



MARCH 5 is the second anniversary of the death of J. V. Stalin, one of the founders of the Soviet Union and later its Prime Minister. Stalin's memory is revered and honoured, not only by the people of his own country, for whom he did so much, but also by the peoples of the whole world, who remember his inspired leadership during the war and his unceasing efforts to build a permanent peace in the post-war period. The policy of "peaceful co-existence" had no more ardent champion than Joseph Stalin, whose actions were ever guided by his deep love for mankind, his belief in the dignity and equality of all men, and his confidence in the ability of workers of all races to co-operate in the struggle for a better life.

Africans Can Hold Meetings Without Council Permission

Says Magistrate

AFRICANS are free to hold public meetings in cities where municipal by-laws require that permission be obtained, but Europeans have to get the permission of the City Council.

This is the effect of a decision in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court last week when Mr. George Xorile, member of the Orlando Advisory Board, and Mr. Tom Mketi were charged with contravening the municipal traffic by-laws by holding a public meeting in Orlando without

the permission of the Town Clerk.

Council for the defence argued that the traffic by-laws were "in conflict with, contrary to, or repugnant to" the Native Urban Areas Act, and that the latter superseded the former.

In his judgment the Magistrate said that under the traffic by-laws people of all races were prohibited from holding meetings in public places except with the permission of the Town Clerk.

The Urban Areas Act did not only not prohibit the holding of public meetings by Africans but, in fact, prohibited the forbidding of the holding of such meetings, except by a magistrate after consultation with the responsible police officer and an officer of the urban local authority.

"People will also have to carry with them their residential address, place of work and other information—they are making us pay for our own oppression and humiliation."

Mrs. A. Miller had much the same to say. "None of us like it," she said.

Mrs. Miller said the new passes would help the Government to carry out its apartheid laws. Her husband is a skilled worker in an engineering firm. Would the Government not use the Population Register to exclude the Coloured people from skilled jobs?

The Government wanted the Population Register to enable it to implement the Group Areas Act, one of Mrs. Miller's neighbours, who owns a house, told New Age. This woman fears that one day she may be ordered to give up her home because it is in a White area.

The Government is treating us now as they have treated the oppressed Africans," she said. "All my friends feel very strongly about having to carry a pass and about having our photographs taken. We do not want a Population Register, which will only make it easier for the Government to oppress us."

The fact that all Europeans, Coloureds and Indians are being asked to have their photographs taken is not the only evil aspect of the population registration scheme," the Cape Western Region of the Congress of Democrats declares in a statement to New Age.

STRONG OPPOSITION IN CAPE TO POPULATION REGISTER

CAPE TOWN.—"I am one of the thousands who are opposed to the Population Registration Act and are dead set against carrying a pass—because that is what the identity card really means," Mrs. Hilda Lotz told a New Age representative last week.

"Policemen will be able to stop us at any time to demand this pass, and I am sure the Non-European people in particular will suffer under it."

"On top of it all, the Government still has the cheek to make us pay 2s. 6d. for our photographs—they are making us pay for our own oppression and humiliation."

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Mrs. Miller said the new passes would help the Government to carry out its apartheid laws. Her husband is a skilled worker in an engineering firm. Would the Government not use the Population Register to exclude the Coloured people from skilled jobs?

"It is hard to say how near we

are to the day when the Jews, for instance, will have to carry the infamous yellow star—or perhaps the Nationalists will insist only on a yellow pass.

"The principle, however, remains. Whether you are black, brown or white, Jew or Gentile, the pass system means restrictions and oppression," the C.O.D. warns.

"The people must unite to oppose the new passes."

A NEW TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IS BORN

JOHANNESBURG.—THIS WEEK-END, MARCH 5 AND 6, WILL WITNESS THE BIRTH OF A NEW TRADE UNION CENTRE IN SOUTH AFRICA, WHEN DELEGATES FROM UNIONS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY WILL CONVERGE UPON THE TRADES HALL.

Thirty-three unions have so far responded to the joint appeal of the Co-ordination Committee and the Transvaal Council of Non-European Trade Unions to attend the foundation of a new sort of Congress of Trade Unions which, for the first time in South African history, will unite organisations of Non-European and European workers on a basis of complete equality and fraternal co-operation, both in theory and practice.

At least forty thousand organised trade unionists will be represented at the Conference, and fraternal delegates have been invited from the Trade Union Council, the African National Congress, the S.A. Labour Party and other progressive bodies. Some unions which have not yet

decided to affiliate will send observers. The National Union of Distributive Workers, which at its annual conference at East London last week resolved not to affiliate at present either to the Trade Union Council or the new non-colour bar centre, falls in this category, and the African Women's Garment Workers' Union of Johannesburg, whose attitude has been undecided, will also be represented. Mr. P. Beyleveld, general secretary of the Textile Workers' Union, will deliver the presidential address.

PRACTICAL PLANS

A draft constitution has been circulated, and Conference will also have before it a number of amendments from trade unions designed, for the most part, to give clearer expression to the aims of the new centre, and to eliminate certain undesirable features which have been carried over into the draft from the constitution of the old Trades and Labour Council. But it is expected that conference will devote more of its attention to discussing practical plans of work for the new body.

These new terms were due to operate from the beginning of February but the people have steadfastly refused to sign the new contracts.

The farmer has threatened that those who don't sign the new contracts should take their "trek-passes" and move on.

"Our new centre has a wonderful opportunity of rallying the workers against the increasing offensives of the employing class and the Government," he said. "Existing unions must be helped

to improve their organisation, and the thousands of unorganised workers won for trade unionism. A hard struggle lies ahead against the Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill and the Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act. Another piece of anti-trade union legislation which I believe our new centre must tackle vigorously is the Suppression of Communism Act which has already robbed South Africa of fifty of its best trade unionists."

"I am not among those who continue mourning the death of the late Trades and Labour Council," concluded Mr. Levy. "Its own internal weaknesses and lack of adherence to principle led to its collapse. Now we have a great chance to make a new beginning on a solid rock-foundation of trade union principle, a chance to build unity among all sections of the workers in their common struggle for better living standards and democratic rights."

KEEP IT MOVING!
Pass your copy of
NEW AGE
on to a friend

NOT ONLY WHITE WOMEN CAN DO IT

JOHANNESBURG.—Crowds who flocked to the "Women Can Do It" Exhibition in the City Hall, opened by Mrs. Jansen, wife of the Governor-General, last Friday, were met by a leaflet that said—"ALL Women Can Do It! Why does this exhibition show the achievements of European women only?"

The leaflets were issued and handed out by the Transvaal region of the Federation of South African Women, the federation that unites women of all racial groups.

The "Women Can Do It" exhibition has had weeks of prior publicity in the daily press of this city and some time ago the Federation of South African Women wrote to the organisers suggesting that out-

standing Non-European women be included in the gallery of prominent women. The Federation offered help in preparing the material. It did not even receive a reply to its letter.

"Women together can achieve great things for our country as a whole. Let all women work together for progress, for equal rights for all," the leaflet states.

U.S. THREATENS CHINA WITH ATOMIC WEAPONS

Soviet Union Will Aid China If Attacked

LONDON.

THE announcement that the United States Seventh Fleet, which is operating in the Formosa area, is to be equipped with atomic weapons means only one thing—that the warmongers in the U.S. have won another round in their struggle to bring the United States into war with China soon.

For the Soviet Union both Bulganin and Molotov stated quite plainly that the Red Army would come to the aid of the Chinese if they were attacked by imperialists.

Writing in the London Observer, Alastair Buchan says—"The Eisenhower Administration has decided, with great reluctance, that if the Chinese Communists attack Quemoy and the Matsu islands the United States will support the Chinese Nationalists in resisting them.

"This decision, I understand, has been taken by the National Security Council. It is based almost entirely on the necessity of keeping up the morale of the Nationalists." It is felt that Chiang's troops would be an easy prey for subversion from Peking if they were forced to withdraw from all the offshore islands immediately.

Thus the world is threatened with the horrors of atomic war simply to bolster the morale of Chiang's gangster troops. No wonder the Observer's diplomatic correspondent reported that the U.S. decision on Quemoy and Matsu had been "received with dismay in London." He added—"There can be no doubt in Mr. Dulles' mind that Britain will not support any military action to hold these islands."

U.S. plans have apparently also been based on the assumption that if war came the Soviet Union would not get involved but would leave China to fight it out on her own. Just how false this assumption is was glaringly revealed in speeches by both Soviet and Chinese leaders on the fifth anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia mutual defence pact last month.

Further Evidence in Becky Lan Case

CAPE TOWN.

The case in which Becky Lan, acting general secretary of the Food and Canning Workers' Union, is charged with contravening the Suppression of Communism Act by attending a meeting in Stompeus Bay, was last week remanded to March 11 after a two-day hearing in the Vredenburg Magistrate's Court.

Giving evidence, Miss Lan stated that she had arranged with other members of the union for them to address a series of meetings over the weekend as she herself was prohibited from attending them owing to the ban served on her by the Minister of Justice.

She had gone round telling the workers about the meeting but had not attended it herself. During the meeting she was seated in the back of the car, some distance away, and it was impossible to hear anything going on at the meeting from where she sat. She was reading a book.

Anglo-American differences over Formosa have developed into a major breach. The British Ambassador to the U.S., Sir Roger Makins, told the United States Secretary of State that Britain and other Commonwealth countries

storm troopers at their worst was taken to disperse them.

In the preceding weeks the German people had given Adenauer one shock after another. The German manifesto launched at St. Paul's Church on January 30 had been accepted by one organisation after another as a rallying call. The Bremen Provincial Parliament had gone on record in favour of Four-Power negotiation instead of German rearmament—it was the first West German parliament, and the first State body, to do so.

The West German Trade Union Council executive officially put the six-million-strong organisation behind the campaign against rearmament. It appealed to Britain, France, the United States and the Soviet Union, in addition to the West German Government and Parliament, to undertake immediate steps towards reunification before the Paris Agreements were ratified.

In Augsburg the Bavarian trade unions started a petition campaign against ratification of the Paris treaties with a mass meeting at which Pastor Wenzel called on young Germans in East and West to refuse military service to prevent a German fratricidal war.

Workers in Nuremberg, once the scene of great Nazi rallies, downed tools at 4 p.m. on the day the rearmament debate opened in the Bundestag and streamed from their factories in protest against rearmament. The meeting of 700 shop stewards which arranged the strike stated they want no more Nazi rallies in Nuremberg or anywhere else in Germany.

AMAZING SCENES
Amazing scenes were witnessed outside the Bundestag when the Paris Agreements came up for discussion. Opponents of rearmament had come in their thousands from all parts of West Germany to protest against the Agreements. Police action reminiscent of the Nazi



Police threatened to disperse forcibly these people, including many women and children.

Police Break Up Meeting On Private Property

Colonial Youth Day Celebration Invaded

DURBAN.

IN a blatant display of police terrorism, the police last Monday threatened to use force against men, women and children who attended the Colonial Youth Day rally.

Soon after the chairman opened the meeting, members of the political branch invaded the platform and ordered the conveners to close the meeting.

The five hundred spectators

legal right to interfere. The conveners pointed out that they had the right to proceed with the meeting and that if there were any contraventions of the law the organisers of the meeting should be charged.

The C.I.D. threatened to arrest all the speakers and to disperse the spectators forcibly if the meeting was not closed, whereupon the chairman was compelled to stop the meeting in order to avoid bloodshed.

The meeting dispersed with shouts of Afrika and the singing of Mayibuye.

ALL NON-EUROPEAN MEETINGS

It is now clear that the authorities are determined to stop all public meetings of Non-Europeans. Every application from the Congresses or Non-European trade unions for permission to hold meetings on public property is refused by the Mayor, no reasons ever given.

And now, when these meetings are held on private property, the police continue to break them up on the grounds that they create "public disturbances."

No action, however, was taken against United, Federal, Liberal and Nationalist parties when they held their election meetings recently, nor against the Nationalist Party, which periodically organises rallies in Albert Park.

The conveners of the Colonial Youth Day Rally are studying the possibilities of suing the Minister of Justice for damages as legal opinion insists that the police have no right whatsoever to break up legal meetings held on private property.

Telegrams have been sent to the leaders of the United, Labour and Liberal Parties, and Mr. Lee Warren, urging them to raise the matter in Parliament.

RALLY HELD LATER

The rally was held a week later in the Gandhi Hall, with the police in attendance.

The rally called upon all students at schools and universities to observe April 1st as a Students' Protest Day.

A further resolution calls on students throughout the world to protest to the Government on Bantu education and discriminatory legislation. The meeting also condemned the Bills amending passport facilities and the General Laws Amendment Bill.



NEW AGE LETTER BOX

Prisoners Discuss Freedom Charter

The demands below were collected by Lionel Morrison, who was charged with having banned publications, at Newlands Police Station.

In the 27 hours that he spent in prison he discussed and collected demands for the Congress of the People.

One prisoner awaiting trial for four months demanded—"If I could make the laws I would see that no man or woman is kept in jail awaiting trial for so long. I would also see that prisoners be treated like human beings and not as dogs. I would also make it illegal for the police to assault prisoners."

Another prisoner demanded—"The Nazi tactics of the police be put to an end. I would also allow prisoners more visitors and have them decently clad."

There were also demands for better food, inspectors to inspect eating and living conditions, that more vegetables be given instead of porridge without sugar—in clean dishes, not rusty old tin plates—and that toilet rooms be built outside the cells.

Other demands included recrea-

tion grounds, washing facilities and no overcrowding of tiny cells.

An old man demanded separate cells for elderly people and the lowering of bail.

The cells in Newlands Jail were plastered with Congress of the People stickers.

PAUL JOSEPH.
Fordsburg, Johannesburg.

A Last Shot at Mr. Mdzeke

Kindly increase my quota of papers by an extra dozen to the 10 dozen I am receiving.

And you may politely tell Mr. Johannes Mdzeke (I'm not very sure of the name, as I've even sold my copy!) to try and boycott the sale of New Age and he shall find to his great disappointment that he is engulfed in a raging sea wherein the waves are the masses clamouring for life and human dignity.

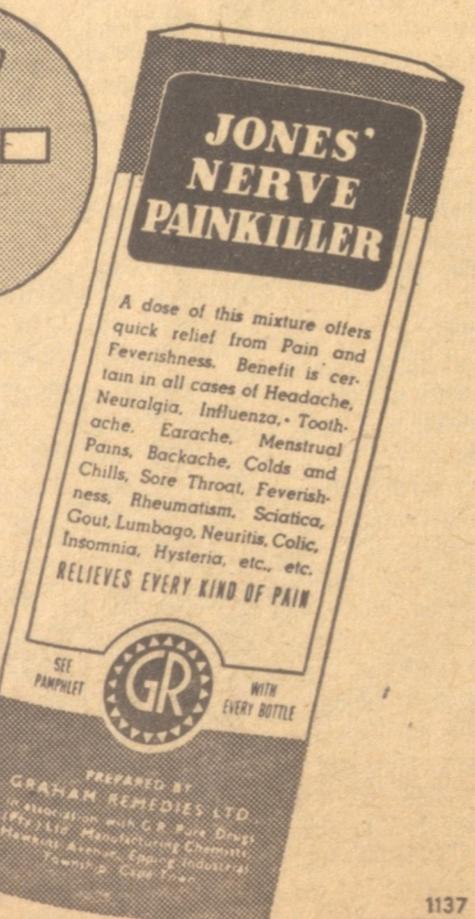
Tell him to go ahead with his threat, and he shall find that no one except himself will be conscious of his lamentable bellows. Let him sink alone while you send the extra dozen copies.

J. MAJELENYANE.
Klerksdorp, Tvl.

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What Do You Think?

Nearly every New Age reader would be willing to give a small regular amount to keep the paper at eight pages. The trouble is only that it is a big job of organisation to go out regularly and collect these amounts to send in.

Might it not be the best way for New Age to put the price up to fourpence? All this means is that every reader is giving one penny a week towards keeping the paper at eight pages. There are very few who cannot make that sacrifice.

BRAINWAVE.

Cape Town.

Unity

South Africans, unlike people in other countries, fail to realise the significance of unity. All men and women, young and old, should join the ranks of the African National Congress to unite in one large body; thereby our numbers will bring fear to the hearts of our oppressors.

FREEDOM-SEEKER.
Kroonstad, O.F.S.

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U.P. Wakes Up, Finds Police State—Whimpers

By PETER MEYER

BY withdrawing one of the 69 clauses of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Amendment Bill in the Assembly last week the Minister of Justice, Mr. C. R. Swart, tried to convince the United Party that he was not such a bad chap after all. It is proof of the savagery of the Bill that Mr. Swart's trick failed to work—even on the United Party!

The clause that Mr. Swart withdrew was the one that would have made it compulsory to hold all preparatory examinations in secret. Putting on that worried look that usually bluffs the United Party, Mr. Swart said he had not made up his mind himself on the matter and that he would leave it to a free vote of the House therefore. It sounded almost democratic.

After the United Party—and a sprinkling of Nats.—had attacked the idea of secret preparatory examinations Mr. Swart weighed the debate thoughtfully and declared, yes, they were right; the clause should be withdrawn.

The whole thing was nothing but a trick. It was meant to distract the Opposition's attention from the other vicious clauses, like the one that gives any policeman the right to enter your home and search you without a warrant if he wants to. Mr. Swart has not withdrawn this clause, nor any of the other clauses.

I would not be a bit surprised if Mr. Swart specially put in the clause on preparatory examinations so that he could take it out again and show everyone what a reasonable man he is.

TRICK FAILED

But the interesting thing is that the trick failed to work, and it failed for one reason only—the rest of the Bill is such a ferocious measure that even the United Party was not put off the scent. Sick and ailing as it is, the U.P. struggled to its feet and with what must be just about its last breath gasped out the fateful words "police state."

So at last they realise what is happening in this country. It has taken the "respectable" Opposition nearly seven years to grasp that the Nationalists are fascists and that they are building a police state as fast as they can get the legislation through Parliament.

The ordinary Opposition M.P. probably doesn't realise fully what is happening. If I am not mistaken, he has only a hazy idea of the real significance of all these Nationalist Bills. But at least, bewildered and befuddled as it is, the Opposition managed last week to shout "police state."

The Cape Argus one day last week and the Cape Times the next day, using almost identical words, also hissed the grim phrase "police state." Their agonised cries are still ringing in my ears—all is lost, all is lost.

So the "respectable" Opposition has woken up with a bump. All the "wild," "extravagant," "ridiculous" warnings issued by the people's leaders and by New Age have come true! And the "respectable" Opposition has realised it too late. Its hands and feet are bound with Mr. Swart's black chains simply because it allowed it. It thought Mr. Swart was playing.

The Parliamentary Opposition, with the honourable exception of the Cape Western representatives, all compromised in the past, to a lesser or greater degree, with the Nationalists, and in doing so it sold its freedom. Now that it knows that the Nats.

are not willing to share the spoils of office with anyone else, it is beginning to re-plan its various destinies, to re-shape its tactics.

CAN BE BEATEN

This is a subject in itself. It is sufficient to point out at this stage that nowhere can one detect signs of a realisation that the Nationalists can be beaten only if everyone takes his place at the side of the masses, their organisations and leaders.

Every year the events that took place in Hitler Germany are being re-enacted here in South Africa. One sometimes hears the view that the Nationalists will soon reach saturation point with their legislation and that there will then be an easing off. But the opposite is happening. Mankind's drive towards freedom is so mighty and irresistible that fascist rulers are continually blocking "loopholes." The pace of legislation, therefore, becomes more, not less, intense, in spite of the increasing use of purely administrative machinery—just as happened in Nazi Germany.

It begins with basic fascist Bills like the Citizenship, Group Areas and Suppression of Communism legislation. Then it is supplemented with Bills like the Public Safety and Criminal Laws Amendment Bill. Dozens of others follow. Last week it was the Passports Bill and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Bill. Already on the Order Paper are the General Laws Amendment Bill and the Evidence Bill. Major Bills and amending legislation—they flow thick and fast.

Heaven knows South Africa has never been a democratic country, but even the rudimentary principles of justice that survive in our national life are being undermined and destroyed. The Nats. are putting an enormous amount of thought and action into their work. Don't underestimate them—they are deadly serious and efficient in their business of building a fascist state.

But there is no need to join hands with the Cape Argus and the Cape Times and lament that "all is lost." The fact that South Africa is a fascist state, that the Nationalists have been building up this fascist state methodically and ruthlessly from the first day they came to power, has not burst upon the masses, their organisations and leaders like a sudden revelation. It has been known all along, and now that the fully-fledged fascist state is here it is a spur to braver deeds and bolder words, not a signal to wail and collapse.

The avalanche of legislation has smashed the resistance of the "respectable" Opposition. But for the real opposition—the people, their organisations and leaders—it is a new call to action. The very fact that there is such an avalanche of legislation proves that the people are thrusting forward on all sides, breaking through the bars and reaching out to freedom.

A WOMEN'S DELEGATE CONFERENCE against Bantu education will take place this week-end at the Donaldson Communal Hall in Orlando, Johannesburg, on Sunday, 6 March.

Anti-Bantu education committees have been doing house-to-house campaigning in the last few months, and parents from all Johannesburg townships and the Reef are expected at this conference. It will be opened by the Rev. Trevor Huddleston.

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