

AMERICA

DR. DU BOIS JOINS COMMUNISTS

NEW YORK

DR. William E. DuBois, 93-year-old noted scholar, father of the modern Negro freedom movement and lifetime crusader for independence of the African people, joined the Communist party, U.S.A., last month.

In a letter to the Communist party in New York, Dr. DuBois, who is in Ghana working on an encyclopaedic work on the African people, declared he had arrived at "a firm conclusion that capitalism cannot reform itself, that no universal selfishness can bring social good to all."

He indicated that his action in joining the Communist party at this time was a reply to



the repressive measures taken by the U.S. government against the party in its application of the McCarran Act.

BRANDO FOR PEACE

Film Stars Against H-Bomb

FIVE thousand persons, led by some of Hollywood's foremost writers and actors, demonstrated for a ban on nuclear testing, "security under world law," and complete disarmament recently, coincident with an appearance in Los Angeles by President Kennedy.

It was the second major peace demonstration in Los Angeles in less than three weeks. Nearly 3,000 women gathered at the State Building here on November 1 in a "Strike for Peace" that called for an end to the nuclear arms race.

The Hollywood demonstration was at the Hollywood Palladium on Sunset blvd., where President Kennedy spoke the same night before a Democratic party fund rally.

The demonstration had the backing of such famous names as Marlon Brando, Shirley McLaine

Rita Hayworth, John Cassavetes, Polly Bergen, Richard Conte, Jean Simmons, Sammy Davis Jr., Steve Allen, Paul Newman and Shelley Winters.

The peace rally was under the auspices of HELP, which takes its name from its slogan, "Help Establish Lasting Peace."

CROSS SECTION

The peace marchers represented a cross-section of the Los Angeles community, including workers as well as the well-to-do of the Hollywood area. Many were drawn to the demonstration by an advertisement carried in The Los Angeles Mirror, major collegiate and Negro newspapers, which drew a lesson from the terrible fire that devastated parts of Los Angeles recently.

"Let's work together to build the only meaningful shelter—peace," the ad proclaimed, and asserted: "Negotiation is NOT appeasement; Disarmament is NOT surrender; Peace is NOT subversive!"



Marlon Brando

EUROPE

W. Germany Looks After Its "Head"

POLICEMEN all over West Germany went round book-stalls recently cutting out two pages of the Munich magazine 'Quick.' The reason—the two pages showed a picture of a bunker in which, the magazine said, Chancellor Adenauer and about 100 top West German officials would shelter in a nuclear war.



Konrad Adenauer

The magazine said that it would be constructed from two tunnels in the vine-clad hills of the Ahr Valley ten miles south of Bonn.

The tunnels, blasted for a strategic railway in World War I, were used by Hitler in World War II for building the VI flying bombs which were used against Britain.

The 'Quick' report said: "If it comes to a catastrophe the Federal Republic can keep its 'head.' A Government headquarters for Dr. Adenauer and his closest colleagues is already being created now in a rock tunnel."

Fifty-five yards of rock above the bunker were to guarantee that the State would keep its "head" in any "chaos."

FRENCH FASCISTS WOOING ARMY

Terrorism Against Left

G.D.R. MAKES IMPORTANT PROPOSALS

The German Democratic Republic (East Germany) has written to the Government of West Germany proposing that the two states enter into negotiations on ways and means of securing Germany's peaceful re-unification.

In a letter delivered to Chancellor Adenauer on December 1, 1961, the East German government said that it proceeded from the idea that the national interests of the German people and the interests of peace in Europe necessitated the conclusion of a German peace treaty, military neutrality and two German states with a view of peaceful co-operation between the preparing for Germany's peaceful re-unification.

As it was not possible for the time being to reach agreement on all important matters, East Germany recommended discussions on five minimum proposals:—

- The two German states should pledge themselves to respect the sovereignty of each other's territory and to mark the frontier between the two German states so as to eliminate, if possible, any cause for border conflicts.
- The two German states should enter into negotiations about their views on a German peace treaty.
- The two German states should renounce atomic equipment of their armed forces and production of atomic weapons.
- The two German states should support the conclusion of a non-aggression treaty between the Warsaw Treaty states and the NATO states.
- The two German states should apply for admission to the United Nations.

INDICATIONS are that the OAS, the secret fascist organization in Algeria and France, are deliberately trying to provoke the Communists and the left into an outburst, with the hope of swinging the French Army even further to the right and into support of a fascist revolt.

A machine-gun attack by OAS terrorists on the Communist Party headquarters in Paris resulted in one volunteer guard being wounded. A plastic bomb damaged the CP offices in Lille, and in Normandy the OAS ter-

rorists murdered a former member of the Algerian Communist Party. All these incidents took place earlier this month when rumours of an impending fascist putsch by the OAS swept France.

DEMONSTRATIONS BANNED

The French government on the other hand tried to appear as sufficiently anti-communist as possible in the eyes of the army by banning demonstrations by the Communists and mobilising big police forces to prevent them.

At one stage 5,000 riot police moved into Paris to face demonstrations that proved non-violent. Police controls were also tightened along the Belgian frontier after reports that ex-General Salan, the right-wing terrorist leader, was in Belgium.

Steel-helmeted gendarmes armed with rifles lined up in drizzling rain in front of the improvised barriers.

Demonstrators—many wearing motor-cycle crash helmets as protection against police batons—collected in groups of several hundred outside the police cordons chanting: "OAS assassins" and "Fascism will not pass."

EHRENBURG DREW LUCKY TICKET

HUNDREDS were turned away when writer Ilya Ehrenburg read extracts from the as-yet unpublished fourth and fifth volumes of his memoirs to an audience of more than 1,000 at the Polytechnic Museum in Moscow recently.

The extracts he read dealt mainly with his experiences during the Spanish Civil War. They included a generous tribute to the late Ernest Hemingway who, said Ehrenburg, "helped me to understand life."

When asked how he had survived during the period of the Stalin personality cult, Ehrenburg recalled his words at the beginning of his memoirs when he said that there were times when destiny was like a lottery. He had "drawn a lucky ticket."

PASTERNAK

Asked how he felt when he heard of the death of Pasternak, he replied that he thought "a great Russian poet" had died.

When the audience broke into applause, he reproached them, saying: "Have you no restraint—are you applauding because he is dead, or because I say he was a great poet? But everyone knows that."

He described the manner in which Pasternak's death was treated by the Soviet Press—one paragraph in two papers—as characteristic of an epoch which was now coming to an end.

IRAQI OIL LAWS

IRAQI is going ahead with the preparation of laws to obtain from the Iraq Petroleum Company the demands the Iraq Government has been making in vain for three years, the Iraqi Oil Minister said in London recently.

The Minister, Mr. Mohammed Salman, told a Press conference: "We have no alternative but to safeguard the rights of the people and live up to their expectations."

The Iraqi Government needed a 20 per cent Iraqi holding in I.P.C. shares, a higher proportion of the profits than the present 50 per cent, and more Iraqis to be placed more quickly in the oil company's posts.

The first of the new laws has already been presented, dealing with the return to Iraq of unexploited concession areas.

AFRICA

MALI 5-YEAR PLAN

President Mobibo Keita of Mali stated in a new year message: "1961 was a year when imperialism suffered defeats in Africa. In 1962 its defeat must be consummated."

He said: "The enemies of Mali, the imperialists and their agents, will have the evidence of our will for independence by the execution of our five-year plan. We must prove in actual fact that freedom is priceless and buying over or other disguised pressures cannot affect us."

President Keita declared: "All the fighting African patriots tomorrow will have our constant support as they have today."

"Mali will never be a pawn of the cold war or an instrument for division in Africa," he said.

Speaking of domestic affairs, Keita said, "surely, in 1962 we will carry out the five-year plan."

The inauguration of Mali's first five year plan for national construction was announced by the Mali president on October 1 last year.

U.S. Bid For Lion's Share

AMERICAN Big Business recently tried openly for the lion's share in any settlement of the Katanga question. As Mr. Tshombe addressed his Assembly in Elizabethville the former U.S. Ambassador in Brussels and Moscow, Admiral Kirk, was having top-level talks in Brussels with Mr. Tshombe's masters, the Union Miniere multi-million mining monopoly.

Admiral Kirk is now president of the Belgo-American Development Corporation founded in New York last June through the initiative of some private concerns affiliated with the Societe Generale de Belgique, the parent firm of Union Miniere.

INFORMATION

Belgo-American's aim, according to the admiral, was to provide information on Belgian private enterprise, "notably companies operating in the Congo."

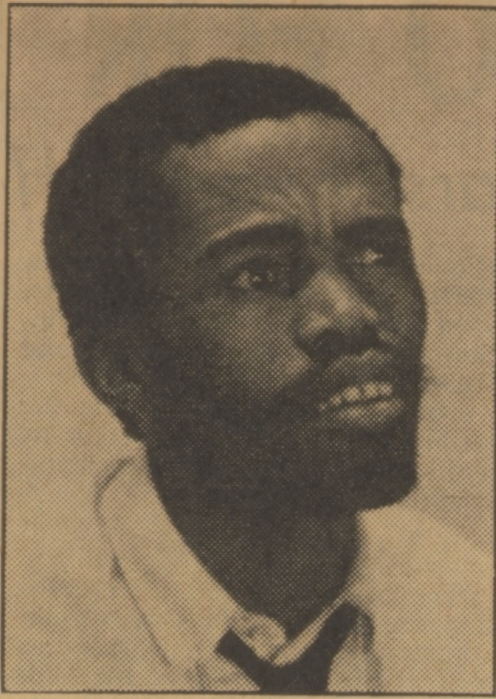
This is the Americans' way of announcing their intention of moving into the Congo in a big way and of ousting the big British interest—exercised through Tanganyika Concessions—in the Union Miniere.

Tvl. Wins Drum Trophy

KIMBERLEY.

TRANSVAAL'S winning of the Drum Trophy in the inter-provincial golf foursome competition of the South African Non-European Golf Association was decided during the first round of the "open" championships on the Kimberley Golf Club's course.

Transvaal owe thanks to the 52 year-old veteran Jacob Gumbi and members of his "B" team who made sure that the trophy would be labelled "RETURN TO TRANSVAAL". They set about their task with such vim and assurance, that they established a seven stroke lead over their nearest rivals—Western Province. If Transvaal produced two heroes, they were Fiver Mazibuko and Jacob Gumbi who helped their side on to their great win.



Zakes Mokae

Acclaimed Best-ever S.A. Play

'The Blood Knot'

ATHOL Fugard's new play "The Blood Knot" started a limited season of 2½ weeks on January 16 at the Natal University workshop, City Buildings, Warwick Avenue, Durban, where audiences are racially integrated.

Critics are unanimous in proclaiming "The Blood Knot" not only the best South African play ever written, but world-class theatre. Leon Gluckman saw it, and assured Athol Fugard that he would personally be responsible for seeing that it would be presented on the West End, London, stage.

Roy Boulting, the famous film director, who flew out from London to see it just before Xmas, endorsed Mr. Gluckman's opinion that a play as tremendous as this should not be confined to South Africa alone. Thus Durban audiences will be seeing this production prior to a definite London opening.

Mr. Fugard has set the action of the play in the Coloured location of Korsten in Port Elizabeth. In writing it he has defied all the usual "Musts" of glamour, variety of faces or sets, sex or sensation, thought necessary in a play.

The scene is a location shack which remains the same in its pathetic dreariness from beginning to end. There are only two characters, two Coloured brothers. The "white" brother is brilliantly played by Fugard himself, and the "black brother" is played by Zakes Mokae, an African who has had no theatrical training and yet gives a performance as varied, sincere and polished as many an experienced actor has yet to attain.

The two men hold the attention of the audience riveted to the stage for three hours—(another rule "broken" by Mr. Fugard—that a play should run for two



Athol Fugard

hours or less.) In short, Athol Fugard has miraculously revitalised South African theatre by giving it a shot in the arm that leaves it thrilled, stunned and deeply moved.

"The Blood Knot," the book of which will soon be published in London (to coincide with the London opening), is to tour Durban, Port Elizabeth, East London and Rhodesia while the arrangements are being completed for it to travel overseas.

This is a play that will give South African indigenous theatre international status.

Tennis Break-Through Possible

SCOREBOARD • By RECORDER

The chances of a lawn tennis break-through are very good. White South Africa's Lawn Tennis Association lost its membership of the International Lawn Tennis Federation when our country left the Commonwealth. Now the ILTF has written that it is prepared to entertain an application from our non-racial South African Lawn Tennis Union.

IF WE FAIL TO BREAK THROUGH IT WILL BE OUR OWN FAULT.

Last week one of the racial sub-units of the SALTU—the Indian section—held its annual general meeting. It had the chance to shake off its racial tags and become part of the non-racial body. BUT IT REJECTED THE CHANCE.

This becomes even more absurd when you realise that this South African Indian Union consists of only two provinces and only a small group of tennisites. In their national men's singles there were a mere 26 entries, and not all these were members of the Union!

Durbanites who are the new officials of this racial 'national' body must do something NOW. Before our application for recognition by the world body is considered in London in April, they must see to it that their racial provincial units in Natal and Transvaal get on with the job of linking up with other provincial units on the basis of non-racialism.

At the AGM a directive was issued to the provincial units to work together with other bodies—so the remedy is in the hands of the Indian players in Natal and Transvaal.

SCRAP RACIALISM NOW—and no more clinging to meaningless national positions please!

Sports Shorts

● An important School Sports Meeting will be held in Johannesburg over Easter. Senior schools please note and start preparing now. The Secretary is Mr. R. Feldman, 3 Currey Street, Doornfontein, Johannesburg.

● The Natal Sportswriters' Association has got off to a good start. It is preparing to expand on a national scale. Sportswriters all over can contact R. S. Govender, Box 1440, Durban.

Congratulations

● To the S.A. Athletic Board of Control for the excellent na-

tional championships staged at King's Park, Durban.

● To the S.A. Cricket Board of Control for the historic first-

ever non-racial provincial tournament in Johannesburg.

Both these are major advances in our sports world.

"Mr. Paljas"

WHY NO WHITE ACTORS?

Union Artists and Harry Bloom have produced a jolly satire in "Mr. Paljas," now playing at the Labia Theatre. The scenes are colourful, the songs lively and there is humour and gaiety to assure the audience of an entertaining evening.

Except for its reference to the South African situation "Mr. Paljas" could be the story of any fishing community anywhere in its fight with officialdom and the cynical attitude of the company bosses. But to make it a story of a Coloured fishing community one gets the impression that Mr. Bloom had to do some straining.

Certainly it is difficult to acquire the atmosphere of the typical Coloured community through the English medium, but it seems as if the author of "Mr. Paljas" has simply studied his dialogue with words and phrases from the community's vocabulary in the hope of gaining local atmosphere. One can almost hear the inverted commas dropping around the somewhat exaggerated slang.

As far as the music is concerned, there is an opening item with the flavour of the old Cape Malay lullabies, and a Ghoema dance to a traditional Coloured tune. Otherwise the rest of the "Mr. Paljas" score has a rock-'n'-rollish, croonish beat that has more to do with American "jazz opera" than typical South Africa music.

The absence of white faces in the "multi-racial" cast of Coloured and African actors and singers also gives "Mr. Paljas" a sort of Carmen-Jones, Porgy-and-Bess atmosphere, irritatingly reminding one of Hollywood's patronisingly "all-negro casts." Surely the roles of the two detectives and the boss of the canning factory could have been played by whites?

Danny Josephs in the title role is charming. The leading lady Ayesha (Tina) is eclipsed by Joan Hendricks (Martha) and little Edries Samuels (Kriekie) captures the heart of the audience.

The mainstay of "Mr. Paljas" is certainly the three tramps, Richard Manuel, Cosmo Peterse and Gerald Arendse, and it is after their entry that the show really gets going. Michael Gratian, Josh Makhene,

Esther Parkins and in fact every one of the rest of the cast put their best into "Mr. Paljas" to make it rollicking entertainment and clever propaganda for progress.

The orchestra was a little too loud last Saturday night, so that in some instances it was difficult to hear the singers.

One wonders whether the Cabinet could not be invited to see "Mr. Paljas" to laugh at their ridiculous race classification and Group Areas. But they would probably not accept. A pity.

A.L.G.

EAST LONDON RENTS INCREASED

EAST LONDON.

Proposals to increase certain rents in Duncan Village and to place the control of general health in the locations under the East London Medical Officer of Health and his department rather than a Location Superintendent have been approved by the City Council.

The proposals were first approved by the Joint Location Advisory Boards. A site rental of 50 cents a month will be levied on all Location Sub-Economic Houses including the Municipal Square houses and Rondavels. The increase in the rental of leased hut sites where communal water and sanitary services are provided will be from R1.50 to R2 per month.

The rentals to be charged in the new emergency section of the Duncan Village will be R3.20 for a 1-room house and R4.00 per month for a 2-room house.

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By Ben Turok

The Emergency in Pondoland is still on and hundreds of Africans are still in jail. This is the story of the resistance of Pondoland to the Government's Bantustan bluff.
Price 5 cents

ALGERIA: The Algerian War for Freedom

Published by Afrika Publications

For the last 7 years Algeria, in North Africa, has been fighting a war to defeat French colonialism and for the right of the people of Algeria to govern themselves. This is their story.
Price 10 cents

THE FARM LABOUR SCANDAL

By Ruth First

"He has been sold to a farmer" Africans say when a man arrested under the pass laws is sent to a farm to serve his hard labour sentence. This booklet tells the evils of the farm labour systems in South Africa.
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This is a history of the early South African freedom movement and includes chapters like: (1) The First Non-European Organisations; (2) Formation of the African National Congress; (3) Enter the Socialists; (4) ANC and Socialists Learn from one Another.
Price 15 cents

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By Lionel Forman

Chapters include: (1) Tribal Democracy; (2) In the Days of Van Riebeeck; (3) A Robber Economy; (4) The Struggle within a Common Society.
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