

CELEBRATIONS

ROBESON'S
SIXTIETH
BIRTHDAY

LONDON.

APRIL 9th marked the 60th birthday of the man who can move millions with his golden voice—the great American Negro singer and equally courageous fighter, Paul Robeson.

On this date celebrations were held in more than 30 countries throughout the world as a tribute to Robeson, the symbol of the "other America."

NEHRU'S PRAISE

In India the celebrations were nation-wide and government-supported. Said Indian Prime Minister Nehru of Robeson: "He has re-



presented and suffered for a cause which should be dear to all of us—the cause of human dignity." And in America itself, the Pittsburgh Courier, most widely read Negro weekly and politically still a supporter of the Republican Party, commented on the sacrifices of Robeson and Dr. Du Bois that they proved that "bold defence of the Negro's rights is often a costly venture."

Yet Robeson has through the years unflinchingly stood up to the attempts of American reaction to gag and starve him into submission. For years he was black-listed by the professional impresarios ("patriotic concert managers," said a U.S. Embassy handout) and denied the use of concert halls.

Recently he broke through the ban, and held two highly-successful concerts on the American West Coast.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

As Robeson approached his 60th birthday, his autobiography, "Here I Stand," was published. On the aspirations of the American Negro for full citizenship, Robeson writes: "We have the power to achieve the goal. What we ourselves do will be decisive."

On world peace, towards which he himself has contributed so much he says, "Wise men and fools alike can see that war is indeed unthinkable, and that the nations of the earth must find the way to peaceful co-existence—especially of the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics whose friendship would guarantee peace for all the world."

Blood Money

A U.S. Army insurance claims officer, on delivering 1,748 dollars to the husband and six children of the Japanese woman killed in Tokyo by Sgt. William Girard, was told by the husband: "I don't want to receive money at the cost of my wife . . . I do not thank you for it."

CUBAN REBELS FAIL TO
GET WORKERS' SUPPORT

LONDON.

THE proposed revolution against the Batista dictatorship in Cuba called last week by rebel leader Fidel Castro, failed because Castro had not succeeded in getting the mass of working people behind the uprising.

A band of rebels last week rushed through the streets of Havana, calling upon the populace of the country to rise against Batista regime, but they met with little response.

Writing from Cuba to the British Labour weekly, "Reynold News," Claudio Veliz, a left-wing Chilean journalist, states that the workers of Chile are not prepared to let Batista go for the sort of "freedom for the wealthy" which Castro, the "rich revolutionary," might well bring in.

"LUXURIOUS REVOLUTION"

Ex-lawyer Castro, says Veliz, "leads the most luxurious revolution known in South America." His supplies are brought to Cuba not in dirty banana boats, but in streamlined yachts. He is constantly interviewed by TV teams flown from America.

"His encampments in the jungle are well provided with the amenities of modern living. Including, of course, TV sets.

"The rebels' meeting places," he continues "are not sordid cafes, but luxurious mansions in the wealthy Vedado district of Havana. Amongst Castro's friends are the

tobacco, sugar and textile manufacturers, the socialists and the aristocrats."

Castro, who 18 months ago staged a spectacular landing in Cuba, now has under his command 1,500 rebels. In pursuit of their aim to wage "war to the death" they have destroyed many of the country's railways, highways and government schools.

"AGAINST TERRORISM"

THE use of terror is specifically opposed by the Cuban Popular Socialist Party, which, although banned by Batista, has considerable influence amongst the Cuban workers.

In an appeal to workers and all democrats throughout the world, the party states that it repudiates terrorism as a means of a struggle, and has no connection with any terrorist acts.

"Yet it is against us especially that the government's repression is aimed," says the appeal, asking for democratic opinion throughout the world to demand that the Cuban people should have at least the basic minimum of human rights.

DARKEST PERIOD

"Cuba, our country, is going through the darkest period of its history," it says.

"The country is living practically in a state of siege. Constitutional and democratic rights are formally suspended for six months, but in fact they have not existed for the past five years.

"The Government has murdered

THEY DON'T LIKE
"NIKE"

BERLIN.

The town council of Heilbronn in Western Germany has unanimously demanded an end to work on construction bases for the American "Nike" rocket nearby. "People in Heilbronn are alarmed because they suffered so much during the last war. A rocket base is no source of comfort for us," said the Mayor, a member of the Social Democratic Party.

BRITISH UNION SELLS
SOUTH AFRICAN STOCKS

LONDON.

A MOTION to withdraw a union funds invested in South African stocks was overwhelmingly carried against opposition by the executive council at the conference of the Association of Engineering and Ship-building Draughtsmen held in Buxton, England, recently.

Mr. Huzzard (Mayfair) replying to the executive's spokesman, said that South African capitalism, like that of Nazi Germany, was different from other forms of capitalism.

Trade unions as we know them did not exist in South Africa, as many workers could not join them because of the colour of their skins, he said.

A motion was passed expressing alarm at the Government's policy of creating unemployment and calling for a planned economy, expansion of East-West trade, and reduction of spending on arms.

Conference repudiated any Government machinery which would deprive unions of collective bargaining rights.

It also demanded the reintroduction of direct grants to local authorities for education.

ROCKET BASES

Much support came from the floor for an amendment to "black" any work connected with rocket bases.

The amendment was defeated after the executive committee had

over 1,000 of our countrymen, including children and women. The jails are full of people held or sentenced for political crimes.

U.S. SECURITY

"Those arrested are generally

beaten cruelly and many are tortured to obtain 'confessions' and information.

"Intervention of U.S. security went so far that a minister who was inquiring about an arrested man dropped the case because, as he said, 'the affair is in the hands of the Americans.'"

"YOU AUTO BUY . . ."

ONCE upon a time a motor-car was regarded as a luxury; then it became a necessity. In the U.S.A. today it has become a goddam nuisance.

In Detroit manufacturers and salesmen have gone into a frenzy of selling in an attempt to get rid of surplus cars and avoid a depression in the industry.

You are served with coffee at the showrooms. T.V. crooners have changed from the "Surrey With The Fringe On Top" to warbling about the nickel-plated trimmings on the latest models and dealers are actually helping each other with adverts instead of competing.

"If we can't sell you, see our neighbour across the street." "Our neighbour has good deals too."



"What do you mean, you have nothing to live for? The house isn't paid for, the car isn't paid for, the TV set isn't . . ."

London Daily Mirror

Israeli Arms to Latin
American Dictators

ISRAEL is disposing of its surplus arms to the dictators of Central and South America. This fact has emerged from the confiscation by the French of arms found in a plane destined for Trujillo, the vicious dictator of San Dominica.

The arms deals between the Israeli Defence Ministry and the dictators of several Latin American countries are reported in the Israeli press to have precipitated the resignation of the Israeli Foreign Minister, Golda Meir.

New Gas For Old

WASHINGTON.

Mustard and lewisite gas will be loaded on old Liberty ships and sunk in the Atlantic and Pacific, according to the U.S. Army Chemical Corps. This will be excess gas which has been piling up and must now make place for newer and more effective poison gases which have been developed. The newer gases include "nerve gas" developed in Germany towards the end of World War II which is being manufactured and stored at the Rocky Mountains arsenal near Denver, Colorado.

Transferred from
Alcatraz

Morton Sobell, convicted with Ethel and Julius Rosenberg on espionage charges, was removed from the dread and lonely Alcatraz island prison built for hardened criminals, and transferred to Atlanta, Georgia, penitentiary. His transfer is the result of a mass petition signed by thousands of people in the U.S.A.

When Sobell's motions for a review, a new trial or an acquittal were rejected by the Supreme Court last year, Sobell Committees throughout the nation began a campaign for a million signatures asking Presidential intervention, and at least an end to solitary confinement in the island prison 3,000 miles from his home.

A GOVERNMENT MOTION is to be brought before the current session of the Northern Nigerian legislature calling for self-government for the territory from March 15th next year, Sir Gawain Bell, Governor of the Region announced last week.

USSR CO-OPERATES WITH
NORWAY AND IRAN IN
POWER STATION BUILDING

THE Soviet Union is to build a number of hydro-electric stations on frontier rivers in co-operation with Iran and Norway.

Joint work to harness the swift-flowing River Patsjoki (Pasvikelvi), which runs along the Soviet-Norwegian frontier, was suggested by the Norwegian Prime Minister during his visit to Moscow in 1955.

Surveys carried out since then have confirmed the possibilities.

NEAR CASPIAN

The preliminary plan provides for the construction of three stations with a total capacity of 80,000 kw. by the Soviet Union, and one 64,000 kw. station by Norway.

In the south, the Soviet Union, jointly with Iran, will tap the power resources of the

River Araks, west of the Caspian.

This 660-mile river has frequently flooded large areas destroying crops and buildings. To prevent floods, several dams will be built, the reservoirs they form feeding turbines and irrigation canals.

Five power stations, now being designed in the U.S.S.R., will be built on the first section of the river.

They will generate up to 1,500 million kwh. a year.

Surveys have already shown the possibility of building a further six stations, with a 2,500 million kwh. annual output.

And another Soviet-Iranian frontier river—the Atrek—is also being considered for power and irrigation development.



All that was left of the Msibi home after it had been set on fire.

ERMELO SQUATTER TRAGEDY

ERMELO.

THIS was a house, the home of the Msibi family.

Now Mr. Petros Msibi, 54 years old, his wife and children sleep on the road in the open veld.

Mr. Msibi was born and grew up on the Drankwater farm, contracted to the farmer, a Mr. Groenewald, until the death of the latter in 1956.

Then the farm changed hands and the new owner Mr. De Jager served the Msibis with a sudden dismissal notice.

By June 1957 the Msibi family

DEATH

Forman, Sarah. Beloved wife of David, passed away on April 9th. Deeply mourned by husband, daughter Vera, son Lionel and by Sadie, Karl and Frank.

SYMPATHY

Forman, Sarah.—"New Age" extends its sympathy to David Forman and to the whole family in their tragic loss.

The staffs of Arnold's Xmas Hampers and Johannesburg "New Age" wish to extend their deepest sympathy and condolences to Mr. and Mrs. G. S. White of Randfontein in the loss of their newborn son.

To Mr. D. Forman, Vera, Lionel and family, our very deep sympathy in the sad loss of Mrs. S. Forman.

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had not yet found anywhere else to go and Mr. Msibi was arrested and fined £5 in court. In October he was served with an order to pay £40 for grazing his stock illegally on the farm. He failed to pay and in his absence the police seized three oxen in lieu of pay.

In December 1957 Mr. Msibi spent a night in jail, together with his wife and a friend for visiting the latter's home on the farm Drankwater. The charge became one of illegal entry and Mr. Msibi was fined £5 with the alternative of one month in jail. Shortly after Mr. Msibi was again arrested for failing to vacate the farm and sentenced this time to £12 fine or two months. He served 19 days in jail and paid a fine for the balance of the sentence.

On March 11 in the presence of his wife three uniformed police and the son of the farmer ordered the removal of all the household effects and then SET THE HOUSE ON FIRE.

Mr. Msibi arrived to find it blazing and was arrested on the spot.

What remained of the Msibi property was dumped outside the farm on the road to Ermelo. Mr. Msibi was later released from custody and walked the 12 miles back to find his family squatting in the open, where they have been since.

Several others on an adjacent farm have been served with notices to quit. Is this to be their fate too?

J. JACK.

THREE FARMS FOR SALE

Three farms, of 900, 1,000 and 1,800 acres respectively, available for Coloured ownership in the Matatiele District. All under irrigation, with a summer rainfall of from 25 to 30 inches. Prices: £10,000, £16,000 and £16,000. Bonds available.

Address enquiries to: **Manager, P.O. Box 436, Cape Town.**

They Preferred £1 A Day

From Morrison Senatle

BLOEMFONTEIN.

A meeting called by the Bloemfontein Location Advisory Board broke up in disorder after the organisers refused to answer questions put to them by members of the audience.

The meeting had been called to discuss the permit system for the first time in Bloemfontein.

One of the audience demanded to know what would happen under the system to members of the same family, some born inside the Union and others in the Protectorates. But the chairman ruled this question out of order as it "wasn't on the agenda."

This angered the audience who started to protest. While other questions were being asked, three of the organisers, including the President of the Location Advisory Boards, left the meeting.

Under the barrage of questions one of the speakers burst out in anger, saying that Dr. Verwoerd was responsible for the laws and nothing could be gained from opposing the government. They had deported Chief Abraham Moiloa and Chief Lutuli had been arrested.

The meeting then broke up in uproar and the audience then gathered to discuss the demand for £1 a day.

LONGSHOREMEN CONDEMN TESTS

PORTLAND.

President Eisenhower was urged to meet heads of world powers for talks to end the cold war, by a conference of the International Longshoremen's Union in the U.S.A. recently. The conference also resolved to promote trade with China, and called for a halt to atom bomb tests.

Rev. Gawe Supported Decisions Of National Workers' Conference

THE following press statement was issued last week by the Rev. W. S. Gawe, President of the Cape branch of the A.N.C.:

The press has given wide publicity to the fact that the Cape branch of the African National Congress will not support the protest demonstrations and Stay-at-Home during election week.

It has been alleged by the press that I made a statement denouncing the decision of the National Workers' Conference which was held in Johannesburg on March 15 to 16.

I have never made any statement after the National Workers' Conference. On the contrary, before the National Workers' Conference I was telephoned by a reporter from the Bantu Press and in reply to his questions, I said that the A.N.C. had not taken a decision to demonstrate during the general elections but that there were talks of a mass action, the form of which would be de-

cided by the National Workers' Conference.

But for reasons best known to the press, this part of my statement was omitted and the statement was published after the National Workers' Conference, and this gave the impression that I was opposed to the decision of the National Workers' Conference.

I want to assure everybody that I and the whole Cape branch of the A.N.C. support without reservations the decision of the National Workers' Conference as confirmed by the President-General of the A.N.C., Chief A. J. Lutuli. Further, in view of the fact that the majority of workers in this country are Africans, it is our duty as Congress to take a lead in guiding the workers in their struggle for higher wages and better working conditions.

ROODEPOORT PROTESTS AT POLICE PERMIT RAIDS

THERE is no room! Neither the Town Hall nor the Manager's office can accommodate the 12 members of the joint Roodepoort Advisory Board. This is the latest answer to the board's call for an urgent meeting with the Roodepoort-Maraisburg Council.

The board protested strongly against indiscriminate raids in Roodepoort location carried out by unknown municipal officials and Dobsonville municipal policemen.

Recently a deputation consisting of board members were snubbed by the Manager of Non-European Affairs, Mr. J. Du Toit. He refused to meet the deputation on the grounds no appointment had been made with him.

So the deputation went instead to see the Town Clerk. They were told that their complaints would be heard by the Council. The Advisory Board had requested a special meeting to discuss the effects of indiscriminate raids on houses in Roodepoort location. But a meeting was still not held.

Last week the Advisory Board members were told they would have to wait another month pending the completion of the new administrative offices which are under construction.

A spokesman of the Advisory Board told "New Age" that they

wanted the meeting because they want to settle their differences with the Manager who has been reluctant to meet them and hear their grievances.

In addition, there is a memorandum drawn up by the Advisory Board some months ago which has never been discussed.

In the meantime, the municipal police have intensified their raids on permit offenders in Roodepoort location. Until now people could alight from a train in Roodepoort West railway station and walk into the location without fear. Nowadays visitors are required first to obtain permits. To secure one, it is necessary to walk across the location to the superintendent's office. At the entrance to the location from the station there is no warning notice, so many fall foul of the law and are arrested on the turn.

A Medal For Elizabeth

Elizabeth Eckford, the girl who braved the mob before Central High School in Little Rock, is proposed for the Sprigarn Medal award of 1957 by the *Los Angeles Tribune*. "In her quiet courage, her purposefulness, her simplicity, her realism, she expressed the Negro way of life these 300 years."

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