

YEMEN — ANOTHER ARAB COUNTRY MOVES AGAINST IMPERIALISM

LONDON.

THE Government of the Yemen has announced its intention of taking up in the United Nations the question of British aggression against her territory. The announcement comes as a sequel to attacks recently conducted from the neighbouring Aden Protectorate in which British jet planes and ground forces were used against villages inside the Yemeni border.

The Yemen is an Arab country covering an area of some 40,000 square miles in the south-west of the Arabian peninsula. It has a population of about 3.5 million, overwhelmingly Arab. The main occupations are the production of coffee and cattle-breeding. A textile industry is beginning to develop under the Yemeni Government's plans to develop industry; plans are afoot also for road, railway, port and aerodrome construction.

But, as in most of the Middle Eastern countries, the smell of oil is not absent. The Yemen, in addition to valuable deposits of gold, silver, lead, copper and iron, is also now known to have oil.

VICTIM OF AGGRESSION

The Yemen has repeatedly been the victim of foreign aggression, from its invasion by the Turks in 1517 until the end of the First World War, when for the first time the people won state independence. Already in the first half of the nineteenth century, Britain began to show an interest in the country, and seized the area around Aden in 1839.

The country is governed by a theocratic monarchy headed by the King or Imam, Yahya. Yahya, whose father was murdered in February 1948 by pro-British agents because of his leadership in the struggle against imperialism, is himself a national leader.

The Yemeni Government resolutely opposes foreign interference in its affairs. As its Deputy Premier, el-Badr, stated recently, "it opposes participation in military blocs and is against colonialism."

Adjacent to the Yemen lies Aden, a typical British possession split into a Colony and Protectorates. The latter are administered indirectly, but none the less securely, by Britain, through the offices of Arab tribal leaders subservient to Britain.

Aden Colony itself follows the time-honoured pattern of all British possessions. The Governor and Commander-in-Chief are, of course, British, as are the entire Executive Council; the Legislative Council, established in 1949, has fourteen members, all except four of whom are British.

TRADE

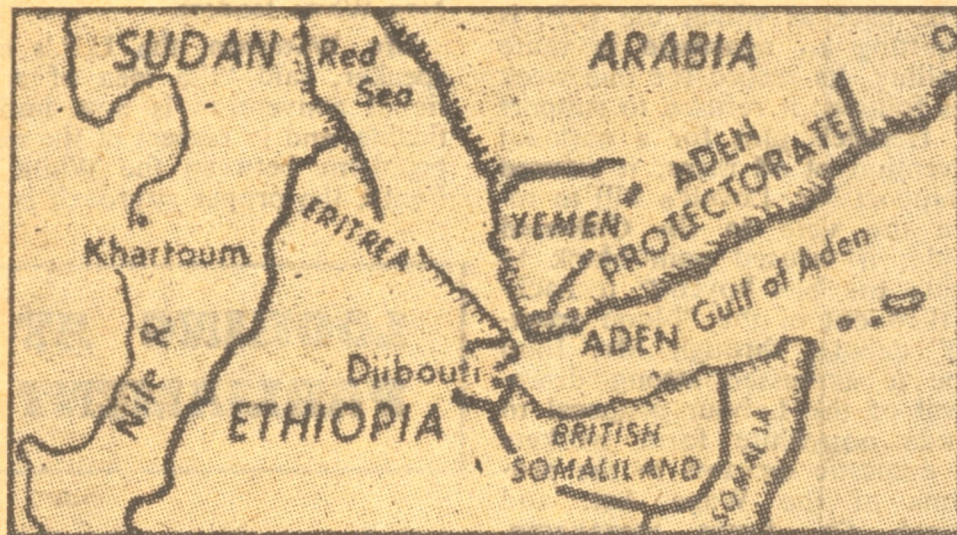
The main money-raiser for the British is mercantile trade in the Port of Aden. But (and here again comes the whiff of oil), "British Petroleum's decision to build a refinery with a output of 5 million tons of oil a year has greatly increased the economic—and strategic—value of Aden." (Financial Times, 15 January.)

In the Protectorates, 90% of the population depend on farming, but to quote the same sources: "The land is dry, and cultivation depends on irrigation, which is not very far advanced."

Up to the eighteenth century, Aden Western Protectorate was part of the Yemen. The present Yemeni Government is now demanding frontier revisions between the Yemen and the Protectorate, and at the same time claims sovereignty over much of the Protectorate.

CRITICISM

Commenting on the recent British military attacks on the Yemen the London Times, mouthpiece of the Tory Government, said: "There is no doubt that the use of modern



aircraft against primitive tribesmen is disquieting. It is defended today in Aden as it was before the war on the north-west frontier of India and in Kurdistan, as being the most effective, humane method of asserting order in districts where infantry cannot penetrate."

The basis of this action appears to be, to quote the Times again, to show the Yemenites that "there is no intention of abdicating our responsibilities or of admitting any part of the absurd Yemeni claim to the whole of Aden colony and Protectorates."

It seems clear at the same time, however, that in addition the action is being used to crush "dissident

tribesmen," i.e. those dissatisfied with British rule in the Protectorate. Further, it may not be unconnected with the growing demand for national independence in Aden, and with the strikes which swept the colony last year. For Aden, Singapore and Cyprus have been declared by British Government spokesmen to be the key fortresses of British imperialism in those parts of the world, and that in itself constitutes a grim threat to the people of Aden should they have other ideas.

The small country of the Yemen, joined in a defence treaty (April 1956) with Egypt and Saudi Arabia, may yet play a key role in the fight for national independence of all the Arab peoples.

LUTULI RECORDING PLAYED AT LONDON MEETING

£1,200 Collected For Treason Trial Defence Fund

LONDON.

A SUM of well over £1,200 was collected for the Treason Trial Defence Fund, a smuggled recording of the voice of Chief Lutuli was played, and Father Trevor Huddleston and Fenner Brockway, the Labour M.P., spoke at a dramatic meeting in support of the treason suspects in London on February 4.

The meeting was attended by over 3,000 people. Other speakers were Canon Collins and Mr. Gerald Gardiner, Q.C., who attended the opening of the treason trial on behalf of Christian Action and a number of legal organisations in Britain.

Mr. Gardiner gave a clear and simple explanation of the anti-people legislation passed since 1948 in South Africa, and described the Freedom Charter and its aims. Another speaker, Mr. James Callaghan, Labour M.P., described the treason trial as political and denounced vigorously the cant of racial superiority.

Apartheid, he said, was the enemy of democracy. The Nats were fearful for the future. They were unable to come to terms with the advancing peoples of Asia and Africa, so they proposed to sit on them for as long as they could. But they were fighting a losing battle.

RECORDING

A recording of the voice of Chief

Lutuli, one of the suspects, which was smuggled out of South Africa, was played at the meeting. Chief Lutuli spoke of the "unprecedented human suffering being brought about by apartheid," and said:

"But yet we are not despondent. We are encouraged in our struggle for freedom by seeing our stand of opposing apartheid vindicated by the justice of our cause and the undoubted growth of the freedom front in our country."

The recording was introduced by the Chairman, Canon L. J. Collins. He spoke of the trial as "what we might call a Reichstag Trial," and appealed for people to contribute to a cause which very closely concerned them.

Father Huddleston said South Africa had never in its history been a democracy and there was no chance of its ever becoming one as long as there was racial discrimination there. The non-whites had no constitutional means of bringing pressure on the Government, as in a democracy.

If the Commonwealth countries did not help the Non-Europeans, then they must not blame the Non-Europeans if they looked elsewhere for assistance.

"If I were an African and non-Christian I would be a Communist tomorrow," he said.

EQUALITY

The last speaker, Fenner Brockway, M.P., said that unless the British people stood for the right of any member of the human family to equality of opportunity they would be failing in their duty. That meant that it would be hypocritical to condemn the South African Government for its racial policies while similar policies were in force in British territories such as the Protectorates, Central Africa and East Africa.

The collection held raised £1,200, with the silver coins as yet uncounted. Christian Action has set itself a target of £20,000 for the Treason Defence Fund, of which £3,700 has so far been raised in Britain alone.

FRANCO GOVT. SHAKEN BY BUS BOYCOTTS

Madrid Workers Join Barcelona In Protest Demonstration

LONDON.

SOUTH Africa is not the only country in which the people, denied other forms of protest, have been taking part in a transport boycott during these last few weeks. Following on a fifteen-day tram boycott in Barcelona, the working population of Madrid, the capital of fascist Spain, have organised a mass boycott of all trams and buses and of the underground railway service.

The tram boycott in Barcelona was sparked off by an increase in tramfares which the poverty-stricken workers were unable to pay. Full support for the boycotters came from the students at Barcelona University, who staged sympathy demonstrations in which portraits of the Spanish dictator General Franco were ripped to pieces. This aroused the wrath of the authorities, who allow no form of protest against their avowedly fascist rule. The University was closed down, and 67 students were thrown into gaol.

In Madrid long, silent processions of workers are tramping many miles each day to and from their places of employment. The trams pass them by empty, presenting a strange contrast to their usually heavily overcrowded appearance.

FARES RAISED

In this city the fares on the underground were recently raised, and the workers have resorted to the boycott to prevent a similar in-

crease threatened for tramfares from being put into operation.

The background to the boycotts is the serious economic difficulties in which the workers find themselves. The cost of living in Spain has been mounting rapidly, and the two wage increases forced last year by serious popular discontent have proved (being based on the miserable basic wage) small compensation.

Power cuts caused by droughts in autumn increased the anger of the workers, as did the spending by the government of vast sums of money on grandiose schemes of no benefit to the mass of the poor.

GOVERNMENT ALARMED

The government is seriously alarmed at the boycotts. The protests have been well organised and disciplined and, according to the London Times, "in some ways more subversive than the periodic outbursts of student discontent, or even than the prolonged strikes in the industrial north last spring."

"There have been similar protest boycotts before (in Madrid in 1951, for example)," the Times continues, "but there is always in Spain the feeling that one day a spark will start a fire—and a fire that will get out of control. So every symptom of discontent is watched (by the authorities) with exaggerated anxiety, particularly if it appears in Barcelona, where the spirit of revolt is strong."

Adding to Franco's difficulties at the moment is the wrangling over who is to succeed him that is going on between the Monarchists, representing an aristocracy amongst the most reactionary in Europe, and the ruling fascist Falange Party.

The compromise by which the young Prince Don Juan Carlos was to be trained to succeed is now less welcome to the Monarchists, who prefer his father, Don Juan, The Falange, however, wants neither father nor son.

Foreign Aircraft Over Indonesia

DJAKARTA.

Foreign aircraft which have recently been invading Indonesia's territorial air have been identified as based on Cocos Islands and Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean, according to documents and photographs in the possession of the Indonesian authorities.

It is reported that the SEATO base in the south-western Pacific has been shifted to these islands, which were formerly governed by Britain but now come under Australia's jurisdiction.

It is only one hour's flight from Christmas Island to Java, the main island of Indonesia. The Cocos Islands were formerly a base from which the Dutch command sent agents into West Java during the last world war.



SPOTLIGHT on SPORT by Robert Resha

DON'T CAGE US IN!

THIS was the heading of a leaflet issued jointly by the ANC Youth League (Transvaal), Transvaal Indian Youth Congress, SACPO Youth and COD Youth, protesting against the fencing of the Non-European section of the pavilion stand with high wire netting at the new Wanderers ground in Johannesburg.

"We are furious at this humiliation we are forced to go through in order to see cricket. Cages are for animals—not for us," reads the leaflet. "We refuse to be a party to such blatant discrimination on the part of Wanderers Club. We call upon non-whites to boycott the grounds until this highly indecent cage is removed," concludes the leaflet.

THE REPLY

In reply to this leaflet Mr. Geoff Treadwell, president of the Transvaal Cricket Union said that if the boycott is deliberate the Union will automatically open the stand to Europeans. He further stated that the Europeans could certainly use extra seats.

Mr. Treadwell went on to say: "If we receive any official complaint we shall give it serious consideration and may be prepared to lower the fence a trifle."

Despite the statement by Mr. Treadwell that they have received no official complaint, whatever that may mean, and the fact that if there is a deliberate boycott the Europeans could certainly use extra seats, the chairman of the Wanderers Club, Mr. G. C. Beaton found it necessary to explain.

He said that the 6ft. 6ins. diamond-mesh fences were put up not to keep the Non-Europeans in, but to keep the Europeans out. To justify this high wire fencing he went on to show that 4ft. 6in. wire fencing was put in front of the open stands for Europeans, and police were stationed in front to prevent people going on to the field.

NO JUSTIFICATION

I must say, in my opinion the officials have failed to justify the erection of a cage for the non-white spectators. It would sound logical if they said the cage was a sign for the M.C.C. to see where the non-whites were seated. But to say it was put up to keep the Europeans out is sheer nonsense.

I was there in November when

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Transvaal played the M.C.C. and Europeans did not even attempt to occupy Non-European seats. And even if that was the case, why cage the Non-Whites? Don't we know that the African townships with all the fences surrounding them are sufficient cages? Must they be caged even when they pay their money to go and see cricket.

White sports administrators in this country are always at pains to explain that they have nothing to do with politics—their field is sport. But here we have what looks like a blatant copy of the Drill Hall cage incident.

What is disgusting is for the officials to boast that this is the first time that reasonable amenities and seating have been offered to the non-whites.

Let the White officials think twice. The Non-Europeans cannot be expected to agree to be humiliated any longer.

Boycotters Ready To Negotiate —

(Continued from page 1)

afterwards that the Council welcomed the support of the Boards, but would not dissolve to make way for a new body as suggested by the Boards.

TALKS ABORTIVE

Talk of a bus boycott settlement have been in the air for the past fortnight, but although several off-the-record meetings have been held by various parties, so far the authorities have refused to enter into negotiations with the true boycott leaders.

The authorities seem to think the people must make all the concessions if the boycott is to come to an end. The idea seems to be that the people should agree to ride the buses at 5d., and only then might the authorities agree to negotiate.

The leaders in all the boycott areas could never agree to such a decision; and the people would never stand for it.

"Will all the weeks of boycott then have been in vain?" is the retort to such suggestions.

BOYCOTT SPREADING

Behind the boycott leaders are the mass of the people, more than ever determined to carry the boycott through to the end. Two new areas, Randfontein and Brakpan, have joined in with a sympathy boycott. In Randfontein alone 1,000 school-children are walking to school every day.

The police blitz on motorists, cyclists and walkers also continues, and day by day numbers of Africans are arrested for pass and tax offences.

But the spirit of the boycotters is as good as ever. They are ready to walk indefinitely. They will never end the boycott until they have won some gain for their hard-pressed people.

NATIONALIST BULLDOZER IN TOP GEAR

EVENTS in Parliament have been moving swiftly in the past few weeks. The Nationalists have put their bulldozer into top gear, and the United Party their old jalopy into reverse, while the Labour-Liberal group finds it increasingly difficult to make its voice heard.

The pace at which the U.P. is submitting to apartheid is quite appalling. Its record for one week is as follows: it refused to support Mr. Hepple's plea for a national convention of all races; it refused to support Mr. Lovell's Bill to restore the vote to the Coloured people; it refused point-blank to discuss the bus boycott; it back-pedalled out of the "blood apartheid" debate; through Mr. John Cope it expressed strong disapproval of the Labour proposal to include non-white farm workers and domestic servants in the provisions of the Wage Act; and through Dr. Louis Steenkamp, that crypto Nationalist in Opposition clothing, it expressed undying devotion to social and residential apartheid and the colour bar.

Little wonder that the Minister of Native Affairs, observing a second Nationalist Party arising where the Opposition normally sits, accused the U.P. of "pretending to the electorate that it stands for White domination or baaskap."

Terror Tactics

The U.P.'s unconditional surrender on apartheid must be regarded as one of the reasons why the Government has used terror tactics so brazenly in the bus boycott. With renewed intensity, Government propagandists are propounding their fascist slogan that on racial matters all White men must speak with one voice.

As the General Election approaches, the position will worsen. It is the urgent duty, therefore, of U.P. supporters and others to take stock of their position. Are they going to remain silent while Sir de Villiers Graaff assists Strijdom in dividing South Africa into two hostile camps of Whites and Non-Whites?

National Convention

Anyone who wants to find out exactly what is happening in Parliament should read the Hansard report of the debate on the Labour proposal for a multi-racial national convention.

Mr. Hepple should be congratulated for putting forward the idea to Parliament. He pointed out that Parliament was isolated from the Non-Whites and that it bore no relation to the realities of the situation in South Africa. His speech was forthright and sensible.

Two points, however, require comment. Mr. Hepple referred to the White section as enjoying a "normal democracy." Is this true? The Nationalists, with a minority of votes, won 94 of the 156 seats in the 1953 General Election. As I see it, the voting system in the Union is wholly undemocratic.

Secondly, Mr. Hepple, probably unintentionally, created the impression he was concerned just a trifle at the rising might of "Black nationalism." I am sure that in his case it was just an error of style, rather than an incorrect approach; but there are progressives who have a tremor in their voices when discussing the wave of militant anti-Nationalism sweeping through the Non-White people.

Surely, the thing to do is to

welcome it, not suggest ways of controlling it and leading it into futile by-paths.

Turned It Down

The Liberal Party supported Mr. Hepple's motion, but the two big parties, the U.P. and the Nationalists, turned it down. The U.P. is in the sorry state when it will not agree even to sitting around the same conference table with the Non-White leaders.

Mr. Waterson, the U.P.'s main speaker, said "the idea of a national convention is now impracticable, and in respect of the major problems between the White and Bantu, the proper approach is that

LOOKING AT PARLIAMENT

laid down in the stated policies of the United Party." Mr. Waterson added that, a couple of years ago, "instead of taking our ideas to a round-table conference, we published them as United Party policy—it is the cheapest 6d. worth in this country and a document which may well become historical."

Good grief! Have you by any misfortune read that document? I have, and I find it difficult to imagine anything vaguer, or more fatuous, ambiguous, evasive and imbecilic.

Dr. Verwoerd replied that a multi-racial convention would not only be "futile," but "positively dangerous"—meaning that, even if the Government agreed to sit around a conference table with Non-White leaders, it would not yield an inch.

He added: "It is an idea of introducing an era in which the Non-Europeans would no longer be in the position of a ward, but would be in a position to decide the future of both Black and White in South Africa."

The message is clear: Dr. Verwoerd is resolved to treat all Non-Whites permanently as "wards," and who ever heard of a guardian consulting his little "ward" about the big problems of the future?

The debate was a revealing study in attitudes. If you couple it

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with Sir de Villiers Graaff's speech in the debate on Mr. Lovell's Coloured vote bill, then there is no need to probe any deeper to find out what makes the U.P. tick. The whole emphasis of "Div's" speech (everyone calls him "Div"—why can't I?) was on the harm being done to the Whites by the Nationalist Government's treatment of the Coloured people.

One final word: was it necessary for Mr. Hepple to include in his motion the following sentence: "That this House consider plans for the proper utilisation of the human and material resources of South Africa, including the implementation of the report of the Tomlinson Commission?" I presume Mr. Hepple was pleading for the development of the Reserves, which all right-thinking people support; but why ask for the Tomlinson Commission's report, that hotch-potch of Nationalist nonsense, to be implemented?

I do not want to sound carping. I know everyone will agree with me that Mr. Hepple has no equal in Parliament in the campaign for right and justice. He has become the real leader of the Opposition there, always ready to put up a fight on a matter of principle. I am sure he won't mind my drawing attention to some slight blemishes on what otherwise I consider one of the best speeches we have heard this session.

C.P.E.

Orchestra Tour

NEW YORK.

Arrangements have been completed for a 25-city tour of the U.S. by the Prague Symphony Orchestra in 1958. The 100-member orchestra, led by Karel Ancerl, will be the first from Eastern Europe to visit the U.S.

New Union Formed

PIETERMARITZBURG.

At a large meeting of laundry and dry cleaners workers recently, a trade union of Laundry and Dry Cleaners Workers was formed. It was decided to seek affiliation with SACTU and the national union. A provisional committee of seven was elected pending another meeting expected to be addressed by the head office, and the adoption of the constitution.

YOUR PORTRAIT— WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHS CHILDREN'S PICTURES ELI WEINBERG

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DEATH

Nefdt.—Elizabeth died after a long illness. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband Dick and the children. S.A.C.P.O. has lost a courageous fighter and dear comrade. Jeanette, Arnold and Lorna.

BIRTH

Muller.—Our heartiest congratulations to Mike and Shalamuth on an addition to their family, a bonny son. Congratulations from the staff Arnolds' Xmas Hampers.

Muller.—The stork flew around to Mike and Shalamuth and brought them a son. Another headache for the Nats. Congratulations from Jeanette, Arnold and Lorna.

MARRIED

Sybil Sack to Ronnie Press. Forward to Freedom together.

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