. But one got up to protest. Congress was not serving its purpose, he said. Delegates were not given a chance to discuss items. "How can we report back to our areas when there has been no discussion. It is not fair."

How did Congress answer him? By deciding that the remaining resolutions should not be touched at all, but should be left to the Party's head committee!

But the most ironical moment of all came when Dr. Donges was at the microphone. In a resolution from Caledon and Hofmeyr the

Government was thanked for what had already been done to secure the separate representation of voters, and was asked to pass the legislation still necessary this session.

In reply, Dr. Donges read a quotation which was printed on the cover page of the conference agenda, a quotation apparently from himself: "A democratic government cannot run away from its mandate." He was wildly applauded.

No one asked him for a definition of democratic.

PRETORIA CONQUERED BY THE WOMEN!

(Continued from page 1)

delegations together and giving the great gathering that impressive discipline, the women Congress workers who started this protest rolling in the locations and townships some eight weeks ago when the Mothers' Congress first resolved on it.

At 10.30 a.m. the first batches of women were at the foot of the Union Buildings, and the walk towards the amphitheatre started. For two or three hours there was a steady stream of women winding upwards and as they reached the amphitheatre each woman (and there were not many who were not puffing and panting) handed in her signed protest to four women from the four organisations stationed there to receive them.

Then, the women took their seats round the amphitheatre. Throughout they sat in hushed silence and as the morning went

by the crowd grew more enormous. From the windows and balconies of the Union Buildings the civil service looked on in amazement at this impressive demonstration. The pile of protest forms grew until there were 1,600.

From the cupola Mrs. Helen Joseph, Mrs. Lilian Ngoyi, Miss Sophia Williams and Mrs. Rahima Moosa announced that they would deliver the protests to the Ministers. They moved off to a great cry of "Afrika" and the raised thumb salute. The women went on sitting quietly.

Trailed by reporters and photographers and with the Special Branch never far off, the four went first to the office of Dr. Verwoerd, Minister of Native Affairs, who only a week before had told the women his policies were a subject for "praise not protest." The door was locked (it was the lunch-hour)

P.E. Women Back Pretoria Protest

PORT ELIZABETH.

African and Coloured women filled the Jarman Hall, Port Elizabeth, to overflowing last Thursday, November 27, when, under the auspices of the Congress of Mothers, they gathered to express their solidarity with the women's protest march in Pretoria.

"We meet here in support of the women of South Africa who to-day presented to the Government the just demands of the women of this country," said Mrs. F. Baard, who presided. "The presence of this great gathering here tonight demonstrates the solidarity of determined women and mothers who will not rest until their children are free."

Miss Lily Diedricks gave a stirring analysis of the evils of the pass system and race classification. "Will the Coloureds allow their children to be given the slave education which the Africans are rejecting?" she asked.

"Nooit nie" (never) roared the meeting.

Hundreds of copies of the Freedom Charter in English and Xhosa were distributed at the meeting, and a resolution was adopted endorsing the demands of the women who went to Pretoria. "We pledge that we will spare nothing until we have won freedom for ourselves and our children," said the resolution.

IN PRETORIA

At a meeting in Pretoria last week a few days before the historic march, 88 women added their names to the list of those who were going to Union Buildings.

"Our homes are broken up, our children turned into orphans, and women become widows because men are being sold to farmers. How much worse won't the position be if women have to carry passes?" said one speaker.

A resolution passed expressed full support for the march on the 27th and declared that the campaign should be carried on until the repeal of all oppressive laws.

Protest At Alwyn Sentence

JOHANNESBURG.—The Transvaal Consultative Committee of the Congress movement has protested strongly against the heavy sentence imposed on John Alwyn.

This will not be forgotten by the people, says their statement. "It adds another bitter pill to the many which they are not prepared to swallow."

so a pile of protests was left on the doormat to await the Minister's return. In the office of the Minister of Justice, a "niksvermoedende meisie" ("unsuspecting girl" according to Die Transvaler) said with alacrity as the women asked her to hand the protests over to the Minister: "Certainly!"

When the four returned to the amphitheatre and reported that they had delivered the protests, the hush was broken again as the women rose to sing "Inkosi Sikelele" and the sound and harmony rang out from the tiers of women.

Then they filed out of the amphitheatre and down the gardens on their way home.

No orders had been given, there was no bustle, no confusion, no panic or any hitches. The silent protest was developed by the women themselves. With their dignity, their discipline and their determination they had carried the day.

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