

# ASIA WESTERNERS NAIL LAOS INFILTRATION LIE

WESTERN sources have convincingly given the lie to the U.S. allegation that North Vietnamese troops have infiltrated into Laos.

● No less a person than CHIEF OF THE IMPERIAL GENERAL STAFF OF THE BRITISH ARMY, Sir Francis Festing, announced at a press conference in New Zealand last month that available evidence did not justify claims that troops were entering Laos from North Viet Nam. "I have seen no official or reputable information that there is extensive intervention by North Viet Nam," he added.

● An unnamed "SENIOR FRENCH OFFICER" who is in close and frequent contact with the Royal Laotian Army" and

who is also in contact with the London Times correspondent in Laos has, according to the Times, discounted reports of large Communist forces in Northern Laos and has declared that the problem there would be solved by political, not military, action.

## "FACE-SAVING"

The officer reported after a visit to the Northern Provinces that there were no Pathet Lao forces in the field larger than a platoon. Even these small groups were sufficient to frighten the Royal troops commanders out of their

wits, causing them to abandon post after post. Since then, said the officer, the Royal Government had been going in for a certain amount of "face-saving."

There was no real evidence that the Pathet Lao arms had recently entered the country. The provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua had been under Communist control for four years, and it was well established that the Pathet Lao (Laotian Communists), before relinquishing the provinces in 1957, had concealed large quantities of arms. These, he believed, were the ones now being used in Sam Neua.

"Government military communiques, which in the past have often been alarmist and sometimes contradictory, now declare that calm prevails on all sectors," concludes the Times report.

● The LAOS GOVERNMENT itself, towards the end of last month, admitted that its claims had to be taken with a big pinch of salt. The infiltrating troops had all gone back, it announced—aware that its allegations might have to stand investigation soon.

The Laos Defence Secretary, Colonel Phoumi Nosavan, declared recently that all battalions of regular troops trained by North Viet Nam and infiltrated into Laos had now left.

## 'EXAGGERATED'

Remaining in the north-east civil war provinces were 1,200 Pathet Lao irregulars, the Colonel claimed.

His remarks followed an announcement the previous day by the Laotian authorities that in the panic of the first few days the number of "infiltrating troops" was "considerably exaggerated."

Both statements have been made as growing numbers of newspapermen are making their way to the Laos trouble-centre.

\* \* \*

As the world's nations prepare for the new session of UNO, the U.S.-inspired anti-Chinese campaign is being stepped up. Alleged repression in Tibet is always mentioned. This article is by the first British journalist in Tibet since the March uprising.

# TIBET DICTATORSHIP SMASHED BY SERFS

From ALAN WINNINGTON

LHASA.

AFTER a still unbelievable flight across the roof of the world at 21,000 feet in an oxygen mask I am again here in Lhasa—the heart of Tibet.

It is already obvious that the serfs and poor lamas are themselves smashing the ancient dictatorship of the lamaseries and nobility.

In the process they are exposing a feudal repression as black as any in history.

Tibet's poverty-stricken masses are overcoming their fear of the nobility and are quickly creating their own organisations to wipe out forced labour and personal servitude and reduce rents and interest to a level where they can get enough to eat.

But they are not harming the lamaseries or taking revenge on those nobles who abstained from rebellion, no matter how cruel in the past.

## SERVILITY GOES

No Whips—Smiles

These deeply religious serfs are beginning to realise the nature of the clerical-lay dictatorship of the nobility and the lamaseries. For the first time Lhasa's common citizens are masters of the city.

Tibet remains the same, with the world's bluest sky, glorious snow mountains, flowers, lamaseries nestling in valleys—but the people have changed.

Bailiffs' whips have disappeared and servility has gone. Bowing,

stret brought everyone to a halt, hats off, bowing low.

Yesterday the only aristocrats I saw were some progressive ones walking in a demonstration with commoners against forced labour, serfdom and usury, or passing through the streets without their former escorts of whip-bearing lackeys.

Thousands of butter lamps were still flickering dimly in Jokang temple—burning 4,000lb. of butter daily to light its countless images and priceless relics. But



Tibetan girl Chammuchu (first from left in front row) registering at the third primary school opened in Lhasa since March. Chammuchu's mother (behind her) was formerly a maid servant of a noble family.

scraping and sticking out of tongues are replaced by handshakes and smiles.

When the Humber Super-Snipe that brought me from Lhasa airport was halted, roadmenders thrust horny hands into the car to shake mine. All the way to Lhasa ex-serfs clapped and waved happy greetings.

In Lhasa itself the Arabian Nights survives, with stone-built rambling houses, muddy lanes, ownerless dogs, twirling prayer wheels, pilgrims, monks, Moslems, gold roofs, wine houses, religion, colour, dirt, beauty and stench.

When I strolled round the city recently crowds gathered to shake hands and pat the foreigner. It was enough that I came from Peking and as such represented freedom from serfdom.

Four years ago, a brocade-clad nobleman passing through the

I was shown round by cheerful poor lamas who now administer the temple by committee.

Not one brick or relic has been harmed in this holiest place of Tibetan lamaism.

## PAST LIVES

Mobilising People

Nearby in a dusty courtyard a man was lying face down, apparently being flogged by lama officials before a rapt audience clad in tattered sheepskin, patched homespun or gaudy silks.

It was the new theatre group of Lhasa commoners acting out their past lives and mobilising the people to wipe out forced labour, servitude and usury.

A similar play about the sufferings of a former vassal who is now chairman of one of Lhasa's street committees is drawing packed houses in the city's first theatre. The phrase "not a dry eye in the house" is literally true.

This morning there was a meeting of 700 serfs belonging to Lulu Tsewong Dorje, one of the richest Tibetan aristocrats and one of the cruellest, judging from the terrible deeds charged against him as he stood bowing before his former vassals.

Murder, rape, flogging to death and incredible medieval extortion were described in detail by shaggy-haired peasants and tearful, bearded and raped women.

Then all his records of poll tax, usurious debt going back generations, whips, chains and other torture instruments were burned as he watched.

Lulu was commander of the Lhasa rebels and a bitter opponent of any shade of reform.

## GUINEA DRAFTS ECONOMIC PLAN Soviet Aid

THE Government of Guinea is drafting its first national plan for the country's economic development, which would enable the people to extend their activities in the spheres of national reconstruction in conditions of great enthusiasm and creative emulation.

This was announced by the Speaker of the Guinea National Assembly and member of the political bureau and political secretary of the Democratic Party of Guinea, Mr. S. Diallo, at a reception in Moscow shortly after the signing of the Soviet-Guinea technical co-operation agreement.

In terms of the agreement, the Soviet Union is to give Guinea a long-term loan of 140 million roubles at 2½% annual interest, to be repaid over a period of 12 years. The loan was granted to cover the cost of Soviet economic and technical assistance in building a number of industrial establishments, developing agriculture and laying roads.

"Africans greatly appreciate expressions of solidarity on the part of countries supporting the colonial people's fight for national independence and entertain deep friendship for them," declared Diallo.

● A further tribute to the Soviet Union was paid by the leader of the Guinea Parliamentary delegation in the Soviet Union at the time, Mr. K. Dauda. "In observing the life of your great country," he said, "we can see the success achieved by socialism in the economic and cultural spheres in only 42 years.

"We are facing the same task," he continued, "but first of all we must consolidate our economy."

# Anti-Left Offensive By India's Right Wing

RIGHT-WING ELEMENTS IN INDIA HAVE BEEN MAKING ALL-OUT EFFORTS TO SMASH THE GROWING FORCES OF THE LEFT AND TO WEAKEN THE AUTHORITY OF PRIME MINISTER NEHRU.

This emerges from the following recent developments:

● Their attempts to create an atmosphere of tension along the



Nehru—under pressure.

India-China border and to alarm the Indian people by talk of Chinese threats to invade India.

The falsity of their claims has been exposed by the Prime Minister of Bhutan, the Indian protectorate that is supposed to have been invaded by the Chinese, who flatly denied that any such invasion had taken place.

Nehru announced further that there had been no request at all from Bhutan, or its neighbouring protectorate Sikkim, for Indian aid against the Chinese.

The only people who have invaded these two protectorates have been Tibetan refugees, who, declared the Bhutan Congress a short while ago, had entered Bhutan 1,500 strong and had started looting and terrorising the people.

Further refutation of right-wing Indian claims came from a former British Governor of the Indian Province of Assam, who declared that the MacMahon Line, the borderline which the Chinese are alleged to have crossed, never was the boundary between India and China.

● Their attempts to get rid of Krishna Menon, outstanding Indian diplomat, as Minister of De-

fence. For many years Menon was Indian Ambassador to China, and he was one of the principal architects of the great India-China unity of the past few years. He is a close personal friend of Nehru, and an ardent advocate of Indian neutrality.

● Their powerful cracking down on the demonstrators of Calcutta who have gone over to direct action to get food for the starving millions of the city.

Hundreds of leaders of the demonstrators have already been arrested, including two members of Parliament.

Among the leaders arrested were these members of the State Legislative Assembly—Mr. Ganesh Ghosh (Communist), Mr. Niranjan Sengupta (Communist), Mr. Jatin Chakravarty (Revolutionary Socialist Party) and Mr. Subodh Bannerjee (Socialist Unity Centre).

The widespread support for the campaign, which has the backing of all left-wing and socialist parties except the Praja Socialists, has alarmed the right-wing and determined them to ensure complete control of the Indian army for themselves so that they may maintain their rule in India after Nehru goes.



# SPORTLIGHT

by

"DULEEP"



## AND NOW FOR THE ALL BLACKS TOUR...

DURING the great debate on the West Indies tour, much was said and heard, for and against, and much enlightenment came about from the various discussions that ensued. Even now that the West Indies tour has been called off, there are still many who are in doubt whether it was the correct thing to do. Our cricket, some say, has been thrown back twenty years. Others say that politics should not be introduced into sport.

But is it not politics, when Non-Whites are debarred from representing their country? Is it not politics when we practise racial discrimination in Non-White sport? Is it not politics (or religion) when sporting units in the Western Province discriminate against Moslems becoming affiliated members?

Today, sport cannot divorce itself from politics. It is no use sports administrators taking a neutral attitude, for if we are striving for international recognition, we will have to have many encounters, political and otherwise. Apartheid, discrimination, lack of suitable playing facilities, representation on international bodies—all have a political bearing, so that whichever way we fight it, we have to face the political issue at some stage if we are to overcome these obstacles.

The right-minded people have triumphed in their battle against the apartheid West Indies tour, but the fight is far from over. In fact it is only the beginning, with SASA leading the way. Now attention is concentrated on the controversial All-Blacks tour of South Africa next year. The Maoris are up in arms at the exclusion of their players from a national side. They do not insist that there must be a Maori in the side, but selection must be based on merit, and not on colour.

The South African White press has emphasised that there are no Maoris worthy of consideration this year against the Lions. This may be so, but it is the principle that is at stake. Will a Maori be selected to tour South Africa next year, if on merit he deserves selection? Or will his nomination be discarded on the grounds of avoiding embarrassment to him when in this country?

As much as one likes to see tours between S.A. and the All Blacks maintained over the years, the bigger principle of selection on merit must be given foremost consideration as a matter of national prestige. If there is no change on the part of the S.A. Rugby Board, one can see the writing on the wall, that this will be the last All Blacks tour to take place on the basis of apartheid.

Meanwhile, I ask: are the Congresses going to boycott the All-White All-Blacks rugby tour—if it comes off?

### SASA STATEMENT

TO give a clear picture just why the West Indies cricket tour was opposed by so many sportsmen throughout South Africa, I feel that a clear and concise statement by Mr. Dennis Brutus should settle the argument once and for all.

This is what Mr. Brutus had to say in a special interview:

"The first intimation SASA received of the cancellation of the Worrell tour was congratulatory telegrams from George and Paarl. Our immediate reaction was a simple one: to intensify our efforts so that we may expect a team of West Indian cricketers soon, but without the humiliating and shame-

ful stigma of racial discrimination.

"SASA is not prepared to rest content at having averted the danger of an apartheid tour. We must press forward with fierce resolution until we have achieved our goal of true non-racial sport for all South Africans. And that means we must redouble our fight with regard to the elimination of racial discrimination in the touring teams of New Zealand rugby players and South African cricketers next year.

"We are naturally pleased that our efforts to inform sportsmen everywhere of the dangers of a racial tour have borne fruit; that it has not been necessary for us to request the intervention of the West Indies Federation government, with whom we have been in communication; above all, that the necessity for demonstrations of opposition to this racial tour, repugnant to all right thinking South Africans, has been averted.

"We are pleased too, at the lively controversy which this tour has occasioned. It has enabled us, once and for all, to identify those sportsmen who stand for the progressive evolution of true sport in our country. Those who were unable to understand the dangers of this tour may yet join the sportsmen who are now marching into the international arena. But if they are incapable of adapting themselves to the dynamic changes in our sports scene, and wedded to the hoary traditions of racialistic location or ghetto sport, are unable to raise their eyes to the high peak of international recognition, then it is best that they be discarded.

"SASA, as the spearhead of the fight for true non-racial sport in our country, is pledged not to rest content until it has achieved full international recognition for all our cricketers, with recognised matches against all the cricketing countries of the world, as part of its work for all South African sportsmen."

### FALSE PROPAGANDA

DR. Danie Craven, president of the White S.A. Rugby Union, at an informal gathering with a group of Maori elders, gave an "eye-wash" talk to which the press was conveniently not admitted. But it was reported that he said the trouble was not with the them (the Maoris), who were a cultured race, but with the South African Africans who had not yet emerged from a generally primitive state, and who would take many generations before they would approach the level of civilisation which the Maori people had reached. He further advised the Maoris never to lose their culture, to hold on to their arts and crafts and not to let civilisation obliterate them.

What a picture to present to people who, as he appropriately states, know very little of South Africa's problems. Why not allow a few of these self-same Maoris to accompany the All Blacks, completely independent from the team of players, and see for themselves if the Non-Whites of this country are really primitive, uncultured and below civilisation level.

All I can say is: What a distorted picture dear Mr. Craven has given the New Zealanders. I never realised that, besides being a sportsman, Danie is also a propagandist, quite adept at giving people outside this country, the grossly false notion that the Non-Whites are still living in the Stone Age.

... It would be interesting to hear the views of our readers on this statement of Mr. Craven's.

# LITTEE LIBBY - THE ADVENTURES OF LIBERATION CHABALALA

by Alex ha Guma



### BIRTHS

Gosschalk: To Ruth and Bernard a daughter. Both well.

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