

GENERAL STRIKE!

German Workers Warn Atom Warmongers

BONN.

THE campaign against Adenauer's decision to equip his army with atomic weapons has reached an even greater intensity in Germany than the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament which has swept Britain, and the country faces the threat of a general strike.

All Germany is in turmoil over Adenauer's surprise announcement. A call has gone out for united working-class action against the suicidal Adenauer policy which was described by one Social-Democratic M.P. as being "as fateful as that taken 25 years ago to give dictatorial powers to Hitler."

The appeal for workers' unity came from West German trade union leaders.

The debate in parliament was one of the longest, most bitter and turbulent ever held by the West German Bundestag. At times the atmosphere recalled that of a mass meeting rather than of a parliament; the lowest point was reached

nuclear weapons in any form at any time."

West German F.U.C. chairman Willi Richter told the meeting: "We must mobilise the conscience of the world against atomic death."

NOT POWERLESS

Frau Heiene Wessel, M.P., appealed to the women of the world.

sations, especially the trade unions, have demanded action against Bonn's avowed intention of equipping the army with nuclear weapons and converting Western Germany into an atomic arms arsenal.

East German Premier Otto Grotewohl warned that if Western Germany goes ahead with its plan for atomic armament "Nobody should imagine that the response will consist merely in opposition and protests," he said. Counter-measures of State would not be long in coming.

DISASTROUS

In the Bonn Parliament debate

cratic opposition is all the more remarkable because it is one of the most conservative of Labour Parties, generally considered well to the right, even, of the British Labour Party.

The explanation lies in the virtual unanimity of public opinion on this issue. A recent Gallup poll revealed that more than 80% of those questioned were against atomic rocket launching bases on German territory.

These results showed little difference as far as men and women were concerned, or professions, occupations or age groups. Even among government supporters 71% were against such bases.

HUNDREDS OF MESSAGES

Hundreds of messages reaching the Social Democrat leaders stressed that no amount of militant speeches in a parliament where the Government had an assured majority would alter the situation. What was needed was a call to the people to take action.

So far leaders of trade unions re-

presenting two million workers—public services, chemical, food supply and woodworking—have urged strike action or other forms of practical protest.

Heinz Seeger, woodworkers' chairman, said everything must be done to prevent nuclear war and "who is better equipped to do this than the trade unions . . . if tomorrow the workers refuse to build rocket bases, would not this be a first step?"

About 1,600 miners' union officials, meeting in Gelsenkirchen, protested against the atomic weapons plan.

LOBBYING M.P.s

The Baden-Wuerttemberg district of the Young Socialist organisation Falcon called for a general strike. The organisation is one of many who planned to lobby M.P.s.

In East Germany protests are pouring in from all sections of the population.

Workers at the Eisenach motor works "recalled with horror the time when Goebbels proclaimed total mobilisation and Germany was led to catastrophe.

"The same situation is to be brought about by the decisions of the Adenauer Government party. We shall not allow this and will devote all our strength to bringing the Bonn Government's plans to nought."

Over 64,000 East German intellectuals have now signed the appeal launched by writer Arnold Zweig in favour of an atom-free zone.



Macmillan: "How do I manage public opinion? But my dear Herr Chancellor, that is just what I was going to ask YOU."

(With acknowledgments to the London "Observer")

when a reference to Mr. A. J. P. Taylor, the British historian was greeted by a shout from the Christian-Democratic ranks: "A Jew, of course."

Government and opposition now face each other with a hostility unequalled since pre-Hitler times.

An appeal for workers' unity came from West German trade union leaders. It came also from the Socialist Unity Party's paper Neues Deutschland, which in an editorial, pointing both to the danger and the key difference between today and 1933, wrote:

"It is clear war reigns in Bonn. But that is not all. In the German Democratic Republic peace reigns. This is the great progress since Hitler's time. At that time war reigned throughout Germany; today it does so only in part of the country."

In Frankfurt-on-Main 25,000 attended a protest demonstration called by the "Fight the Atomic Death" organisation.

NO A-BOMBS!

Erich Ollenauer, Social Democratic Party chairman, told the meeting: "We shall not rest as long as atomic death threatens our people."

Cries of "General strike!" interrupted him constantly. Toward the close of his speech he departed from his prepared speech to declare that not only at protest meetings should the demand for a general strike be made.

He said: "We don't want any nuclear weapons; we don't want any launching bases; we don't want any depots and we don't want to use

"We are not powerless," she said. "When it comes to the life of innocent people, or of protecting children, we are in the front line."

Another speaker, West Berlin theology professor Heinrich Vogel, said nothing justified the use of weapons of mass destruction. This was the opinion, too, of the All-German Evangelical Synod.

Many more West German organi-

the uproar reached a crescendo as Social Democratic M.P. Helmut Schmidt shouted to the Government benches:

"It is disastrous to decide in favour of atomic armaments. Here this decision has been argued with the devilish argument of imperialism, that he who wants peace must prepare for war—atomic war!"

The vigour of the Social-Demo-

Four years ago, he refused to play in South Africa because Stridom's Government stipulated: You can play to whites only.

"By South African standards and law, I'm a criminal in marrying Cleo," Johnny said. "I doubt very much if they'd accept me in the country."

"I don't give a damn. As a man, I loathe any form of social or racial discrimination."

MUSICIAN'S VIEW

"As a musician—and it's a feeling shared by many musicians—I often feel that the white jazzman is at a disadvantage in not being Coloured."

"Jazz grew up with the Coloured races. Its greatest expo-

nents today have no equal among white men.

"But music is one of the very few fields where there is no antagonism. No fear. Only admiration."

Dankworth, 30 years old and a Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music, said his marriage to Cleo was "a case of history repeating itself."

Her mother is white, daughter of a Wiltshire farmer, her father a West Indian.

"Cleo—she was born in London—has never had any colour bar difficulties," said Johnny.

"In Britain, it seems to me, any application of the bar is directed against Coloured men, seldom against women."

JOHNNY DANKWORTH AND CLEO LAINE MARRY

They Scorn Colour Bars

LONDON.

"OUR marriage would be illegal in South Africa," Johnny Dankworth, Britain's leading jazz clarinet-player, whose records are best-sellers in the Union, commented last week, shortly after he and the Coloured singer Cleo Laine celebrated their wedding.

"Collective Leadership Remains In Soviet Union"

What is the significance of the election of Mr. Khrushchov to the position of Soviet Prime Minister while retaining his post as first secretary of the Soviet Communist Party?

TO allege, as most western commentators have done, that the change means a return to the position as it was before the death of Stalin, as well as the end of collective leadership, is wilfully to ignore the tremendous development of democracy that has taken place here since the 20th Congress, writes British correspondent Sam Russell from Moscow.

Far from tending towards one-man rule, the Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet State are using greater and greater opportunities to ascertain the will of the Soviet people and to act accordingly, he continues.

As an example, Russell mentions that the Legislative Proposals Commissions of the two

Houses of the Supreme Soviet have been taking an ever-increasing part in the drafting of legislation.

At the moment these commissions are completing the draft of the fundamental principles of legislation concerning the Soviet judicial system. Their next job will be to draw up the fundamental principles for the new Civil and Criminal Codes as well as for new Labour laws.

These jobs are not just left to the commissions, comments Russell. The entire country is drawn into a nation-wide discussion, in the course of which hundreds of amendments and new proposals are put forward for consideration.

Thus, at the present session

of the Supreme Soviet, every delegate had on his desk a complete volume containing the hundreds of proposals and amendments to the plan for re-organising agriculture which had been put forward at half a million meetings.

In ensuring true collective leadership, says Russell, the leading part has been played by the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party. This body, he reports, now meets more often than ever before, and discusses every aspect of Soviet home and foreign policy.

It was the Central Committee which decided to put forward Khrushchov's nomination for the post of Prime Minister, and which also decided that he

should retain his post as first secretary of the Party.

Equal To Ike

COMMENTING on Khrushchov's assumption of his new office, the American State Department observed that the "development clarifies a situation in which Mr. Khrushchov had been participating at meetings of heads of Government, even though he occupied no official position."

American officials were prompt to point out, states the London Times Washington correspondent, that the premiership would put Khrushchov unequivocally on equal terms with President Eisenhower and other Western leaders at a summit conference.

His back was covered with healing weals

Another Victim of Bethal Slave Labour

JOHANNESBURG.

EVERYTHING must be done to end the pass laws. The sad story of the Bethal farm labourer was written all over him. His shirt sleeves were in tatters and all over his back there were marks of healing weals. Sam Ndlovu is the latest victim of inhuman treatment and slave working conditions on the Bethal farms.

His story is very much the same as that of many others. Alighting from a train in Pretoria on his way to work Ndlovu was accosted by the police who asked him for his pass. He had forgotten it at home, he told them, but still they arrested him. When he appeared in court he was convicted and sentenced to two months imprisonment for failure to produce the required documents.

TOO LATE

"I told the magistrate that I have a pass only I forgot it at home," says Ndlovu; but the magistrate told him that it was too late, he should have told that to the police. Ndlovu says when he told the police they replied that "you will talk in front" i.e. to the magistrate.

They worked very hard at Bethal, he says, and since it was reaping season "we started work before sunrise and did not stop till seven in the evening." The bossboys beat them up and told them to work faster whilst the boss, riding on horseback, would chase them from behind to make them drag the bags of corn faster.

"The bag was tied round your waist with a belt," says Ndlovu, "and as you plucked the ears of corn you had to drag the bag from one end of the field to the other end."

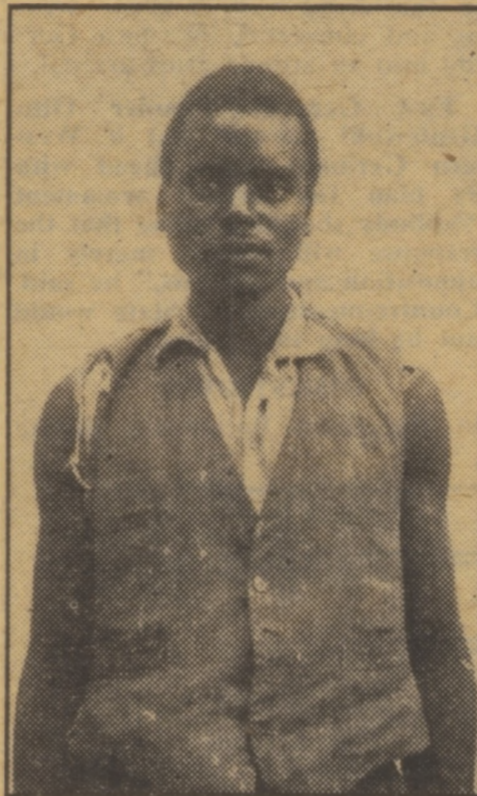
Even after his term of two

months had expired, the farmer refused to release him. Like many others he was made to continue to work, but without pay. After a number of his friends had escaped Ndlovu decided it was time he got his freedom.

As he was without money he had to slog it on foot. He would probably have collapsed from sheer exhaustion and hunger had it not been for some Indian motorists who gave him a lift and brought him to Johannesburg. They left him at the New Age offices and as he had no documents on him a New Age reporter took him down town to an attorney to get a covering note to enable him to go home and fetch his pass. They had hardly walked twenty yards when a member of the "ghost squad" came round and demanded passes.

Luckily this policeman listened to an explanation—for once. Otherwise Sam Ndlovu would at this moment be on his way back to Bethal.

T.M.



Sam Ndlovu.

NEW AGE SELLERS AND AGENTS WANTED

NEW AGE is not being sold enough in the Cape Province. It is true that our circulation indicates that the paper is read in almost every corner of the country and that it is accepted as the authentic voice of the great majority of oppressed people in South Africa. It is clear, however, that our sales could be doubled and even trebled if we received greater co-operation in this matter from our thousands of readers. It is for this reason that we are going to print the names of towns and villages in alphabetical order where new or additional agents are required to sell our paper on a part-time basis.

Anybody living in these places should apply immediately to our Cape Town office or to P.O. Box 436, Cape Town. We would also like any of our readers who know of likely agents in these areas to supply us with their names and addresses so that we may approach them.

Here are the place names for this week:—

Aberdeen, Albertinia, Alice, Alexandria, Alexander Bay, Alicedale; Barkly East, Barkly West, Bathurst, Beaufort West, Bedford, Berlin, Bitterfontein, Bizania, Bonnievale, Border, Bot River, Brackenfell, Brandvlei, Bredasdorp, Britstown, Buitensingel, Burgersdorp, Butterworth, Cala, Caledon, Calitzdorp, Calvinia, Carnarvon, Castletown, Cathcart, Cedarville, Ceres, Citrusdal, Clanwilliam, Clarkebury, Cofimvaba, Cookhouse, Darling, De Aar, De Doorns, Despatch, Donkin Hill, Donore, Dordrecht, Douglas, Durbanville; Elliot, Elliotdale; Franklin, Franschhoek, Fraserburg; Garies, George, Graaff-Reinet.

Support for Boycott Protest Call

DURBAN.

The campaign of boycott and self denial organised by the Natal Protest Week Committee as part of the National election week campaign is receiving widespread support, according to organisers of the campaign in Durban.

During the Easter holidays over 30 volunteers worked full time carrying the message of the Committee to the workers in the hotels, flats and large working-class residential areas of Durban.

A number of volunteers interviewed by New Age stated that the response of the people they contacted was unanimous and that they expected full support for their call not to buy at shops in town, and to boycott the beer halls, bars and places of entertainment for the three days—April 14 to 16.

Large numbers of leaflets have been issued calling for the intensification of the boycott of certain products which are produced by companies controlled by Nationalists.

Conference Postponed

JOHANNESBURG.

The students' conference which was to have been held on Sunday April 6, 1958, at the Bantu Men's Social Centre, has been postponed until June. The conference was sponsored by the Transvaal Students' Union.

MEADOWLANDS NO PROMISED LAND, SAY RESIDENTS

Grievances Voiced At Meeting

JOHANNESBURG.

A WELL-ATTENDED residents' meeting at Meadowlands last week was interrupted by the superintendent, who walked up to the platform and disrupted proceedings.

The meeting was called to discuss burning issues such as high rentals, the imposition of fines for late payment of rent and the lodger's permit. Speaker after speaker refuted the claim that Meadowlands was a "Canaan" for the people who were removed from Sophiatown.

At a previous meeting the residents had appointed a deputation to interview the superintendent on these matters and to voice the residents' opposition.

Giving a report of the interview, Mrs. Kekana said that they had asked the superintendent for a written reply since they themselves had submitted a memorandum. This was not forthcoming until they decided to write directly to the Native Resettlement Board.

ANGRY SHOUTS

There were angry shouts and cries of shame when the reply of the Resettlement Board to the people's demands was read.

Far from dealing with the problems raised by the people the Resettlement Board kept making the point that the people were better off in Meadowlands than they were in Sophiatown.

On the question of high rentals the Resettlement Board, instead of dealing with the fact that the wages of the Africans are too low, stated that considering the types and construction of the houses, the rentals were not high.

When the speakers condemned this attitude of the Resettlement Board, the superintendent went up to the platform and told the people not to make so much noise. Moreover he said the time limit for the meeting was up. The people then

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asked for an extension of time.

IN PRISON

Dealing with the imposition of 5/- fine for late payment of rent, one speaker said that the parents in Meadowlands were being made criminals. People were being arrested in large numbers, he said, and some were serving sentences, their only crime being failure to pay their rent in time. Complaints were also voiced about the confiscation of the furniture of defaulters.

The payment of the 7/6 lodger's fee for children who are over 16 was also condemned.

RESOLUTIONS

The meeting resolved to continue to oppose the high rentals and fight for the abolition of the lodger's fee.

There were further shouts of indignation when, at the end of the meeting, the superintendent refused to allow collections. The superintendent had no right to do this, the people said, seeing that on a previous occasion he himself had collected money from the people to buy a beast to be slaughtered at a feast.

Women on Strike

DURBAN.

One hundred and eighteen African women garment workers walked out from the Veka Clothing factory, one of Minister De Klerk's "industries in the reserves," at Charlestown, Natal, in support of a demand that a European woman supervisor be dismissed.

Twenty-five of the women have been arrested and face charges under the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act, or alternatively the Master and Servants Act.

One of the women who had walked out, interviewed by New Age, said that the strike began when a worker was allegedly assaulted by the supervisor, who had only begun work a few days before.

Immediately 18 women working in the same department refused to work unless the supervisor was dismissed.

After lunch 100 more women joined the strikers in sympathy.

The 25 women who have been charged are in gaol awaiting their trial, which is due to begin this week.

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