

"THE REBELS WILL BE OVERCOME"

Indonesian President Confident In Face Of Imperialist-Inspired Attack

DJAKARTA.

The sharp conflict between the progressive and the reactionary parties in Indonesia, which has been evident ever since the country won its freedom from Dutch colonial rule, flared up again last week.

A rebel group of right-wing military leaders in Central Sumatra, with secret U.S. support, called upon Indonesian Prime Minister Djuanda to resign.

ANTI-COMMUNIST

And they demanded that President Sukarno replace him with anti-Communist leader of the Masjumi Party, Hatta.

As an indication that this "surprise" move was not altogether unexpected in western government circles, a large group of western newspapermen were present at the meeting at which the rebel leaders announced their decision.

Appointed head of the insurgent "government" was former governor of the Bank of Indonesia, Sjaffrudin.

Immediate encouragement for the rebels came from U.S. Secretary of State Dulles who told a press conference that the present Indonesian government "may not quite conform with the constitution, and apparently does not entirely satisfy large segments of the population."

Why has the setting-up of the rebel government not led to any big military clash between government and rebel forces?

UNIQUE GEOGRAPHY

The reason is to be found in the unique geography of Indonesia. It is a chain of 3,000 islands spread over an immense area. (See map.)

And the armies on both Java and Sumatra are relatively small. Nor is there any way that they can get to grips, because neither side has the ships necessary for an invasion. Chief strength of the government lies in the air force, but this is extremely small, and has so far been used only for leaflet raids.

Of Indonesia's population of 88 million, 56 million live in Java, whose capital, Djakarta, is the seat of the government.

Sumatra has a population of 27 million but it is a far wealthier territory than the main island.

Its oil exports alone are worth \$36 million a year to the Indonesian government, and its food production is essential for Java's survival. Sumatra provides 72% of Indonesia's total export revenue, compared with Java's 17%.

SUMATRA GRIEVANCES

Under Dutch rule the people of Sumatra were viciously exploited and their standard of living still lags behind that of the people of Java. For this reason there is a certain amount of resentment at the fact that Sumatra's wealth continues to bolster up the whole economy. Let Sumatra cut herself off," say the separatists, "and keep every-

thing for those who live on the island."

This is obviously a slogan which has considerable popular appeal, and one that the imperialist powers, which want to

see the country disunited and weakened, are taking great pains to foster.

A sign of imperialist collusion with the rebels was the acceptance by the U.S.-owned oil companies



of a rebel "instruction" that they must cease deliveries to the government and stop paying oil taxes.

ADVENTURERS

Progressive organisations in Indonesia have denounced the rebels as a "handful of political and military adventurers." Prime Minister Djuanda declared that his government "definitely would

not accept the demands of the rebels for the resignation of the Cabinet."

"There is no cause for alarm or anxiety. The rebels will be overcome in the same manner in which we overcame two similar attempts in the last twelve years."

Both attempts were put down by force.

BIG CHANGE IN SOVIET FARM POLICY

THIRTY-YEAR-OLD PARTY LINE REVERSED

MOSCOW.

THE Soviet Union is now on the eve of a revolution in agricultural production which will equal in importance—if not surpass—the revolution in industrial management which took place last year.

Socialists have always recognised that for a number of reasons it is far easier to socialise industry—the factories, mines, railways—then it is to socialise agricultural or farm production.

The industrial workers, who, under capitalism, have never had ownership of the factories in which they work, readily understand that it is better for the state to own the factories and machines than for the individual factory-owners to do so for their own profit.

And the workers favour the socialist method of state planning of production so that the whole country benefits, rather than leaving the decision to the factory-owners who are guided only by their own personal advantage.

PEASANT OUTLOOK

In agriculture, however, it is quite different. The peasants and small farmers have always been accustomed to owning their own little strips of land, and the passion with which peasants will fight any threat from any source to take away their land is something well known in every country.

For this reason and the reasons inherent in agricultural production itself in the socialist countries the agricultural sector has always lagged behind the industrial sector in the development of socialism. In industry the means of production are state-owned, that is, owned by the people as a whole.

But in agriculture the development has to go through the half-way house of collective farming.

The Soviet farmers had to be convinced that it was in their own interest that instead of ploughing their pitifully uneconomic little plots they should come together with their neighbours, and combine into big farms where their output could go up through the use of machines and tractors.

In these collective farms the

land continues to belong to the members of the collective, and not to the state. But even so, the party leaders had to face enormous opposition from the conservative peasants before they could be won over.

NEW DANGER

With the collective farmers owning huge, and potentially wealthy farms, an obvious danger threatened—that the collectives would, irrespective of the needs of the people as a whole, limit their crops to those which they thought would give the biggest and quickest profits. And as the country on the whole was dependent on farmers for food, the consequences could be very dangerous indeed.

The Soviet government has always laid very great emphasis on the production of tractors for the farms. From the first it realised that the way to increase the output of food was by the use of the utmost mechanisation.

Faced with the need for state supervision of the collective farms it saw that the tractors could serve an additional purpose—as the organisers of socialism on the farms.

TRACTOR NETWORK

Instead of supplying the tractors direct to the collectives which, in any case did not have the wealth to buy them or the technical know-how to maintain them, the government set up, in 1928 the first of what was later to become a huge network of Machine and Tractor Stations—known as MTS.

They brought the latest agricultural techniques to the countryside, increasing the production on the farms immensely—and thus increasing the incomes of the collective farmers, who therefore clamoured for the tractors.

But the MTS was owned by the state and the people in charge of each station were advanced socialists with a full understanding of the needs of the country as a whole.

They would advise the farmers that they thought it would be a good thing if this crop or that crop were planted. They might point out that a field was being over-sown and that it should be allowed to lie fallow for a year. The number of tractors was still

few, and the MTS directors would not allow them to be used uneconomically.

So the farmers found that if they wanted tractors they had to serve "two masters"—on the one hand the self-interest of the co-operative itself, on the other the national interest represented by MTS.

NO LONGER NECESSARY

For thirty years MTS did its work well, serving a purpose vital to the welfare of the Soviet people. Now the very progress which they have been instrumental in making possible has eliminated the need for the "dictatorship" of MTS. With the huge increase in the number of tractors available, the growth of farm production, and the new social consciousness of the collective farmers MTS has ceased to serve any function.

In fact they have become a hindrance. Says Mr. Kruschov of the situation today: "Where there are two masters there cannot be good order."

After discussion throughout the country the decision has been taken: MTS will disappear very gradually. Those collective farms which wish to buy their own tractors will take them over from the 9,000 tractor stations with one million tractors. Those who cannot yet afford to take them over will continue to hire them.

Reversal of Previous Attitude

THE decision reveals a marked change in the attitude of the party since it last discussed this question, six years ago.

Then it adopted the view expressed by Stalin in his Economic Problems of Socialism that the maintenance of MTS was the only way of ensuring a high rate of expansion of collective farm production.

"It is," he wrote, "the increase of up-to-date technical equipment, the numerous up-to-date machines which are serving all branches of production. It is not a question of machinery generally; the question is that machinery cannot remain at a standstill, it must be per-

fectured all the time, old machinery being scrapped and replaced by new, and the new by newer still.

"Without this, the onward march of our socialist agriculture would be impossible; big harvests and an abundance of agricultural produce would be out of the question."

BIG EXPENDITURE

But what, he asked, is involved in the continual scrapping and improvement in farm machinery? "It involves an expenditure of billions of rubles which can be recouped only after the lapse of six or eight years.



"Are our collective farms capable of bearing such expense, even though their income may run into millions? No, they are not. Such expenditures can be borne only by the state, for it and it alone, is in the position to bear the loss involved."

The result, said Stalin, would be the slowing down of the mechanisation of agriculture.

Another result would be that "the collective farms would become the owners of the basic instruments of production; that is, their status would be an exceptional one, such as is not shared by any other enterprise in our country, for even the nationalised enterprises do not own their instruments of production."

Indonesia To Buy Arms

LONDON.

Having approached the United States and other Western powers for arms, Indonesia would investigate the possibility of buying arms in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, said the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Dr. Subandria.



Mr. Joseph Tenjwayo with his wife and daughter, Bettina. His three other children were at school.

"Send Your Families Away"

Durban Homes Broken Up

DURBAN.

"SEND your families away and stay in the compound provided by the Company for bachelors!" This was the reply twelve workers at the African Explosives factory got from the management when they appealed to him to be taken back after they had been dismissed.

Their dismissal followed their refusal to accept a decision of the local Native Commissioner that they must vacate their homes at Malagazi, an African township in Umbogintwini. For some time the Native Commissioner had been trying to get these workers to break down their shacks at Malagazi, remove their families and remain in the area as migrant labourers.

These workers are the first to suffer. Others living in this area and employed by the same company are fearful of their positions.

In the meantime, railway workers living in this area have been told by their foremen not to worry as the Railway administration has decided not to dismiss any workers. Obviously this is a result of the shortage of African labour on the railways.

FOR 24 YEARS

Joseph Tenjwayo, one of the workers who has been dismissed, told *New Age* that even if he wanted to get alternative accommodation for his family he would not know where to find it. He has

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lived in this area since he started work at the African Explosives Factory in 1934. All his children were born in the house he erected when he first moved into the area. He has four children and three of these attend school in the area.

Weeping silently, Mrs. Tenjwayo, who was present during the interview with her husband, interrupted to say that if she had to move and leave her husband in the area she would not know how to continue bringing up her children.

She added that she and her husband had worked hard when they first arrived in the area and had built their home and endeavoured to give their children some education so that they could earn a better wage than her husband and lead a better life than she and her husband had to lead. But, now all her hopes and plans were being destroyed by the action of the Native Commissioner.

"FOREIGN NATIVE"

The story of James, another of the workers who was dismissed, is even more pathetic. He is a "foreign Native," according to his "dom-Pass" (as the African people derisively refer to their Reference Books). He was born in Nyasaland and has been living at Malagazi since 1943. He has six children all going to school. According to his temporary immigration permit he can only live in this area as long as he is employed at the African Explosive factory.

He has made numerous endeavours to get alternative accommodation for his family. All have failed. At Umlazi Glebelands, a Durban municipal housing scheme for Africans, he was told that accommodation was available but that he was not earning enough. He earns only £2 9s. 11d. per week. At another township his family was accepted for two days. Then they were sent back as James cannot live in this area. His pass specifies that he must live in the area where he works.

Over two hundred workers from this area who are still employed at the factory are meeting this weekend to discuss plans of how to fight any further dismissals and to consider what action should be taken by the workers for the reinstatement of those who have already been dismissed.

"WHAT ABOUT US?", RAILWAY WORKERS ASK SCHOEMAN

100,000 Non-Europeans Demand Higher Wages

JOHANNESBURG.

OVER 100,000 Non-European workers on the railways have entered the wage battle. What about us? they are asking the Minister of Transport.

Schoeman turned a deaf ear to the deputation from the railways' Artisan Staff Association recently. Now both White and Non-White workers are putting pressure on the government for higher pay.

The S.A. Railways and Harbours Administration is the largest state enterprise in South Africa, and the biggest single employer in the country, bar the mines. There are thousands of White railwaymen who barely get a living wage, let alone the Non-European workers of whom the vast majority are employed on a starvation wage level.

Without black labour the railways would cease to function, says a memorandum from the Non-European railway workers sent to the Minister, Sir De Villiers Graaff, the leaders of all the parliamentary parties, and Native Representatives in the House and Senate.

The demands of the workers are tabled in this memorandum.

They are:

1. Increased wages—a minimum of £1 a day;
2. The right to all types of employment, and the rate for the job;
3. Decent working conditions and pensions;
4. Freedom of trade union organisation and recognition of the S.A.R. & H. Non-European Workers' Union.

The wages and rates of pay of Non-European railwaymen are among the lowest and the worst in South Africa, the memo says.

Cradock Workers On Strike

From E. L. VARA

On Sunday, February 16, 1958, an open air meeting was held in Cradock where all workers came together to form a workers' union. The meeting was attended by more than 100 workers including railway workers, who were the chief speakers.

The workers supported the £1 a day campaign call by the SACTU. Volunteers are busy organising the workers and "£1 a Day" is the talk of the town.

On Thursday, February 20, 40 workers who are employed at the new Power Station decided to strike when three of them were manhandled and molested by a European employee. They all stopped work, took their jackets and demanded their wages from the boss, who called the Police to come and put an end to the strike. However, the police could not break the spirit of the workers, who shouted "Down with slavery" and marched to the Location Superintendent's office. The Superintendent went to investigate the matter with the help of the police. The workers are demanding that the European employee who caused the strike should be disciplined if they are to go back to work.

P.E. WOMENS' DEPUTATION AGAINST PASSES

PORT ELIZABETH.

IN reply to a letter from the Federation of S.A. Women asking the Matron of Livingstone Hospital to meet a women's delegation on the question of the issuing of Reference Books to African nurses, the Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. Ware, stated that the Matron had no control over the matter.

"By order of the Nursing Council," his letter states, "Whites and Coloureds must reflect both their race classification and identity number . . . but until further notice applicants who are Natives need not reflect their identity number if they are not yet in possession of the identity number."

But when the Medical Superintendent met a deputation of the Women's Federation on Friday he ordered the acting Matron, who was present at the interview, to jot down what the delegation said. The delegation then charged that he was responsible for the presence of the Special Branch at the gate.

The delegation reported that they met with a more uncouth reception than they have ever encountered even in the NAD offices.

In spite of the fact that a notice has been put up at the nurses' quarters advising them to go and take out Reference Books at the Labour Bureau as from the 20th, not one has gone.

While the delegation, consisting of Mrs. L. Diedericks, Mrs. Frances Baard, Mrs. Florence Matomela, Mrs. Johanna Mokhele and Mrs. Nellie Afrika, was interviewing the Superintendent, a number of women carrying placards stood at the hospital gates.

As the delegation came out of the building scores of nurses in uniform

stood about the premises while the women outside the gate sang the National Anthem.

Racing at Clairwood

High Treason selected three winners last week, two at six to one and one at five to one. Also the dupla which paid £8.16. Nine winners in three meetings—so our racing readers must be well in pocket. Don't forget to get your *New Age* every Friday.

Racing at Clairwood this week, selections:

- 1st Race: 1, Akaba; 2, Collop; 3, Belgrave.
2nd Race: 1, Del Mar; 2, Hussy; 3, Caspian; 4, La Guerra.
3rd Race: 1, Brown Gown; 2, Black Patch; 3, Synopsis.
4th Race: 1, Sea Waif (Nap); 2, Jet Stream; 3, Winger; 4, Doctor.
5th Race: 1, Narvarro; 2, Desert Plant; 3, Most Secret; 4, Mr. Green.
6th Race: 1, Golden Vandal; 2, CD Gulistan; 3, Shaving Cream.
7th Race: 1, Silver Flash; 2, Sea Wolf; 3, Eye Shade.
8th Race: 1, Lily of France (Nap); 2, Murray Bay; 3, Cap and Bells.
9th Race: 1, Fair Polly; 2, Kings Gambit; 3, Rejoicing.

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