# WHITHER GERMANY?

Though the situation in the Far East continues to cause anxiety, the main interest of the diplomatic world continues to be focussed on Germany. After the experience of two world wars, it is felt that the question of war or peace still very largely depends

on which way Germany goes.

The Geneva conference did not solve the problem. It merely set the problem down for discussion by the Foreign Ministers of the Big Four in October. But the wording of the final Geneva communique, suggesting that the question of Germany must be discussed in relation to the establishment of a European security system, represents a concession by the West to the Soviet point of view.

Chancellor Adenauer's approach to the whole problem has been quite simple. He has aimed at linking



In pursuance of this policy, Adenauer supported E.D.C. and later the Paris Agreements, providing for the rebirth of the German army, even though the Soviet Union warned that the inclusion of West Germany in NATO would put an end to any hopes of German unification. The events of the past few months have shown that Adenauer

MYTH THAT FAILED

has badly miscalculated.

In the era of the H-bomb, with the Soviet Union proving itself in possession of a military potential as great as, if not greater tham, that of the West, the 12 divisions of the German army for which Adenauer fought so hard are now seen to be of minor importance. The prospect of permanent and ever-growing Western military superiority has vanished.

It was this realisation which compelled the Western politicians to come to the Geneva conference table in the first place. For the same reason Adenauer must now go to Moscow this month or next, not as a

### WORLD STAGE BY SPECTATOR

would-be conqueror presenting ultimatums backed by Western strength, but almost as a suppliant, hoping for, but quite unable to demand, what he wants.

It had been reported that Adenauer would lay down conditions which the Soviet Union must fulfil before he would be prepared to visit Moscow-such as that all German prisoners of war must be released, that Adenauer must be accepted as the sole genuine representative of the German nation, etc. Adenauer even waited for the results of the Geneva conference before finally deciding to go to Moscow at all.

For Adenauer and his policies Geneva was a disaster. The Soviet Premier Bulganin made it plain that the Russians had meant what they said when they warned against the implementation of the Paris Agreements. Now that West Germany had joined NATO, said Bulganin, clearly the time was not ripe to consider the question of unification. As far as the Soviet Union was concerned, she had to be satisfied about the question of security before she would agree to any form of unification

Eisenhower insisted that NATO was an organisation intended for defence, not aggression, and said he would never have agreed to join it had it been planned for war. Bulganin replied: "I believe you," but asked why the application of the Soviet Union to join NATO had been refused. The West could not blame the Soviet Union for thinking, under the circumstances, that NATO was directed against her.

It was at this stage that the Western delegates realised that unless they moved a little towards the point of view of the Soviet Union, the impression would be created, particularly in Germany itself, that the West was too intransigeant. Sir Anthony Eden then came forward with his proposal for a five-power security pact and a demilitarised zone between East and West in Europe, which the Soviet Union rejected

Nevertheless, the West was eventually compelled



to drop its insistence on unification first, security afterwards, and to agree that the two subjects must be discussed together. As Eisenhower reported in his broadcast to the American people after his return from Geneva: "We held that Germany should be reunited under a Government freely chosen by themselves . in a framework that pro-

vided European security." Though Adenauer claimed after Geneva that the

West had loyally honoured their obligations towards him, the fact remains that they left him quite without any bargaining weapons. Thus when the Soviet Union renewed its invitation to him to visit Moscow, it was he who had to accept the Soviet conditions, not vice

The agenda proposed by the Soviet Union is extremely limited. It contains only three items:

- 1. Establishment of diplomatic relations;
- 2. Establishment of trade relations and the conclusion of a trade agreement;
- 3. Establishment of cultural relations and the conclusion of a cultural agreement.

Adenauer's expectations of diplomatic triumphs in Moscow are therefore doomed to disappointment. Nevertheless, he has agreed to go. He could not

#### INCREASING OPPOSITION

Having staked his all on German rearmament and co-operation with the West, he is now coming increasingly under fire from his own people, who feel more strongly than ever that he has backed the wrong horse. The Social Democratic Opposition has been quick to claim the Geneva conference as proof of their contention that Adenauer should have negotiated with Moscow before, and not after, ratification of the Paris Agreements. Had he done so, they argue, Germany could today have enjoyed unity and peace, like Austria. As it is, Adenauer has led the German people into the wilderness, and reunification is further off than ever.

And it is not merely the opposition politicos in West Germany who are criticising Adenauer. Objection to his policy cuts right across the German nation. While the Geneva conference was in session, a party of delegates from both zones of Germany, including ex-Chancellor Josef Wirth and Adenauer's own former Defence Minister, Col. Von Bonin, as well as members of the coalition parties supporting Adenauer and three representatives of the East German Government came to Geneva to urge the four heads of Government not to

drop their efforts to unite Germany outside military alliances, but within a European security system.

Col. Von Bonin himself, at a Press conference, said he had now come to the conclusion that the only solution for Germany was neutralisation. He had changed his mind about non-recognition of the East German regime and now

wanted direct talks between East and West Germany

### ISOLATION

The increasing isolation of Adenauer from hi people on this issue is beginning to alarm the West. | Children's Club Leaders The well-known political commentator, Walter Lippmann, reported recently that Adenauer "neither expects nor desires" negotiations for German unity now, but would prefer to wait about three years until he feels "strong enough to obtain reunification with frontiers that are much better than Potsdam.'

Lippman added: "There is no telling who will conclude what (Adenauer) has started. There is no certainty at all that the German Government which settles with the Soviet Union will think and feel as does Dr. Adenauer . . . our best hope would seem to lie in working out . . . an all-European security agreement . . . within which the two Germanies would lie embedded. On this point the Soviets appear to be ready to negotiate with us."

That is, in fact, the Soviet view—create a European collective security agreement, to which both number of young boys were Germanies would belong, as well as the U.S., Britain, the Soviet Union and all the other European powers. Within this framework, the question of German re unification would be settled by the two Germanies themselves. When they had drawn closer together they could decide to unite. Unity could not be imposed on them by force. Both the Soviet Union and Poland have assured East Germany that he present borders will be respected, and that there will be no solution of the German problem at her expense.

### NEGOTIATION, NOT WAR

At Geneva, for the first time, the West agreed to take this point of view into consideration. No doubt there will still be plenty of fighting about it — both at Moscow during Adenauer's visit, and later at the Foreign Ministers' conference.

The clubs in Moroka and Jabavu are the newest to be But so long as the fighting is limited to the conferopened, with the help of the ence room, and not spread to the field of battle, there African Education Movement, is good hope that in the not-too-distant future even and at the initiative of the local this toughest of all post-war nuts will be cracked, to branches of the African National the satisfaction of all, and not least the German Congress.



### REMOVALS FROM VREDEDORP

THE Native Resettlement Board, vested by the Government with diction over part of Vrededorp, and last week carried out the first all Africans in this area have been stage of a removal of Africans from there—with the co-operation and agreement of the City Council.

U.D.F. lorries moved into 26th

Sacked By Eisenhower

Since the Eisenhower security

programme began in May, 1953, a total of 3,432 Government em-

ployees have been discharged and

5,447 have resigned. This represents

respectively about 10 per cent of

discharges from all causes in Gov-

ernment employment during that

time, and just over 1 per cent of all

Arrested

AST week the police visited

the children's cultural clubs

in both Brakpan Location and

Alexandra Township, and arres-

Mr. Bennet Molewa of Alex-

Native Administration Act and

the Bantu Education Act. Bail

has been fixed at £50. At the

taken to the charge office to

In Brakpan where the cultural

club leader, Mr. Mabuya was

arrested and removed to the

police station, hundreds of

children walked to the police

station and demonstrated outside

it, singing national songs and

Mr. Mabuya was released the

It is understood that the police

also visited the newly opened

Jabavu Cultural Club, and that

one of the organisers of the Be-

noni clubs was asked to see the

giving the 'Afrika' salute.

make statements.

following day.

superintendent.

time of Mr. Molewa's arrest, a

JOHANNESBURG.

NEW YORK.

and 24th streets in Pageview (the decisions of the Group Areas area in Vrededorp nearest to May- Board

the powers of a separate local authority in order to carry out the Western Areas Removal scheme, modation in Mofolo.

The powers of a separate local to Meadowlands and single Africant to Mead This removal will continue until Africans as the eradication of The future of the rest of Vrede- the removal of Indians and Col- A.N.C.; or the 'New Age' office, 5 is in the air, bound up with the prepared to let them remain there. sioner Street, Johannesburg.

fair) and moved African families The Nationalists want the reanother "black spot." The United Anybody knowing anything about

### NOR the last six months you have had the pleasure of reading eight pages of 'New Age' each week-eightpages crammed with interesting news, pictures and special feature articles. We were able to pay for those eight pages, and all that goes with them, because of the generosity and

Too many of our readers, however, have taken the eight-pager for granted. Seeing 'New Age' appear regularly has made them smug and complacent. Too many democrats have lost sight of the fact that keeping a paper like 'New Age' on the streets demands unremitting struggle, week in and week out.

political understanding of a loyal group of readers and

The slightest relaxation of our effort spells danger danger not only to our eight page issue but to the very existence of 'New Age' itself. Because going back to four pages is only an acknowledgement on our part that the situation has become desperate. It means the beginning of a retreat which may easily end in complete disaster.

There are some readers who always wonder why we are continually asking for large sums of money. There is no need to wonder. THE PLAIN FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT UNLESS WE RECEIVE CLOSE ON £1,000 PER MONTH IN DONATIONS, 'NEW AGE' IS FINISHED.

BACK!

We cannot put it clearer than that. It is now up to you. All of you, both those who have given in the past and those who have not yet given at all. At the end of the month we shall have to decide whether to continue with eight pages or go down to four pages and perhaps eventual

GIVE YOUR DECISION NOW! GIVE IT IN HARD CASH!

Remember our addresses:—

NOT GO

Cape Town: Room 20, Chames Buildings, Barrack Street. Johannesburg: No. 5 Progress Buildings, 154 Commissioner

Durban: 6 Pembroke Chambers, 472 West Street. Port Elizabeth: 9 Court Chambers, 129 Adderley Street.

# Missing

JOHANNESBURG.

Kantsi Nariah Monare, daughter to Meadowlands and single Afri- moval of all the Non-Europeans of Elias Monare, banished Benoni

Party group in the Johannesburg her whereabouts is asked to contact Council was not adamant about her family; Mr. O. Tambo of the dorp's Non-European population oureds from Vrededorp, and was Progress Buildings, 154 Commis-

# Monare's Daughter EVATON BOYCOTTERS ALLEGE POLICE ASSAULTS

### "I Lost Consciouness," says 17-year old boy

JOHANNESBURG.—The Evaton bus boycott is continuing solidly, a magnificent demonstration of the people's determination to have the fares reduced, and police arrests and intimidation in the past fortnight are in no way succeeding in breaking the boycott.

A number of the pickets appointed by the boycotters have been arrested by the police, and held on various charges, some for tresspass, others for incitement, still others for robbery.

held in custody for a week, not- charges of assault. withstanding efforts by their de-fence lawyers to have bail fixed for 17 years old. He said he lost conthem. The police give as a reason sciousness during the assault on for their continued detention that him. they have not completed their investigations and the Africans would interfere with witnesses if released But the only evidence produced that they would do this, according to the police, is that both accused and crown witnesses live in Evaton.

Five Africans in the cells at Evaton have been brutally assaulted by the police, they allege. When seen at the police station, two days the scheme on their 350 acres of after the beating they allege two African detectives gave them, their injuries were very visible. One man's face was still covered with congealed blood, others had injuries There is widespread belief, sup- to their ears and eye, another (who Furthermore, not only are pro- ported by the Committee, that the alleged he had been beaten with a The American novelist, James T. perty owners being offered com- Council, once it has succeeded in length of piping and a plank) was Farrell is represented once again,

More Famous Writers

on the Black List

JOHANNESBURG.

Works by internationally-famed writers are included in the list of 145 items published in the Government Gazette last week whose importation into South Africa is banned by Dr. Donges on the grounds that they are "indecent, objectionable or obscene.'

Anger." The novel "The Girls of Sanfrediano," by the Italian novelist, Vasco Pratolini, whose antifascist "Street of Poor Lovers" was a post-war best seller, is also

"Majak" by the Russian poet, Mayakovsky and "The Song" by Pablo Neruda, the Chilean poet, are also on the black list, together with the anti-colour-bar Soviet child-The Department of Native Affairs | ren's book, "Mister Twister," by Samuel Marshak.

> A collection of photographs of historic buildings in Prague is also considered by Dr. Donges to be ob-

It is understandable that the censors should see red whenever they come across the name of Stalina folder of seven photographs of the Soviet leader is also banned.

But once again the prejudices of the censors have led them into error —they have banned the book " Killed Stalin," by Sterling Noel,

on the list are sex and crime books. | cently.

Site and Service: Six Africans arrested have been pain across his back. All laid No Money For Houses

JOHANNESURG.

ONE feature of the site and service schemes is NOT being made plain to the public: that is that the Government has no intention of finding money for permanent housing for more than, at most, one in four of the

FOR SOMETHING LIKE 750 SERVICED SITES IN EVERY GROUP OF 1,000 THERE WILL BE NO HOUS-ING FUND ALLOCATIONS

WHATSOEVER. Minister Verwoerd told the Johannesburg City Council early on in the negotiations over site and service that it was never his intention to provide money for permanent housing on all the sites. The Johannesburg City Council tried to get a promise of housing funds for one in every four sites, but the Minister would not, at any stage, be pinned down to this undertaking. Provided the City Council got on with the job of site-andservice, said the Minister, it would get money for housing in

"reasonable" proportions. Only recently the City Council has received another strong letter from the Minister repeating and emphasising this once

BLACKMAIL

Furthermore, Johannesburg's City Council needs another £27,000 to finish building in its newest African housing scheme,

Verwoerd has told the Council that only if 8,000 site and service plots are completed by the end of this year will the Council get the £27,000 to finish

THE APPEAL for the banning which is as anti-Soviet a book as of atomic weapons has been signed by more than one third of Japan's

## OR BE EXPROPRIATED!"

## 16,000 Indians Threatened

THE security of the 16,000 Indians living at Merebank-Wentworth was shattered last week when 38 dwellers received the dreaded letters informing them that they must sell their properties to the City Council or be expropriated.

The delivery of such notices occurs regularly and clearly reveals the City Council's tactics of striking at one group of Indians at a time, presumably to avoid mass opposition.

The City Council is expropriating | dwellings into decent buildings. ted the club leaders of both Council's history has led to a great the authorities. deal of suspicion as to its real inandra Township is still in custody, charged under both the

In 1943 the City Council approved plans for the building of the Indian housing scheme. Subsequently the City Council acquired, through Indian expropriation, 350 acres of land at Merebank.

YET NOT ONE HOUSE HAS BEEN BUILT DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE SCHEME CAME INTO OPERATION IN 1943. AND SOME SECTIONS, PART OF THE ORIGINAL SCHEME, WERE SOLD TO THE OIL REFINERY AND OTHER MANUFACTURERS.

additional expropriation rights in tion of Indian-owned properties.

Indians in the area under the pre- Brick houses that have been erected text of requiring the land for an without permits, out of desperation, Indian housing scheme, but the have actually been demolished by

be almost impossible for them to ment. buy land elsewhere under the Group Areas Act.

### REPRESENTS PEOPLE

sidents in the Merebank-Wentworth This will give the City Council Council, without further expropria- ated.

or to rebuild to turn condemned attempting to do.

If the Council's promises with regard to Indian housing schemes are genuine, then let them build land at Merebank-Wentworth, the secretary of the Committee told 'New Age'.

pensation far below the market expropriating the Indians and has limping badly and complaining of this time by his book "My Days of value, in some cases £400 as control of the land there, will deagainst £700 offered by private clare Merebank-Wentworth an inpurchasers, but they also have dustrial area especially since the legitimate fear that their al- certain town planners have recomternative accommodation will be mended this part of Durban as AFRICAN GIRLS FOR in a housing scheme, for it will most suitable for industrial develop-

### FEARS

The fears of the Indians living The Co-Ordinating Committee on quately expressed to 'New Age' by at Merebank-Wentworth were ade-Housing, which represents almost one of the residents threatened all the Indian organisations and re- with expropriation: "For eighteen years I have lived on my property girls at Port Elizabeth next year. area, has made urgent representa- which was bought by my late At the same time the City County tions to the City Council, the Adfather. We have cultivated our cil froze building of any nature in ministrator and Minister of Health, land which now yields an abunthe area by Indians which has redemanding that the housing scheme dance of fruit. Now I am offered mass scale of mentally-poisoned sulted in Merebank-Wentworth be built on the 350 acres of land £400 to get out, to go and live in rapidly developing into a slum, now in possession of the City a housing scheme, or be expropri-

terms of the Slum Clearance Act as | The Committee has pointed out | "We must not only lose out land well as frustrate attempts by the that the principle of housing and homes but also our indepen- "The new teachers will receive Indian residents to develop the area. schemes is for the purpose of pro- dence and live in glorified loca- inferior training and 'kitchen-girl' Building permits are refused to a viding homeless people with actions where our lives will be gov- wages, and the replacement of male large number of property owners commodation, and those living in erned daily by Corporation officials teachers by female teachers will who wish to extend their buildings slums, not to deprive people of and dozens of regulations. A way enable the N.A.D. to employ four any ever produced in the West. in order to eliminate overcrowding, their land as the City Council is must be found to save our land women at the salary of one male Most of the remaining 145 items population, it was announced reand our freedom."

SLAVE EDUCATION

PORT ELIZABETH.

is planning to open a "Bantu" teacher training course for African

"The N.A.D. is now creating the machinery for the production on a women teachers to execute Verwoerd's slave education plan," a teacher told the 'New Age' corre-

# JUDGES' QUERIES IN BECKY LAN APPEAL

### WHAT IS A "GATHERING"?

"T HAVE READ THE JUDGMENT IN KAHN'S CASE MANY TIMES. WITH ALL RESPECT I CANNOT UNDER-STAND IT-BUT I HAVE TO APPLY IT."

This comment was made by Justice Beyers in the Cape Supreme Court last week, during an appeal by Becky Lan, Food and Canning Workers' Union Secretary, against a conviction in the Vredenburg Magistrate's Court under the Suppression of Communism Act. The magistrate sentenced her to 3 months' imprisonment, 2 of which were suspended.

Justice Beyers was referring to the judgment by South Africa's Chief Justice, with whom the other Appeal judges agreed, that a banned person does not commit a crime if he attends a meeting, unless the prosecutor proves that the people at the meeting assembled there in order to achieve some common object by concerted action.

Appearing for Miss Lan, Mr. G. Gordon, Q.C. argued that in the light of the judgment in Kahn's case, the charge against her disclosed no offence. It stated that the "gathering" she attended had "the purpose of discussing conditions appertaining to persons employed in the Fishing Industry."

"It is not illegal for a banned person to attend a meeting whose. sole purpose is to DISCUSS, as long as the discussion is not aimed at achieving some future object," said Mr. Gordon.

#### JUDGE'S QUESTION

Justice Beyers: A man can advertise a meeting as a Communist in the City Hall and address that meeting, and if they do no more than discuss, that isn't a gather-ing in terms of Kahn's case?

Mr. Gordon: Yes. Justice Hall: Yes, that is so in terms of Kahn's case.

Justice Beyers: I have read the judgment in Kahn's case many times. With all respect I cannot understand it, but I have to apply it. Well, we have to follow it— but forgive me if I am not prepared to go one step further than this judgment bids me to.

The case against Miss Lan fell into two parts. First, when she was sitting at a table fifteen to thirty minutes before a meeting started, and second, when she was sitting in a motor car a little distance from the meeting after it commenced.

The magistrate had been wrong when he stated that Miss Lan should have disassociated herself from the meetings, said Mr. Gordon. She was fully entitled as a Union Secretary to organise and associate herself with gatheringsshe was merely banned from attending them.

### NO GATHERING

At the stage when she was sitting at the table before the meeting there was no gathering at all. People were merely standing about waiting for it to begin.

Justice Beyers: They were cemented together by a purpose of going to the meeting and discus-

Mr. Gordon: But that isn't a gathering at all.

Justice Beyers: Just as a gathering of 95,000 people is cemented by a purpose of watching a rugby match?

Mr. Gordon: Precisely. Here is the case of a girl who has to carry on her trade union functions . .

Justice Beyers: A case of a person who sails as close to the wind as possible, and if she capsizes the yacht it's too bad.

Mr. Gordon: While she was at the table, there was no gathering was preparation for the holding of a meeting.

But even if there was a gathering, she was in no way participatthat she had merely placed some papers on the table and did not talk to anyone. There was no participation.

Justice Beyers: What has participation to do with it? Take an example. There is a meeting on the Parade and the crown proves I am among the people. Isn't that enough?

Mr. Gordon: No. For example, the gathering may be around a phone booth and I may want to use the phone, and, quite uninterested in the gathering, I might push my way through to phone. I wouldn't be at the gathering.

Justice Beyers: Or you could be

a parachutist falling out of the blue. But that isn't so in this case.

Mr. Gordon: But the principle is clear. There must be a mental link before she can be said to be attending.

Justice Beyers: You are asking us to decide on her mental state?

### "STIRRING WORKERS UP"

Mr. Gordon: There must be intention to attend a gathering.

Justice Hall: If she didn't want to be at a gathering why didn't she stay at home and make tea. Justice Beyers: . . . Instead of

stirring up the Coloureds and Natives in Stompneus Bay to go to meetings when they would be far happier staying at home.

Mr. Schoeman, for the Crown, argued that the defect in the charge was small and didn't go to the root of the matter.

"After the accused's trial the Appellate Division gave a definition and the defence now comes along in the light of that decision.

Justice Hall: Surely you recognise that the defence is entitled to do that.

Mr. Schoeman: All the prosecution needed to add was that the purpose was to enrol members.

Justice Hall: Are you applying for an amendment?

Mr. Schoeman: The court could permit me to amend by adding 'to form a union."

Justice Beyers: You'd better consider your amendment more carefully and raise it later.

Arguing on whether Miss Lan attended, Mr. Schoeman maintained that mere physical presence was sufficient.

Justice Beyers: It isn't so easy. I go past a parade meeting to get my car parked there. Am I attend-

Mr. Schoeman: No. The mental element is lacking.

Justice Beyers: And what's the difference in the present case? Mr. Schoeman: The accused

was associated with the meeting. Justice Beyers: What if a man falls in a parachute and lands in a gathering?

Mr. Schoeman: He would be present, but not attending.

Justice Beyers: But you just said physical presence was enough. Mr. Schoeman: There must be a mental element. I am inclined to agree with the defence. But this

lady had the mental element. She was near enough to influence the meeting. That's the misdeed the Act is aimed at.

Justice Beyers: Say a woman is sitting in the house next door to the meeting and she can hear everything, is she attending? Mr. Schoeman: Yes.

Justice Beyers: So if people come and hold a meeting outside her house must she run away?

Mr. Schoeman: Not if she's quite far away.

Justice Beyers: This hypothetical woman is near.

Mr. Schoeman: If Miss Lan was in the house and the police charged her, the presumption would be against her.

Justice Beyers: It wasn't Miss Lan. It was another woman.

Mr. Schoeman: Then she is not

Justice Beyers: Where's the difference?

Mr. Schoeman: If she has gone inviting people . .

Justice Beyers: Yes. She organised it. The question is did she

Mr. Schoeman: As long as she had an interest.

Justice Beyers: Say she was interested-but she was 80 miles

Mr. Schoeman: It bristles with difficulties.

After further argument, Judg-

ment was reserved.

Mr. G. Gordon (with him Mr. L. Forman) appeared for Becky Lan, instructed by Sam Kahn & Co. Mr. S. Schoeman appeared for the Crown.

## "I WOULD HAVE BEEN INCLINED TO SUSPEND THE SENTENCE"

### Says Appeal Judge in other Alwyn Case

"I MUST admit that if I had been on the bench in the court where this case was first heard, I would have been inclined to suspend the sentence," said Justice of Appeal van den Heever in the course of his judgment rejecting the appeal of John Alwyn against his eighteen-months' sentence on a charge under the Suppression of Communist Act. The judgment has just been published in the Law reports.

agreed with this judgment.

But in spite of the fact that the Appeal Court has expressed its disagreement with the sentence passed by the magistrate at Alwyn's trial, John Alwyn will have to remain in prison. For the Appeal Court cannot alter a magistrate's sentence

The other four Justices of Appeal 1 It will only order an alteration if the sentence is "so excessive as to cause a sense of shock."

> Alwyn was convicted of having advocated defiance of train and post office apartheid laws and the pass

He has now served three months of his 18 months' sentence in Roemerely because it disagrees with it. | land Street prison.

### **Second Conviction** Dismissed

The Cape Supreme Court last week set aside the conviction of John Alwyn and Assa Dawood on a charge of incitement to violence against Europeans.

The Magistrate in the Worcester Regional Court, Mr. Dekenah, had sentenced the two Worcester leaders to nine months imprisonment each, suspended in the case of Assa Dawood.

There had been no incitement, declared Justices Ogilvie Thompson and Beyers in their judgment.

## Dissatisfaction "Stirs Workers Up"

"THERE are many people here who do not work. They are hungry," a branch secretary of the Food and Canning Workers' Union wrote recently from Stompneus Bay to the union's head office in Cape Town.

Not only in Stompneus Bay, but all along the West Coast, in the fishing villages from Saldanha Bay to Port Nolloth, workers are suffering great hardship. The fish canning season this year has been one of the worst the workers can remember and some 900 Coloured workers (mainly women) and 700 African men have been hard hit,

Some workers were employed for only one day in the week, some only a few hours; others counted themdays' pay at the end of the week.

Looking through workers' pay envelopes at random with Miss Becky Lan and Mr. Oscar Mpetha, -all there was, at the very most, secretary of the Food and Canning and the African Food and Canning Workers' Unions respectively, New Age saw, for instance, that for two weeks running, one worker worked ing in it. It was common cause only 81 hours each week, drawing 9/7 in pay per week. The third week the worker was more fortunate, and had £2 1s. 8d. in his pay envelope. "That is what is stirring up the workers-nothing else," said Miss

### LABOUR DEPT, REPLY

The Food and Canning Workers'

For the past few months they Union has on a number of occahave seldom worked a full week. sions drawn the attention of the Department of Labour to the plight of the fish canning workers, and has demanded that they receive compenselves lucky if they received three sation from the Unemployment Insurance Fund for all the time that, through no fault of their own, they are unemployed. The Department's reply has been that the workers are not really unemployed, but are on short time and therefore not entitled to benefits.

> Said the union, in a letter to the Divisional Inspector of Labour, Cape Town:

"Your Unemployment Office is getting contributions from these workers regularly, and when it comes to paying out benefits, they are disqualified on the grounds that they are not 'unemployed.' How can your Department say that these workers are not unem-

ployed, when week after week. they are out of work and not receiving any wages whatsoever?

### STARVATION

"We therefore insist that these workers are entitled to unemployment benefits. The workers in the fish canning factories have been unemployed for the past five or six weeks and are suffering starvation. We feel that it is up to your Department to advise employers to discharge the workers for this period so that they can draw the benefits to which they are entitled.'

The union has not yet received any reply to this letter; but the position is even more hopeless for the African workers, since they can never qualify for unemployment insurance benefits.

The fish canning season generally lasts from December to August and the factories are due months, as the fishing villages strength.

offer no other source of employment to their inhabitants.

### LIFE IS HARD

Even in "good years" the workers' life is a hard and unenviable one. Hardly ever are they out of debt, either to the factory or to the grocer shop which, in many cases, is run by the factory management.

Many of the villages are very isolated and hard to reach. Not all of them are on the railway line and there are no public buses. If a worker in St. Helena Bay, say, takes ill and needs a doctor, he has no option but to take a taxi to Vredenburg. The taxi fare alone (return) is £2 10s. The visit to the doctor, 15s. Only in a few factories are there clinics.

### LOYALTY TO THEIR UNION

It is now just on 10 years that the Food and Canning Workers' Union began to organise the workers in these fishing villages, and the workers' zeal and enthusiasm for building up their union in the face of great hardship-including police intimidation and interference—is a bright chapter in their lives.

They know that however bad conditions are today, without their to close at the end of this month. union the position would have been The position of the workers and ten times worse. And they know their families will deteriorate too, that their only hope for the even further over the coming future lies in their united, organised

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