#### AFRICA

#### WORK STARTS ON ASWAN HIGH DAM SITE

THE Egyptian town of Aswan, which until recently attracted only archaeologists and tourists by its ancient monuments, has now entered a new phase in its life. More and more people are arriving there every day to work on the biggest hydro-engineering project on the African continent—the Aswan High Dam.

Since the ceremony of breaking the ground on January 9, the final preparations have been completed -spurs and a road have been laid and equipment brought up and installed.

Excavation and earth-removal work began on the lower course of the future diversion canal on Febru-

A GREAT DAY: The starting of work on the Aswan Dam was a milestone in the history of the people of Egypt and all Africa. The pictures here show local peasants (above) come to watch the giant excavators at work, and (below) singing and dancing to mark the momentous occasion. Minister of Soviet Power Station Construction, Ignati Novikov, is seen (centre) making a speech at the inauguration.

ary 2. The job of removing the first blast rock fell to Ahmed Nizyamov, a well-known Soviet excavator operator. He brought into service the first Voronezh diesel excavator with a 44 cubic foot bucket.

The second diesel excavator, operated by Grigory Duzik, has started working on the building site of a siding in the approaches to the head section of the canal which will abut on to the dam itself and which was originally planned to be built as part of the second stage of the project.

Some 35,000,000 cubic feet of rock will be brought from the lowland course of the canal and placed into the body of the dam. Work on the diversion canal and principal dam will be conducted simultaneously.

The Soviet government's agreement to the request of the government of the United Arab Republic to take part in the construction of the second section of the dam will thus cut the time of construction and vield a substantial economy in funds.

#### SOVIET-ARAB CO-OPERATION

Various items of Soviet equipment continue arriving in Aswan by rail and water from Alexandria, nounced at present, The components of deep drilling machines have already come in, while lorries of the Gorky Modeal of other equipment are on power shovels with 141 cubic feet buckets will be arriving shortly.

An important task facing the Soviet specialists and mechanics consists in training their Arab colleagues in the operation and efficient use of Soviet machines and equipment.

Arab specialists say that the Aswan project will be a good training ground for them and for Arab machine operators. Disinterested or celebrate the loss of our rights." Soviet assistance has produced its viet machines, including the powerful Soviet 25-ton tip lorry. White supremacy rule. Join in the freedom fight instead."







#### WEAR BLACK

(Continued from page 1) day May 29. The theme of this conference is to be "Our view of fifty years of Union and our joint will for a just multi-racial society." The slogan of this conference is suggested as "A new constitution and a new South Africa.'

Other Congress plans for the Festival period are not to be an-

Chief Lutuli's statement is brief and to the point. "The Union Festi-val is a festival of racialism, of the tor Works, a second batch of triumph of White supremacy gov-25-ton Minsk lorries and a great ernment over the rights of the majotriumph of White supremacy govrity of South Africans. The fifty their way to Aswan. Huge electric years of Union have taken away our land and our rights, have tightened the screw of the pass laws when we asked for freedom, given us Bantu Education and tribal col-

leges when we proved our equality. "And now the Nationalist Government asks us to sing and feast, eat meat and drink beer to rejoice over the fifty years of Union. We

"Stay away from the official results within a short space of Festival celebrations," urges the time and Arab machine operators | Congress. "Those are no place have already learned to work So- for the victims of fifty years of

## ASIA Soviet Aid to Indonesia **Shakes Rightwingers**

THE announcement that the Soviet Union is to grant Indonesia long-term credit of £89 million for the construction of Indonesian industry, has come as a great blow to those circles in the West who were hoping that under the control of anti-Communist Army leader, General Nasution, the Indonesian Government would renounce its policy of positive neutralism and friendship with the Soviet Union.

Despite elaborate "security" measures by the Indonesian Army reminiscent of the treatment meted out to Mr. K. on the first half of his U.S. trip, millions of Indonesian people turned out to greet the Soviet Prime Minister during his recently ended tour of the country.

On his arrival in Djakarta more than a million people were reported to have lined the route from the airport to the centre of the city in order to welcome him.

The main themes of Khruschov's addresses to the Indonesian people were:

- The fight for independence must be continued. "Just as the tiger does not eat grass, so colonialists will never voluntarily leave countries they have once colonised." (Foreign capital still has a strong hold on the Indonesian economy, and the territory of West Irian is still under Dutch
- The Soviet proposals for disarmament if realised would release enormous funds for aiding underdeveloped countries;
- The Soviet Union in the

meantime is prepared not only to grant moral support to the countries recently liberated from colonial rule, but also to make available to them practical aid.

It was this latter "threat" that particularly alarmed right-wing elements in Indonesia.

"Worried anti-Communist leaders here," reported Dennis Bloodworth from Bandung in a recent issue of the London Observer "feel daily more convinced that the Republic's 'rich uncle' is going to announce a new and spectacular Soviet aid programme for the country which may draw it once more towards the Communist bloc."

Bloodworth makes it clear that the Soviet offer of aid will have an important bearing on internal Indonesian politics.

He points out that General Nasution, with support from other political parties and anti-Communists in the Administration, has succeeded in "limiting severely" the activities of the powerful Indonesian Communist Party.

To balance the Army's rising power, President Sukarno has listened to the advice of left-wing counsellors and has appointed leftwingers to the Administration, adds Bloodworth. But Sukarno is more and more being blamed for the country's deteriorating economic situation.

"Not only may Mr. Khruschov's visit provide a psychological shot in the arm for the left-wing but an offer of massive economic aid will go far towards redressing the balance for President Sukarno.'

Now the aid has been forthcom-

CHOU TO VISIT NEHRU

THE prospects of a major improvement of India-China relations, which were severely strained over their border dispute last year, have been considerably enhanced by the announcement that Chinese Premier Chou En-lai will visit New Delhi in April for talks on the frontier question with Indian Prime Minister Nehru.

In accepting the invitation to come to India, Chou Enlai declared that the two countries "must not waver in their common desire for a peaceful settlement of the issue on account of temporary differences of opinion, and certain unfortunate and unexpected incidents."

## PEKING WANTS TALKS ON CHINESE IN INDONESIA

CHINA HAS PROPOSED TO INDONESIA IMMEDIATE TALKS TO SAFE-GUARD FRIENDLY RELA-TIONS AND TO SETTLE THE QUESTION OF CHI-NESE RESIDENTS BY CON-SULTATION ON THE BASIS OF THE BANDUNG CON-FERENCE PRINCIPLES.

Indonesia, by a Presidential regulation last November, prohibited all aliens in places other than capitals of first and second-class autonomous districts from running small businesses or engaging in retail trade.

SINCE the promulgation of this regulation, local wartime administrators in many parts of Indonesia have intensified discriminatory measures against Chinese residents.

Not only have the Chinese been banned from trading but in many cases have also been

forced to abandon their homes and property in the villages and move to specified areas.

Ninety per cent of the overseas Chinese in Indonesia are labouring people who actively support the aims of the Indonesian revolution and whose industriousness contributes to the development of Indonesia's national economy.

The small traders against whom the discriminatory measures are directed play a vital role in promoting commodity exchange between rural and urban areas.

Attempts are made to justify the discrimination against Chinese nationals on grounds of "security" and "prohibition of foreign capital.'

It is of significance that the Indonesian Government, while taking such drastic measures against small village traders has failed to touch big foreign monopolies like Caltex and

Standard Vacuum Oil companies.

TIGER

It even throws the door wide open to increased penetration of American and Japanese capital.

This has provoked the comment of D. N. Aidit, chairman of the Communist Party of Indonesia, that the Indonesian Government "Fought only with cats because it was afraid to resist the tiger.'

Widespread sympathy and support for the overseas Chinese exists among the Indonesian labouring people, among whom they have lived in amity for generations.

There is an acute awareness of the efforts of imperialist circles to poison relationships between China and Indonesia and a strong determination to defeat this plot.

## WORKERS' CONFERENCES

operative, it was announced, are their chief, Heiberg. part and parcel of the machinery of apartheid oppression. It was also stated that the P.E. factory of the co-operative had repudiated all agreements between it and the ANC on the granting of facilities to the trade union to carry out its work on the factory premises.

The Moslem Institute was packed and people came from all parts of the Eastern Cape, including Kirkwood, 50 miles away, to attend the conference. Delegates from Uitenhage chartered special buses.

The main resolution on the economic boycott expressed profound appreciation of the solidarity shown by national liberation movements in Africa and the British people who are supporting the boycott. The conference called upon the workers to carry the boycott campaign into their factories and homes.

#### **ANTI-PASS CAMPAIGN**

In a resolution condemning passes the conference called upon decentminded people to come out openly against the pass laws that create misery for the overwhelming majority of the people of this land.

The conference reiterated determination to fight for the recognition of trade unions for all workers and against job reservation. Further, conference pledged itself to step up the campaign to create workers' committees to fight for £1 a day.

On the forthcoming jubilee celebrations conference called on all people and organisations not to organise functions in support of the festival and to regard the period of the celebrations as a period of

A very large number of Black and

## Sports Flashes

- The non-racial South African Soccer Federation has decided to re-new its application for affiliation to the International Soccer Federation (F.I.F.A.). It has written to the 83 member countries of FIFA asking for their support at the Congress
- S.A.S.F. have also renewed their invitations to Ghana and Egypt for soccer teams to tour the
- The South African Weightlifting Federation has written to the all-white Weightlifting Union setting out the terms on which it is prepared to work with this body for the Olympics. If these terms are not accepted, the Federation plans to ask the world body (F.I.H.C.) to take disciplinary action against the white
- The Federation has also announced that it will be staging preliminary Olympic trials in Kimberley on Easter Saturday before ask ing for a full Olympic trial jointly with the white weightlifting body.
- Papwa Sewgolum, Dutch Open champion, suffered a shock defeat, at the hands of unknown Sookraj Harry in the Beachwood Caddies Championship. Papwa showed true sportsmanship in his smiling comment: "My opponent deserved to win-I never played so badly".
- The South African Sports Association has asked that all All Blacks tour petition forms— even the blank ones—be returned. The fight against the exclusion of Maoris goes on and it is hoped that readers will help in the petition: it may still be decisive.

New Zealand, told a deputation that it would cause ill-feeling if the All Blacks tour were cancelled. Does he realise how much ill-feeling the tour has already caused, and how much more is still likely if it is not called

Farmers who belong to the co- under the personal supervision of

#### Cape Town

CAPE TOWN.

A large crowd composed of several hundred workers of all racial groups filled the Salt River Municipal Hall last Sunday when the conference of workers of the Western Cape was held.

A feature of the conference was the presence of a large number of people from the country districts.

In spite of intense heat, discussion remained lively as speaker after speaker came from the floor to take part in the debates.

A member of the special branch was escorted from the hall by Mr. Archie Sibeko early in the proceed-

The conference was opened by Mr. Bassadien, chairman of the Western Province Building Workers' Union, and the main speakers included Messrs N. Daniels, B. January, Zolly Malindi, A. La Guma and Mrs. L. Abrahams.

Resolutions adopted by the conference called for

- the intensification of the economic boycott in the Western Cape;
- a united effort by all workers, organised and unorganised, to bring about the abolition of the industrial colour bar and the opening of all occupations, trades and professions to all workers irrespective of colour or creed;
- the authorities to spend more money on better homes for workers close to their places of work;
- a minimum wage of £1 a day for all workers.

Conference also condemned the I.C. Act and the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act as contrary to the principles of the United Nations Charter of Human Rights.

### Anti-Pass

## **Action Call From**

## Jo'burg

WO large and spirited workers' conferences over the week-end. one in Johannesburg attended by close on 2,000 people, and one in Pretoria of 800 workers, called for "immediate and effective steps to bring the pass law system to an end this year."

The Johannesburg and Reef conference held in Johannesburg's Trades Hall was crowded out with participants lining the walls, jamming the doors, perched on windowsills and squatting at the foot of the conference platform.

The Pretoria conference continued for an hour and a half past the scheduled time, so lively was the discussion. Passes and wages were the main subjects of the conference, with job reservation next.

Resolutions adopted at the two conferences condemned the pass laws as one of the foundations of the cheap labour system which prevents Africans from selling their labour power freely and keeps wages at starvation level.

The pass laws are an intolerable form of discrimination and can no longer be suffered in Africa during the Freedom Year of this continent. said the resolution.

The conferences pledged unre-Walter Nash, Prime Minister of served support for all "effective measures that may be decided upon by Congress."

A resolution on wages called for all workers in factories, shops, offices, farms and mines to be organised in workers' committees to achieve the greatest unity of workers organiser of the NIC.

White Special Branch were present | for immediate wage improvements. NEW LABEL

> Mr. Mayekiso, who spoke on the colour bar in industry, said job reservation was "a new label attached to an old rotten baby of oppression." Job reservation, he said, was intended to preserve the White man's monopoly of political and economic power.

He warned the White worker not to allow himself to be used by the Nationalists in oppressing his fellow workers. Any action the workers could take to destroy the colour bar in industry would depend on the workers' readiness for action, said Mr. Mayekiso.

Mr. J. J. Hadebe, Transvaal ANC Secretary, called on the people to prepare for campaigns to be launched by the ANC.

A call was made for the people to intensify the boycott of two brands of Nationalist goods during March month, the peak of the boycott campaign in Britain.

Mrs. Christina Matthews, the workers' leader who served a jail term for her part in the April 14 strike last year, told the meeting of her jail experiences and was loudly applauded.

#### From Durban

AT one of the biggest conferences ever held in Durban, the SACTU plan for a provincial stoppage of work unless recognition is granted to African trade unions was unanimously adopted amidst wild scenes of enthusiasm at the workers' conference last week-end.

On the opening day there were at least five times the number of peo-ple outside the hall as inside. The people remained until the end of the meeting in spite of the presence of over 100 armed police in army trucks and a fire engine.

The conference proper, which was held on the following day, Sunday, was as overcrowded as the day before, despite hurried arrangements to extend loudspeaker facilities to the subsidiary hall and library at the Bantu Social Centre.

Speaking at the public open session on Saturday, Mrs. Viola Hashe, National Vice-President of SACTU. said that she had heard of the progress made in Natal by the trade union movement but had never imagined that it was as great as it

"The recognition of African trade unions is the major question confronting the African working people and unless this is accepted by the employers and those in authority we shall have to use the traditional and only weapon that the working class has—the strike weapon," she said.

#### LIBERATION

The struggle for national liberation was inextricably linked with the struggle for higher wages and better working conditions, said Mr. Billy Nair, SACTU organiser in Natal.

"We must work with increasing vigour, organise factory committees and join the trade union volunteer corps that will be established shorthe added.

Mr. Moses Mabhida, chairman of SACTU, naming a leading bakery in Durban, said that the boycott launched against this firm for refusing to negotiate with the African Baking Workers' Union had caught on like wild fire.

"We must not relax in this struggle as a victory against this company will help not only the baking workers but all workers," he said.

Other speakers included Mr. Melville Fletcher, organiser of the Tex-tile Workers' Union; Mr. Stephen Dhlamini, secretary of the Municipal and Milling Workers' Union; Mr. George Mbele, organiser of the Natal ANC: Mr. Kesval Moonsamy,

# PRISON FORCED TO

JOHANNESBURG.

Mr. Simon Legodi, arrested under the pass laws while stacking bricks for his farmeremployer, was released by the Modder B jail after a habeas corpus application to court.

His affidavit filed in court told the whole story. He had been arrested while crossing the road to buy food for lunch from a butcher's shop. His passbook was in the pocket of his jacket in the premises where he had been ordered to stack bricks. The African constable who arrested him asked for £2. Legodi had no money. The constable said he would take £1 for his release. When Legodi could not pay he was handcuffed and taken to the police station and from there to the Native Commissioner's

His case, he said, lasted two minutes. He was fined £5 with

the alternative of five weeks in prison.

A messenger from his employer handed the Native Commissioner his passbook after sentence had been passed on him, but the Native Commissioner said the fine was £5 and not the £2 offered by the

That afternoon Legodi was taken to the Modder B jail. Four days later he was placed in a truck with nine other men and sent to a farm as a labourer.

"We slept under one canvas cover and were given sacks to wear. Men accused of not working hard enough had their faces painted with yellow paint."

Some days after—as a result of the court order—Legodi was taken back to the Modder B prison and released to his employer, who had paid the balance of his fine.

# Metal Workers Adopt Charter of Rights

JOHANNESBURG. STIRRING Metal Workers' last Sunday at the Annual Conference of the Metal Workers' Union, which is affiliated to the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions.

The Charter of Rights declares that the metal workers will strive side by side with all the workers of South Africa and throughout the world, irrespective of race, colour or creed, for freedom from ex-ploitation, democratic rights for all and improved living conditions for all workers.

Introducing the Charter, the secretary of the Union Mr. G. Hlalukana, explained that every demand contained in the ten clause charter had been written in by the metal workers.

They were asked in the factories to say what they would like to see in the charter. In response to this call from the executive committee of the union, over 350 written replies each containing a large number of demands, had been received.

Some of the demands sent in by the workers were: "We do not want to be exploited"; "We demand the right to work"; "We want to be treated as human beings not as senseless beasts"; "We demand the right to strike if our complaints and demands are not heard by the employers"; "We want to be regarded as workers in the industry not as shovels which can be thrown away when it has turned into scrap"; and "We want equal pay for equal work".

The demand which was repeated most often was for "£1 a day." Other demands were for sick pay, 30 days annual leave and a 40-hour

Mr. Hlalukana told the delegates: When you have adopted the Charter today it will go back into the factories. Our job is to make it known to every single worker in the industry throughout South Africa. This Charter is the workers' property. They will not rest until their demands have been won.'

In its main report the executive committee pointed out that since last February the metal workers had won:

• An increase of up to 5/9d. per week for the lowest paid workers. A Charter of Rights was adopted This was far from enough and the workers demanded a minimum wage of £1 a day;

> • A tenfold increase in the membership of the Metal Workers'

> These achievements, said the executive, should be regarded as a grand start to the long battle ahead.

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