

“ANSWER POLICE STATE WITH A MILLION SIGNATURES!”

NEW AGE

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Raiders Acted Unlawfully, Hunted Unknown Bogeys

CAPE TOWN.—The police committed many acts beyond their legal powers when they carried out their Union-wide raids in the homes and offices of individuals and organisations last Tuesday, September 27, for “evidence” of treason, sedition and offences under the Suppression of Communism and Riotous Assemblies Acts.

The search warrant states that the goods and documents seized must be the property of and relate to the 48 “organisations” mentioned in the warrant.

In most cases, the books, letters and other goods taken did not belong to any organisation, but to private people. The police therefore had no right to seize them, even in the wide terms of the warrant.

A number of raided people are taking up this point with their legal advisers, with a view to instituting legal action for the recovery of their goods. Others are considering other forms of redress.

M. Lionel Forman, a Cape Town advocate and editor of New Age, is considering taking action against the Minister of Justice for defamation.

“The police statements after the raids that they were searching for evidence of sedition and treason were highly defamatory,” said Mr. Forman. “I believe in and work for full and equal rights for all South Africans, but that is not treason. On the contrary, I believe it to be the most complete way that one can demonstrate one’s patriotism.”

Mr. Fred Carneson has sent a strong letter of protest to the controlling Magistrate in Cape Town, demanding that the police be asked to show cause why the articles taken from him should not be returned to him immediately.

Others have sent protests directly to the police official who signed the warrant.

The warrants list all the Congresses, Youth Congresses, the Peace Councils, Civil Rights League, National Council of African Women, as well as a number of organisations that are defunct, such as the Franchise Action Council and the Communist Party of South Africa.

Also on the list are a number of ad hoc committees, many of them defunct. How can the “Defiance Campaign” be listed as an organisation? people are asking, and “May Day Celebrations,” “Colonial Youth Day,” “Anti-Pass Campaign,” “Anti-Apartheid Conference”? What is the “Discussion Club”—any and every discussion club throughout South Africa? What organisation is the “Liberation Movement”?

The biggest riddle of all is the “Cheesa-Cheesa Army” which many people believe to be an invention of the Nationalist Government.

Among the overseas organisations listed are the World Peace Council,

The Comintern (defunct) the Cominform, Women’s International Democratic Federation, World Federation of Democratic Youth.

Also on the list was the Northern Rhodesia African National Congress, the Transvaal Nyasaland African National Congress, the Basutoland African Congress.

March to Pretoria Planned JOHANNESBURG.

The A.N.C. Women’s League of Germiston held a large public meeting over the weekend to protest against the proposal to make African women carry passes. The women decided they would be prepared to resist passes for women.

Outspoken speeches were made and the spirit of the meeting throughout was very high. From the meeting ninety women immediately volunteered to join the women’s mass deputation to Pretoria on October 27 and from Germiston itself more and more women are coming forward to volunteer to take part in this march.

TRANSVAAL ANNOUNCES CHARTER TACTICS

JOHANNESBURG.—Hotfoot on the Union-wide police raids, and as a sharp sign that terror and intimidation cannot stop the people’s movements, came the announcement from the Transvaal Consultative Committee of detailed plans for the Freedom Charter campaign in this province.

The Transvaal has mapped out the first stage of its work in the million signature collection campaign. By December 31st this year it aims to collect the first 100,000 of its total quota of 350,000 signatures.

The Congresses have been allocated their quotas as follows:

The African National Congress 74,000.

The Transvaal Indian Congress 10,000.

The S.A. Coloured People’s Organisation 5,000.

The Congress of Democrats 1,000.

The S.A. Congress of Trade Unions is to join the Consultative

PEOPLES DENOUNCE RAIDS

THE PEOPLE’S ANSWER TO LAST WEEK’S POLICE RAIDS IS TO ORGANISE MORE STRONGLY BEHIND THE CONGRESS MOVEMENT AND FOR THE FREEDOM CHARTER AND THE MILLION SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN.

THIS RESOLUTION CAME FROM A NUMBER OF PROTEST MEETINGS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND FROM STRONG PROTEST STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS.

In CAPE TOWN THE CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS distributed 10,000 copies of a leaflet entitled “Whose Turn Next?” within 36 hours of the raid. These raids, the leaflet warned, “are the forerunner of more fascist measures aimed to crush our organisations, our trade unions and any newspapers which dare to oppose the Nationalist creed.

“We will not be intimidated. We can defeat the Nats by uniting ALL South Africans. We can preserve our liberties by extending them to all our countrymen, regardless of race. We are millions strong. The Nats are few. The whole civilised world is with us. “Let us work together for the fulfilment of the Freedom Charter.”

DETERMINED

There was a grim and determined atmosphere in the Cape Town Banqueting Hall on Sunday night at a protest meeting organised by the S.A. COLOURED PEOPLE’S ORGANISATION.

Rededicating themselves to the struggle for freedom, speakers George Peake, Alec la Guma, Ben Turok and A. Hurzuk all emphasised that police raids, bannings and imprisonment would not stop the struggle—that the movement was bigger than the leaders.

The resolutions adopted categorically condemned the police raids and pledged full support to the Freedom Charter million signature campaign. Another resolution demanded a statement from the Minister of Justice either substantiating the charge of treason and sedition or apologising to those raided.

GESTAPO ACTIONS

At ERMELO, an A.N.C. public meeting over the weekend was an outstanding success, some people travelling more than 30 miles to join in the protest against the police raids on Ermelo Congress officials.

Resolutions adopted unanimously expressed the people’s vehement

protest against the “actions of the Gestapo.” Endorsing the Freedom Charter, the meeting pledged to work night and day for its implementation, and to eliminate exploitation and oppression and to build a new South Africa and a happy life of progress and prosperity.

SOPHIATOWN also gave its answer to the police raids last weekend when the people voiced their protest at an open-air public meeting and began the collection of signatures for the Freedom Charter.

All along the length of Louis Botha Avenue, one of Johannesburg’s leading thoroughfares, and also in a number of European suburbs, Freedom Charter slogans have appeared.

S.A.C.T.U. PROTEST

“The police raids and the allegations of treason and sedition are a cover for the activities of the police state,” said the S.A. CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS in a strong protest at the raids. “They are intended also to intimidate the trade unions and frighten the workers.

“Our answer is clear,” S.A.C.T.U. continued. “We reaffirm our determination to build S.A.C.T.U., to organise the unorganised workers and to unite the workers in defence of their rights.”

Protesting strongly against the raids, the PRETORIA A.N.C. declares: “Freedom during our Lifetime!”

NOT CONSPIRATORS

“Our organisation is no secret society of conspirators engaged in a ‘Guy Fawkes Plot,’ declared S.A.C.P.O.

“We have, time and again, proclaimed at public meetings (attended by the police) and in the daily press that we stand determinedly behind the demand that non-whites must take an active and equal part in the government of this country. No amount of intimidation, raids and blatant Gestapo tactics will deter

the leadership of our organisation from expressing these demands.”

“Governments which choose the mad and diabolical road to tyranny, as the Nationalists have done, have never succeeded, and the Nationalist Government will not succeed either in crippling the liberation movement of South Africa,” said Dr. G. M. NAICKER, acting president of the S.A. Indian Congress.

“The Congresses have made their views clear and open and have expressed their demands from time to time in public. Nothing has been hidden from the authorities or the outside world. Police raids will not deter the freedom fighters throughout the length and breadth of South Africa.

“The Nationalist Government in their attack on the democratic organisations, which are in the forefront of the struggle for peace and democracy in South Africa, have revealed their plan, by their police-state methods of raids, to force a fascist dictatorship on the people of South Africa,” declared Dr. Naicker.

FOOD UNION

THE FOOD AND CANNING WORKERS’ UNION declares: “We particularly protest against the raid made on our offices at Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. The search warrant was made out to Rebecca Lan and Oscar Mpetha personally, but nevertheless in spite of our protests, the police looked through all files, documents, receipt books and cheque books of our Union.

“A trade union, like other people’s organizations, has the right to exist free from interference by the Government into its affairs and leadership.

“These raids are aimed to intimidate the workers into submission and acceptance of the vicious legislation of the Government; to intimidate our membership in the

(Continued on page 2)



Ten thousand copies of a leaflet “Whose Turn Next?” protesting against the police raids were distributed by the Congress of Democrats in Cape Town last week.



NEW AGE LETTER BOX

STRIVING TOGETHER

The actions of the Nationalist Party should make it clear to everyone that it is based on Hitler's Nazism and aims to enslave the people of South Africa of all walks of life irrespective of colour, race or creed.

It is madness to think that Bantu Education applies only to Africans; that the classification of Coloureds concerns only the Coloureds and so on. Common sense should tell us whether we are black, brown or white that all racialist laws affect us.

If there is Bantu Education which tells the black child that he is inferior and that he was predestined to serve the white man, there will also be European education which will tell the white child that he is master of all.

It is very difficult to understand why the white South Africans have been such easy prey to the Nationalists' ideology. The same people were up in arms against the fanatic Hitler when he was butchering innocent people under "Germanic supremacy."

As long as the means of production are in the hands of a few capitalists who are out for large profits, there will be no freedom for any person in South Africa, whether white or black. The means of production give these profiteers the power of life and death over the masses.

South Africans, let us strive together for a free South Africa which is advocated in the Freedom Charter. Let us all strive for a peaceful world and clear off the face of the globe the threat of war.

Mayibuye Afrika!

A. A. ZWANE.

Wynberg, Johannesburg.

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Alike as Peas

Proclamations by the High Commissioner for the Protectorates are as alike as peas in a pod to the laws passed by the white parliament on our fellow Africans in South Africa.

Examples: (a) Group Areas Act in the Union is the same as the destruction of some Villages to form one Village against the desires of the Villagers.

(b) Suppression of Communism Act banning orders compare with the order served on Mr. Leballo, a born Mosotho prohibiting him to go to Lesotho, his birth country, by the High Commissioner for the Protectorates.

(c) Culling laws and taxation on livestock which is practised on our fellow Africans' livestock in the Union.

It could be much better if the Commissioner were assisted by a Committee elected by the inhabitants of the Protectorates. Without the assistance of such a committee the Commissioner gives us the opposite of what we ask him.

We are dissatisfied that the High Commissioner for the Protectorates does not live in any of the Protectorates.

Q. QHOBELA MOLAPO,
Secretary, Basutoland African
Congress.
Port Elizabeth.

Nonsense

We would like to inform you of the propaganda that is being spread by some of the executive committee members of the local A.N.C. branch. On August 14, the former chairman of the branch, Mr. J. Mashamaite, delivered a speech at a public meeting where he condemned "New Age" as a dangerous paper which the people must not have anything to do with. We however did not take his statement seriously as we hoped that the people would rule it out as nonsense.

We now have a chairman, J. Madzunya, who on September 25 levelled further accusations against "New Age" at a public meeting. His contention is that "New Age" is not a Congress paper as it is run and controlled by "Communist parasites" and he seriously advised the people against associating themselves with such a "dangerous" paper.

SEKWALO THSEKLA.
Alexandra Township.

Wrong

The man at Mrs. Ballinger's Port Elizabeth meeting who said that the Africans have lost confidence in her was wrong. We have never had confidence in her. Mrs. Ballinger has had a long time in Parliament but it is remarkable how little she has done for the people she "represents." Yet she was not ashamed to exclaim in the hall and complain of being questioned by "youths."

N. M. MPAZI.
Port Elizabeth.

IN BRAKPAN BOARD ELECTIONS Vigilance Committee candidates Pakade, Itolong and Ramakhola decisively defeated the anti-Congress "African Protection Civic Society" candidates. The Vigilance Committee was actively supported by the Brakpan A.N.C.

ANSWER POLICE STATE

(Continued from page 1)

countryside who have shown their determination to struggle against oppression.

"All people of South Africa must unite to stop the rapid growth of a police state in South Africa."

THE FEDERATION OF S.A. WOMEN sees in this latest action of the Government a further attempt to intimidate all organisations which oppose fascism and racial discrimination and strive for peace, freedom and security for all people.

"The women of the Federation have pledged themselves to fight for the happiness and well-being of all children in South Africa, for the rights of all women, for the safety and preservation of the family," the Federation declares.

"If it be treason to struggle for these rights, to oppose Bantu education, to condemn the Orlando Shelters and the Moroka shacks, to protest against poverty, injustice and racial hatred, then not only the Federation of South African Women, but millions of women the world over are also guilty of treason, for from the beginning of time, women have fought for the future of their children."

In a vigorous protest, the S.A. SOCIETY FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION, declares: "The aims of the Society, as has repeatedly been made public, in statements and at public meetings, as well as in the Constitution, are concerned exclusively with the promotion of improved relationships, in the fields of culture, trade and other related fields, between the people of South Africa and the U.S.S.R."

"We feel convinced that, particularly since the meeting of the heads of the 'Big Four' powers at Geneva, these aims will be fully shared by every thinking citizen, as the only sensible and possible alternative to a frightful world conflict."

"We shall not be intimidated by such actions, but shall continue our efforts to build bridges of friendship and understanding in the cause of world peace."

Fighting Fund for Strike Action

CAPE TOWN.

The Textile Workers' Industrial Union is setting up a fighting fund in case it should become necessary to take strike action for higher wages and better conditions. Mr. P. Beyleveld, general secretary of the union, told New Age this week.

The decision to establish the fighting fund arises out of the continuing deadlock in the blanket section of the industry, and the breakdown of negotiations in some sections.

Negotiations in the worsted section have not progressed either, because of the employers' refusal to grant increases, and the workers' determination not to submit any longer to being the lowest paid workers in the textile industry.

Court Frees Matime on Bail

BENONI.—After being kept in police cells for eight days, Mr. L. Matime, charged with conducting an illegal school in the form of a Cultural Club, has been released on bail. Although a Supreme Court application for his release was necessary before the police would permit bail, the bail was finally fixed at the sum of £10 only.

EDITORIAL

RAIDS ARE SIGN OF NAT WEAKNESS

LAST week's police raids were carried out on the scale of a military operation. The number of homes and offices raided simultaneously ran into several hundreds and close on a thousand detectives were involved. Although there must have been nationwide planning well in advance the police kept their secret well and the raids came without warning.

To the Nats the raids serve a number of purposes. Firstly, they are gigantic fishing expeditions aimed at discovering full details of the work of the democratic movement. In spite of the much vaunted efficiency of the Special Branch it is composed of people who live and think in a completely different world from the democratic movement, and in the main the Nats really do not know what is going on. Though their spies glean a myriad of facts, rumours and fancies they (and the men at the top) are so prejudiced, confused and ignorant that they are unable to understand the true nature of the liberatory struggle, and do actually hope to turn up some sign of "foreign gold." In addition the raids help to expand their lists of names and addresses, to glean personal information about progressives, and provide material for a spate of petty prosecutions for such things as being in possession of "objectionable" books.

A second purpose served by the raids is their effect in intimidating the less courageous of those many thousands who secretly feel the strongest bonds of sympathy with the Congress movement. This intimidation is particularly effective in frightening away intellectuals whose understanding of the barbarism of the Nat ideology would otherwise force them into a stand in support of democracy.

No one can doubt that this intimidation has had its effect. In the days of the "Guardian" a substantial proportion of the readership was composed of professional men and women who read the paper openly. Today many such people have been frightened away and fear to receive the paper or even to read it in secret. (At the same time, of course, the very Nat policies which have driven them away have led to an enormous increase in support for the progressive press from the people who no longer fear intimidation—the masses of the Non-European people—and the balance has been in our favour.)

A third purpose of the raids is to create in the minds of the White public a belief that there is some dreadful conspiracy to burn them in their beds.

The Nats believe in the Nazi motto: The bigger the lie, the better. They have backed previous steps to fascism with fantasies of poisoned water-supplies and blown-up railway lines. Now they have gone the whole hog and used the treason lie.

The Nats follow the Nazi precept but don't learn the Nazi lesson. Just as McCarthyism in the U.S. has begun to fail because the lies got bigger and bigger and bigger until they blew up in the liars' face, so the treason charge has failed here to impress thinking people.

The raids spotlight the greatest weakness of the Nationalist Government—the fear it lives in because it knows it is hated by the people. Mass police raids are not a feature of life in countries where the people are satisfied with the government.

Progressives must use every means to fight back against this latest act of the police state.

For example: the police were entitled to seize property which both belonged to, and related to the organisations listed in the warrant, and such property only.

In many cases books, letters and similar documents were taken which belonged not to any organisation but to private people. In such cases legal advice should be taken to see what damages can be recovered.

The return of all material unlawfully seized should be demanded.

Above all the maximum protest should be raised at meetings and through the press to awaken more and more people to the need to halt the march to fascism, and to achieve freedom in our land.

U.S. Discusses Liquidating Strydom, Franco and other Decaying Regimes

NEW YORK.—With the "agonising" realisation by top American leaders that the consequences of a preventive war are too appalling to face, the U.S. is in a vast process of changing its entire lines of thought, its social pressures and its internal and external propaganda. Out of this process are coming some surprising new ideas on the future policy made necessary by the prospect of living at relative peace with the rest of the world—and these ideas will bring no comfort to the South African white supremacists. In fact, one conclusion already being formulated in the United States is that in order to retain the respect of other peoples it will have to withdraw support from Governments based on class and race exploitation and even side with the oppressed people against their rulers.

This line of thought has been pressed for a long time by liberal and left elements who have also been active in the many campaigns to "put America's own house in order" by fighting race discrimination against Negroes. But it is now being raised to the level of world strategy and seen in relation to the struggle America will have to wage over generations for initiative and leadership against the socialist world, now that the tempting shortcut of an atomic war has been dropped.

A clear formulation has just appeared in the latest number of Harpers Magazine, mass circulation paper of the right, closely associated with powerful financial interests. In an article by Joseph H. Spigelman, a well-known economist and formerly an official of the Federal Government, the question of wresting peace-time initiative from Russia is frankly discussed.

SOVIET LEADS

Russia calls the turns, he says. Russian initiative set the context of the Geneva "meeting at the summit."

"It is she who has made the proposals and appeals that seem most to have attracted the world's peoples, however little they may have impressed the governments: on the cessation of hostilities in Korea and Indo-China; on disarmament and the outlawing of nuclear weapons; on the unification and neutralization of Germany; on the extirpation of colonialism; on racial equality; on peaceful co-existence."

Examining the reasons why the U.S. always finds itself in a defensive role and suffering humiliating and almost irretrievable diplomatic defeats, the writer says bluntly:

"The major reason . . . is that we are today compelled to cover the retreat of a defeated social order—not necessarily our own social order, but one we cannot allow to be abruptly destroyed without risking a chaos that might involve our own ruin."

"The order that the Communists attack and we perforce defend is the order of privilege—that is, the protected right of any nation, race, class, institution or individual to a larger income, greater power or higher social position than its present contribution to welfare is thought to be worth, by those who pay the price."

"Communists have the initiative because they attack an order already defeated. They oppose interests and institutions hated and rejected by most of the world's peoples: the colonialism of England, France, Holland, and the rankling memory of that colonialism; the racialism of the white man in Asia, Africa and Latin America; the property rights of feudal land-owner and village usurer . . . the indignities of militarism and clericalism in Spain and Latin America; the corrupt and inefficient governments of Bao Dai and Chiang Kai-shek, of Arabian sheikdoms and Caribbean banana republics; all the ruins of a decaying system that can only remain standing because we shore them up."

The South African Government finds itself in thoroughly good company in this catalogue of defeat, ruin, reaction and indignity. But it

is when the writer discusses the possibility of America regaining the initiative that South Africa's racists will get the coldest chill down their backs. He sees the whole system of privilege crumbling and instances the tide against racialism in America itself.

BREAK WITH PAST

"The situation is fast ripening for a decisive break with the past. The more closely Negroes approach equality with whites, the more pointless will the continued adherence to white supremacy become; until we can at last repudiate in total practice, and not merely formally and officially, manifestations of privilege in whatever form . . ."

"This will mean requiring of our states that they set definite deadlines for outlawing the vestiges of racial segregation."

"It will mean pressing our allies and dependencies—under threat of sanctions for non-compliance—to set definite deadlines for a piecemeal liquidation of vestiges of empire."

"It will mean withdrawing our support from governments that rest on privilege—Franco's regime and that of the South African Nationalists, for example—even though they ideologically oppose Communism, and even if this might entail (though it is doubtful) a loss in our military capacity for defence."

"It will mean ceasing to rely on privileged groups and institutions—on established churches, on military castes, on corrupt bureaucracies, on obsolete property rights—as repositories of strength against Communism."

"It may mean, in some instances, actively siding with the people against their rulers."

The implication of this policy is remarkable. Just as the U.S. has for years protected its economic structure by dumping the effect of its slumps on the rest of the world, so now it is proposed that it should export its political problems even if it should mean smashing regimes like those of Franco and Strydom and setting up moderate capitalist democracies.

Workers' Unity Against War

MELBOURNE.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions at its Congress in Melbourne last week voted by an overwhelming majority for granting People's China its rightful place in the United Nations as a contribution to peace and the unity of working people all over the world against war.

Indonesia Votes

LONDON.

Shortly before Indonesia went to the polls for the vital general elections scheduled for last Thursday only 126 election committees out of 208 constituencies had announced their readiness to hold the balloting to schedule. Committees in 56 other constituencies demanded security measures, transport and finance and 16 reported they were unable to hold elections owing to staff shortage. The remaining 10 constituencies in disturbed areas did not even report.

WHY MALAYA AMNESTY FAILED

LONDON.

The announcement of an amnesty for all fighters in the Malayan People's Army who surrender to the Government has been a total failure and investigations are being made as to why this has happened. The amnesty promise was made by the new Government which is pledged to independence from the British. It was elected at the recent elections in opposition to British-inspired groups.

According to the Manchester Guardian correspondent, one reason for the failure to convince the jungle army was that the amnesty was taken over completely by the British authorities. The British did not even allow the name of the new Prime Minister, Abdul Rahman, to appear on the leaflets or in the broadcasts.

These were signed by the British Director of Military Operations and the announcement was promulgated by the British High Commissioner.

The absence of Abdul Rahman's signature was officially explained by the British thus:

"In the past it has been the custom for the Director of Operations to address the Communist terrorists in the jungle. This custom has been followed till now and will continue."

The paper's correspondent says "It would be impossible to think of a better reason for discontinuing this custom."

The People's Army rightly suspected that the British military authorities were using the amnesty offer as a ruse to trap them and the truculent attitude of the Army has proved that power remains with the British and not with the elected "Chief Minister."

Argentine Junta Holds Uneasy Power

LONDON.—The triumph of the right-wing reactionaries, military chiefs and the Roman Catholic hierarchy in deposing Peron and seizing control of the Government in the Argentine may be only a short-lived one, according to estimates by observers on the spot. Despite the injustice and tyranny of the Peron regime certain reforms were achieved during his dictatorship in the interests of the masses. Unless the new junta is prepared to recognise these reforms and make still further active moves to meet the pressure of the economic crisis, it is not expected to last long.

Summarising the situation, the New Statesman and Nation, says the replacement of the 9-year-old Peronist dictatorship with a stable form of civilian government is much less sure than the comparatively easy military coup.

"For the moment the Argentine is under the provisional presidency of Gen. Lonardi, who had been removed from a military command in 1951 on the suspicion of plotting against Peron. He seems to have taken over with very little serious resistance. Nevertheless it may be rash to assume that popular feeling has swung fiercely anti-Peronist."

"So far the rebellion has been an affair purely of armed force. But the social forces which lie behind it are a combination of 'ancien regime' officers, hereditary owners of property and the Roman Catholic Church; and their purpose is to restore, in the name of Democracy, the privileges of the church and the ruling-class oligarchy."

"In order to achieve these objectives, the rebels will have to begin, before long, to take political decisions. And this is where their troubles may really begin."

"Peron had undoubtedly engineered a considerable amount of social progress within a quasi-fascist political system."

BASED ON WORKERS

The original vote that put him into power accepted him as the symbol of revolt against the corruption of the oligarchy. His success was based very largely on the organisation of the Peronist trade union organisation and on the support of the "shirtless ones"—the "descamisados."

In the face of the increasing hard-

Petrov Spy Scare Report Proves Transparent Fraud

LONDON.—Despite world-wide boosting and syndicated articles in the millionaire press, designed to poison relations between East and West at a time when the cold war is thawing out, close examination of the 100,000-word "Spy Scare Commission" in Australia shows it has failed to prove practically everything it set out to prove. The Australian Government is saddled with its two informers, the Petrovs who are paid at Government expense and guarded night and day by Security agents in case they discredit the "evidence" they have already supplied. The Labour leader of the opposition Dr. Herbert Evatt, has declared in Parliament that the three picked judges of the Commission have scored a failure but have not drawn the consequences of their failure.

Dr. Evatt said the duty of the Commission was frankly to have exposed the Petrov case as "one of the most transparent political frauds in modern history."

ZINOVIEV LETTER

Dr. Evatt maintained the vast report had failed to answer the charge he had made at the time of the 1954 Australian general election, namely that the springing of the inquiry was a blatant political stunt designed to smear the Labour Party with the charge of treachery. He called it the "Zinoviev Letter" of the 1954 election. (The Zinoviev letter was a forgery used by the British Conservatives to stampede the British electors against Labour in 1924.)

The general conclusion of the Commission was that it had failed to find anything against Communists, Soviet officials or any other person in Australia that would stand up in a court of law. But this conclusion was contained in a remarkable mealy-mouthed sentence:

"In view of the rules of admis-

sibility of evidence in the courts of law it would appear that prosecution of none of the persons whose acts were considered would be warranted."

What was left to fill the hundreds of pages of the report? It is described as a web of tittle-tattle and malicious gossip and includes Petrov's "opinions" on various topics.

The only solid fact that emerged from the whole inquiry was that a bribe of £4,000 had been paid to Petrov by the Australian secret service to betray his country and produce a faked story of espionage.

An example of the smearing methods of the report is the declaration that three "Soviet secret organisations" operated in Australia. But where was the evidence?

In another place the Commission admits: "We have no knowledge whether this G.R.U. (military intelligence) illegal apparatus was or still is operating in Australia." Yet despite its total absence of knowledge, the Commission builds up a nightmare picture of what may be happening based, it is admitted, on "Petrov's opinion."

SINISTER POWER

One fact brought to light as a result of the report has been the illegal power of the reactionary secret service. Dr. John Burton, Secretary for External Affairs from 1947-50, criticising the report, said the Commission should have examined more thoroughly the Australian security service background from which Petrov had emerged. Since 1950 when Col. Charles Spry had become director, the Security Service had begun to operate through the Defence Department to influence foreign policy.

As one example, Security had recommended to the Department of External Affairs a "Russian language specialist" for service with the Australian Embassy in Moscow. Only when the Soviet Union refused him a visa did the Department learn that he was a spy. Thus were relations between Australia and Russia impaired.

Dr. Burton said from 1950 the Menzies Government had allowed the Security Service to control defence and foreign policies and to discredit its critics.

"Forces more sinister than Communism are trying to muzzle opinion, to discredit Opposition views, and to take policy from the hands of the people. The forces are centred in the Defence and Security Services and are aided and abetted by the Roman Catholic Action, itself strongly represented in the Security Service," Dr. Burton said.

Industrial Progress

LONDON.

Total production in China has risen by 30 per cent since 1952, the year preceding the first five-year plan, according to figures received by the U.N. Economic Council. Industrial output has more than doubled in the past three years and reached 35 per cent of total production compared with 17 per cent in the last year under the previous Government.

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