

THE MENACE OF ATOMIC RADIATION

LONDON.

The terrifying risks involved if H-bomb tests continue on the present scale have been outlined by the American Academy of Science and by a British scientific commission. They stress the need for the utmost care even in the peaceful use of atomic energy.

If more thermo-nuclear weapons are tested, the British scientists declared, the bones of people now living might be affected and tend to crumble. And the Americans reported a rising rate of malformed children among radiologists doing peace-time X-ray work.

The menace surrounding us, say the scientists, lies in rays which, like invisible light beams, penetrate the human body with such high energy that they produce chemical and biological changes in the tissues through which they pass.

ALL RADIATION HARMFUL

A certain amount of radiation has always bombarded the human body from radio-active material in our natural surroundings. All high-energy radiation, natural or man-made, is harmful.

There is no minimum amount of radiation a person can absorb without damage. A little radiation does a little damage; any increase in radiation increases the damage. A very great increase can people the planet with monsters or destroy the human race altogether. The effect is cumulative like the unchecked boring of termites in

wood.

The scientists agree that the present danger is small—but the potential danger is great, and the risk is growing.

CALCULATING RISK

How to calculate that risk was the scientist's problem. Radiation is measured in units called roentgens. In the 30 years from the time of birth to the time the average person has passed on his biological inheritance to his children, he accumulates about 4.3 roentgens from natural causes—the "background radiation" from rocks and plants and cosmic rays. Medical X-rays add, on the average, 3 roentgens to the cells which are involved in reproduction.

The radiation from the fall-out of atomic weapons testing is difficult to measure, varying widely from place to place, depending on weather conditions.

The fall-out measure in the U.S. in the last five years led the scientists to estimate that if bomb testing were to continue at the high rate of the years 1953-1955, the average American would be subjected over a 30-year period to radiation of from .10 to 2.5 roentgens. If the number or size of bombs are increased the rate will rise proportionately.

THE INDUSTRIAL ATOM

On top of the bomb tests come the slowly growing installations of atomic industrial power. The scientists could not yet measure the peril that would come with such advances but only refer to them as "future sources of radiation that might become dangerous."

Part of the new era's problem will be the disposal of waste from

atomic plants. If radioactive material from such plants were dumped into coastal waters it could within a few years contaminate all parts of the world. If dumped into the ground it could contaminate the food supply.

The geneticists drew this picture of what would happen if man, by his new-found powers, doubles the amount of natural radiation which mankind has been enduring—not without damage—since time began.

DISTORTS GENES

At present roughly 4-5% of all

live births in the U.S. are marred by mental defects, epilepsy, congenital malformations, defects in nerve, muscle, blood, glands, sight, hearing, skin, bone, the gastrointestinal or genito-urinary tracts. About half of these—2% of all births—have defects that are traceable to radiation.

If the radiation were doubled the first generation of Americans would swell the number of congenitally marred children by 200,000. Eventually, as the radiation took its toll, the total would rise an

additional 2 million.

The scientists steered clear of the political significance of their findings.

But that significance is easy to see. Atomic war is unthinkable. The world cannot even afford the explosion of further thermo-nuclear test-bombs. And even the peaceful use of radio-active materials for the benefit of man must not be left to the careless use of those dominated by the profit motive—it must be controlled by the people.

HIGHER PENSIONS, MORE MILK, MORE MEAT: REPORT TO SOVIET PARLIAMENT

MOSCOW.—Striking successes in industry and food production were announced by Premier Bulganin when he reviewed the political situation at the current joint session of the two houses of the Soviet Parliament.

He disclosed that total industrial production in the first six months of this year—the first months of the new five-year plan—was 12 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

Milk production had increased 45 per cent, meat 20 per cent in the same period, while the total number of pigs had increased by 3,479,000 and the total wheat acreage was 35 million acres more than in 1953.

The total ploughed area in the virgin lands had reached 82 million acres compared with the 70 million acres planned.

Total area sown for winter and spring crops this year was more than 480 million acres, which was 90 million acres more than in 1953.

Premier Bulganin added that preparations were now being made for all workers to go over gradually to the seven-hour day which was provided for at the 20th Con-

gress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

ROLE OF UNIONS

This was the background in which Mr. Bulganin presented the Government's proposals for increased pensions, proposals which were embodied in a Bill published two months ago.

The Bill has been widely discussed all over the country, with thousands of suggestions for improvements and amendments being submitted.

The cases of existing pensioners will be considered by special committees of District Soviets all over the country, and Premier Bulganin underlined that the trade union representatives of these committees will have a particularly important role to play.

The trade unions, he said, have the job of explaining the rights of workers under the new law and helping workers to establish their claims.

He pointed out that present expenditure on pensions is nine times more than it was in 1940 and all Soviet pensions are paid out of State funds. Workers do not have to contribute in the form of salary deductions.

He said that although increased rates of pensions had been introduced in 1947 for the main categories of key workers, the standard rate had not been changed since the early '30's.

At present the two rates—standard and increased—were both in operation. Some pensions will be doubled under the new law.

The new Bill ensures that all factory and office workers will obtain a pension on retirement or if they are disabled by an accident at work, sickness or any other cause, equivalent to 50-100 per cent of their average earnings.

'DISARM' CALL

A disarmament appeal to the Parliaments of the world was approved.

The Supreme Soviet also discussed the appeal sent by the Japanese Government to the Soviet Government calling for a ban on the use of nuclear weapons and for the prohibition of all nuclear weapon tests.

A request by the Karelo-Finnish Republic to change its status from a separate republic to autonomous republic inside the Russian Republic of the USSR was also approved.

OKINAWA'S LEGISLATURE

has adopted a motion protesting against the continued expansion of the U.S. military base on the island. It has appealed for support to Japan, which formerly administered the territory. The Japanese Socialist Party has announced that it will urge African and Asian countries to submit the Okinawa demand to the United Nations.

HOW JOSIEL LEFELA CAME OUT OF JAIL AND WAS RE-ELECTED AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE BIG CHIEFS

By LETSELCHA

IT all began when Mr. Josiel Lefela, veteran leader of the "Lekhotla la Bafo" (Commoners' Party) was arrested for sedition in 1955, and jailed after refusing to answer his charges.

Released from jail in March this year, he returned home to lead the masses. Seated amongst other District Councillors in the Teyateyaneng District Council, and fighting against the hideous graded-tax, Mr. Lefela received information to the effect that the Resident Commissioner, Mr. E. P. Arrowsmith, and the Paramount chief, 'Mantsebo Seeiso, had decided to expel him from both the District Council and the Basutoland Council.

So Lefela was expelled, and thus denied the opportunity to fight for the cause of the masses in the Special Sessions of Councils this year.

The District Commissioner, Mr. Rivers Thompson, was unable to explain why Lefela was being expelled, but only told the spiritually injured District Councillors that Chief Makhabane would explain the reasons only to those who had elected Lefela to the Councils—that is the Matsekha people.

A MEETING WAS CALLED

And so on the 10th June, 1956,

a meeting of all the Mapoteng tax-payers was called to hear the reasons for the expulsion, and also to elect someone to take Lefela's place. Chief Makhabane, by whom the reasons for the expulsion were to be given, arrived almost at the end of the meeting, after the gathering had had to carry on with the meeting before hearing those reasons, as promised by the District Commissioner, Mr. Thompson.

When the meeting started Chief Malefetsane Matala requested those sponsoring the meeting, Chiefs Konyama Cheba and Liketso Masupha, to wait for more people to arrive, but the Chiefs would not wait, and so the meeting was declared open. Mr. Lefela explained that he had been expelled so that he would not be able to explain the sinister motives underlying the so-called graded-tax. He indicated to those present that the major purpose for expelling him was that a government boot-licker should replace him.

THE "TOP NOBS"

He recounted to the meeting how, in 1946, after he (Josiel) had been elected to the Councils, the then District Commissioner, Mr. Rivers Thompson, called him to a secret meeting. The District Commissioner emphasised to him the importance of their working together since they (the D.C. and

Josiel) were, as it were, "top nobbs" in the District Administration. The District Commissioner requested Lefela that he should cease fighting against government schemes.

Mr. Lefela thereupon assured the District Commissioner that government schemes that were not against the wishes of the people would always receive his support; but any oppressive government plans would be opposed strenuously by him as he was not prepared to betray those who had elected him, nor was he prepared to sell the nation.

When the election started, Masebo Masekoane briefly addressed the meeting as follows: "The only matter placed before us is that we must elect. Now I elect. I nominate Josiel Lefela, whose substitute we shall elect only after Lefela's death." All present were unanimous in their re-election of the old Josiel.

BIG CHIEFS ARRIVED

The big chiefs of the district, Chiefs Makhabane Peete and Dyke Peete, arrived at the meeting at this stage. After having been told how the election had resulted, they entered the struggle against Lefela and the masses. They both stated that Josiel's re-election would not be accepted by the Resident Commissioner. Further, the two big chiefs

asserted that the motions sent to the District Council through Josiel Lefela would be lost motions.

Chief Dyke Peete seemed to be quite bitter about Josiel's calling them together at Mapoteng instead of going round the villages, and seemed to feel that Josiel classed himself as being of the same political standing as Chief Makhabane and the Magistrate.

Chief Makhabane justified Josiel's expulsion, although he was not able to quote any law which gave government power to expel its political victims from Councils.

But after the Chiefs had spoken and been answered, one of the tax-payers said: "Come, Lefela, and sit over here to take down our motions."

As Lefela stood up to take his seat, the tax-payers who, by then, had increased to about three hundred, roared their approval with sustained hand-clapping and shouting.

And so Josiel Lefela, still commanding the support of all the Matsekha men of consequence, was re-elected against the desires of the Chiefs Dyke and Makhabane, the Magistrate, the Paramount Chief and the Resident Commissioner, Mr. E. P. Arrowsmith.

(By Courtesy of "Mohlalani")

SPOTLIGHT on SPORT

by
Robert Resha



LET US ACCEPT DEFEAT AS WE DO VICTORY

THE Springbok rugby team now touring New Zealand has not lived up to expectations. We said when the team left that looking at it through White glasses it is a good side, and we still say so.

The growing number of injuries, particularly of very good players, has upset the rugby fans in this country. In some quarters New Zealand is being accused of playing with a purpose of injuring certain players. This of course is utter nonsense. It is well known that New Zealanders are hard and tough tacklers. What is really annoying is for a man like Benny Osler, one of South Africa's best fly-halves, to try and justify this school of thought by referring to the 1928 All Blacks team.

South Africa must learn to take defeat in the same way they take victory. After all, the injuries that we talk so much about are mainly muscular strains which could also be brought about by strenuous exercise.

If players enter the field with the idea that they must win at all costs, then we must expect many injuries from such robots. A player should aim to play his best game, but win or lose he should remember that it's sport, not war.

WELL DONE BOYS

The Football Association team which toured South Africa and Rhodesia recently is now back in England. The English players displayed good football and deservedly completed their tour without losing a match.

It is clear from their reports that they enjoyed their stay in our sunny South Africa. Speaking of the tour Mr. Stanley Rous, the secretary of F.A., said: "It was one of the most successful tours we have had—from every point of view. There was a lot of goodwill engendered out there."

We are also happy that visitors enjoyed their tour of our country, but we are certainly not happy that we lost every match against the tourists.

WHY DID WE LOSE?

We lost the series against the F.A. mainly through our own lack of sportsmanship. We have never in this country selected a true South African team to represent us. Whenever a team is picked, selectors concentrate solely on the colour of the players. What is really bad is that all this is done in the name of South Africa and even the White players who take the field are made to feel that they are the cream of the country.

We lost the series because we could not present a team good enough to beat the F.A. This is no reflection on the part of the selectors, who did their best. It is

MARRIAGE

KITSON—David and Norma (nee Cranko) were married in London on Saturday, July 14th.

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the fault of South Africa. It is the fault of Mr. Freddie Fell and his group. To them South Africa is White and only a White player therefore can play football against visiting teams.

Because of this conception many good players were left out. For instance, our weakness against the F.A. was our front line. We did not have the players to match the English players.

I still feel that we could have beaten the F.A. or at least done better than we did if we had Wally Warren and Gerald Francis (Coloured) as inside forwards. David Julius, another Coloured player, is without question one of the outstanding right half-backs on the football field today. There are many others.

One can only hope that now that the South African Football Association has deleted the colour bar clause in its constitution, it will be possible for the selectors to include some of the non-European players in a future South African team.

FOUL, DR. DONGES

Dr. Donges, South Africa's Minister of Interior, tried, at his age, to play football the other day. He threatened the Non-Europeans that if they advocate mixed play he will consider it subversive and will not grant Non-Europeans passports. That is not football, dear Dr. Donges, it is dry, dirty politics.

SUSPENDED

What is the function of the African Rugby Board? At the recent general meeting held in Port Elizabeth, the South African Bantu Rugby Board decided to suspend the Transvaal from inter-provincial tournaments until it has paid a sum of £200 which it owes the Board. The Board, however, made it clear it is the former officials of the Transvaal who are responsible for all this. But the players have to suffer. Is that promoting rugby? Deal with officials as much as you like, but do not let the players suffer.

FOOTBALL NOT STOCK EXCHANGE

Mr. Freddie Fell, president of the S.A.F.A., used stock exchange tactics when he defended his Association at the F.I.F.A. Congress at Lisbon. He said that his Association has a million pounds and that the S.A. Soccer Federation has hardly a penny. The point is Federation has 47,000 players while S.A.F.A. has 20,000 members.

HATS OFF TO WASHBROOK

The entire cricket world bows down to Cyril Washbrook, the English cricketer who after a long lay-off came back to score a century and put the M.C.C. on the winning side. I am one who must apologise to Washbrook for what I said. I called him an old crock who should never have been considered by the selectors. I take this opportunity of chewing my words.

Frances Baard Arrested

PORT ELIZABETH.

While visiting East London on trade union business Mrs. Frances Baard of Port Elizabeth was arrested for remaining in the proclaimed area without a permit.

She spent a day and a night in the cells and the following day was taken to court in a kwela-kwela together with a group of boys, most of them under twenty, and most of them arrested for pass infringements. The boys were singing all the way, Mrs. Baard told New Age.

Mrs. Baard conducted her own case, and was discharged, but was ordered to leave the proclaimed area of East London immediately.

"FIFA WANTS TO UNITE ALL FOOTBALLERS"

—HARRY BLOOM

JOHANNESBURG.

THE Football Association seems to think the whole international crisis over its colour bar has blown over. Far from it.

Mr. Freddie Fell's announcement at the Lisbon conference of F.I.F.A. that his organisation had dropped its colour bar clause from its constitution knocked the bottom out of the constitutional point argued by the Soccer Federation.

The Association dusted its hands smartly after this move and settled back to wait for the next F.I.F.A. conference in two years' time.

Mr. Fell is not talking to the press till after the Association's October meeting, but he did say about the change in the Association's constitution:

"Anybody can join us now—if they want to. But they don't seem to want to . . ."

Mr. Harry Bloom, lawyer and author who argued the Federation's case at the Lisbon conference, said about the Association's constitutional change in an interview with New Age: "We still have to find out what the change in the Association's constitution means. Do they intend to allow African teams to play in the leagues? Will they pick Non-Whites for Springbok tours? We have no idea what it means and, unless it means things like this, the change is meaningless."

"There is no law against mixed play, despite what Dr. Donges says, and if the Association really wants to, nothing can stop it having matches of White teams against Non-Whites."

Mr. Bloom said that F.I.F.A.'s aim was pressed by one Lisbon dele-

gate who said, "We want to bring footballers together, not drive them apart."

"My opinion is that if by the next congress it is clear that Mr. Fell's move was merely a manoeuvre to keep the Association in F.I.F.A. without in any way granting rights for non-White soccer, the world body will almost certainly reconsider its whole attitude."

THANKS

Mr. Benson, Mr. M. Motaung and family wish to thank all friends for their sympathy and kindness during their great loss sustained in the death of Catherine Magdaline Kati-jah Motaung on 2nd July, 1956, whose death came as a shock to the people of Alexandra and a great loss to the family.

About 500 people, both Coloured and African, attended her funeral on Saturday, 7th July.

Wreaths from mourners made a garden around a beautiful oak coffin.

They also want to thank Mr. R. G. Baloyi for his efforts on the night of the death and Mr. and Mrs. Frith, especially Mr. Frith in his capacity as Managing Director and all the staff of P.U.C.T. Ltd., Messrs. T. Masikela, Sello, Monahend, P. Tale, E. J. Noge, Reverends J. M. Katide, J. T. Malebye, B. M. Molaba, for officiating at the funeral. Also the African Funeral and Burial Society and staff, under the management of Mr. P. T. Hlabane.

Arnold's Xmas Hampers

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