

CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE—ONLY NINE MORE DAYS

NEW AGE

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“SOUTH AFRICA’S REAL PARLIAMENT”

—Says A.N.C. General Secretary

JOHANNESBURG.

THE voice of South Africa’s real Parliament will be heard only two days after the Union House of Assembly and the Senate bring their 1955 session to an end, said Mr. O. Tambo, acting general secretary of the African National Congress in an exclusive statement to New Age. This real assembly of people’s representatives will be the Congress of the People in Kliptown, now only nine days off.

The Nationalist Party tries to justify its vicious anti-democratic policies by talk of the “volkswil.” This “volkswil” is nothing more than the will of the Nationalist

Mr. Tambo said the week-end of 25th and 26th June would be a historic one for the African people, for all Non-Europeans and for democratic South Africans.

He was confident that the people would respond to the call of the Assembly as never before.

TREASURED POSSESSION

The Freedom Charter would become the most treasured possession of the people.

The Congress of the People campaign, said Mr. Tambo, had already proved a great unifying force among the African people themselves, and between the Africans and democrats of the other groups.

The campaign for the Freedom Charter, far from coming to an end at the Kliptown assembly, would be only the beginning of a mighty united and positive campaign of all sections of the people for their rights.

Mr. Tambo made a final appeal for full participation of the African people in the Congress of the People.



Mr. O. Tambo.

Party. The real will of the people will be expressed in the Freedom Charter and during the sessions of the People’s Assembly.

UNEMPLOYMENT RISING IN JAPAN

TOKIO.

Unemployment is rising in Japan, according to statistics prepared by the Prime Minister’s office. The figure reached 840,000 in March—180,000 more than in the previous month, and the highest figure since the war.

The increase is put down partly to the large numbers of university students graduating who find it increasingly difficult to obtain work owing to the effects of deflation on Japan’s economy.

The official figures give no indication of the real extent of unemployment in Japan, as only those in receipt of full unemployment benefits are included. Nearly one million more are working for less than 48 hours a week, which is regarded as a sign of partial unemployment in this land of sweated labour.

The total of unemployed and “nearly-unemployed” is thus anything from 3 to 8 million, according to some estimates.

LEADERS ACCEPT FREEDOM AWARD

JOHANNESBURG.—Both Dr. Y. M. Dadoo and the Reverend Trevor Huddleston told New Age that they would accept the Freedom Award to be presented to them in the name of the national liberation movements at the Congress of the People at the end of this month.

FATHER HUDDLESTON told our reporter:

The reason why I feel greatly honoured and also greatly touched by this award is that it is the symbol of my identification with those who are struggling for the ideals of freedom in this country at this time. I feel more convinced every day of the immense need for unity in this struggle, and the dangers which we are facing can, in fact, only be met by a united front, not only in racial terms, of course, but in our determination to use moral and non-violent methods.

DR. DADOO said:

It has come as a surprise to me to find that my name has been chosen, together with those of the two great South Africans of our time, Chief Luthuli and the Reverend Trevor Huddleston, for the Freedom Award which the Congress of the People is presenting for what it calls “distinguished service to the cause of the brotherhood of the people of



The Wheel of Freedom, the symbol of the Congress of the People, has appeared in suburbs and factory areas throughout Johannesburg. The four spokes of the wheel represent the forces of the African, Indian, Coloured and European people rolling towards progress and a free South Africa. This wheel has been chalked on the wall of the Vrededorp subway, and passers-by are here seen being handed leaflets about the Congress of the People.

ELECTIONS COMPLETED IN OTHER PROVINCES BUT JOHANNESBURG STILL AT FEVER PITCH

JOHANNESBURG.—WITH ONLY NINE DAYS TO GO TO THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE, THE OTHER PROVINCES HAVE COMPLETED THEIR ELECTIONS BUT JOHANNESBURG IS STILL ALIVE WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES AND THE PARTICIPATION OF HUGE NUMBERS OF OBSERVERS IN THE FREEDOM ASSEMBLY.

SCORES OF LITTLE MEETINGS ARE TAKING PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY EVERY DAY AFTER WORK IN JOHANNESBURG’S LOCATIONS AND TOWNSHIPS. OVER THE WEEK-ENDS MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS REACH A NEW FEVER-POINT.

This activity is not confined to Johannesburg alone. The Congress of the People has been carried right along the Far East and West Rand, and into one country town in the Transvaal after another.

At this moment elections for delegates are taking place in Sekukuniland, on the trust farms of the North-Eastern Transvaal, among the squatters of the Ermelo-Bethal area.

Final figures of delegates elected are only now beginning to come into C.O.P. headquarters.

ALEXANDRA—150 DELEGATES

Alexandra Township was probably the first area to complete its elections and left not a street uncombed. In all, 150 carefully chosen Township residents will speak at the Assembly in the name of the people of Alexandra.

Newclare in the Western area, divided and again sub-divided into small units, has already elected 60 spokesmen, and Sophiatown 62. Moroka’s tally is 45, and from Dube township will come 10 delegates.

Meadowlands residents, the first victims of the Government’s forced removal scheme under apartheid, will have their spokesmen at Kliptown.

ERMELO, BETHAL—54 DELEGATES

From Ermelo and Bethal farms, where probably amongst the worst conditions in the country obtain for labourers, there will be 54 delegates.

Indians from Wynberg, near Alexandra, have elected 20 representatives, and the Indian population on the West Rand is now completing its elections for 50 delegates.

In the south-west regions of Orlando and Moroka and Jabavu election meetings are now in pro-

gress. The people are taking their election meetings with the utmost earnestness and seriousness. In most areas the people hold more than one street or block meeting. The first meeting is devoted to a discussion of the Congress of the People campaign. The second meeting is spent discussing the merits of respective candidates who are submitted for election, and then in closely briefing the successful candidate in the freedom demands of the people.

CONGRESS WHEEL EVERYWHERE

Congress of the People workers in Fordsburg and Vrededorp have adopted “surprise” publicity tactics. When residents awoke one morning they found their area plastered with huge four-spoked wheels. One can barely walk a half-block in these suburbs without seeing the wheel. A few days later leaflets were handed out to the people answering the question all had been asking: “What is this wheel?” “The wheel is the symbol of the Congress of the People. It is the symbol of progress,” the leaflet said and went on to explain in detail.

In the south-west regions of Johannesburg the African National Congress is aiming at the election of at least 500 delegates.

Miners’ delegates have been elected from the East Rand and there are enthusiastic reports from all towns from Germiston to Springs to Nigel, from which figures are not yet available.

The Congress of the People is everywhere the talk of the town (even if the daily Press has blacked it out!) and excitement is mounting as the day for the Assembly draws near.

Soviet Withdrawal

LONDON.

In terms of the Chinese-Soviet agreement signed last year, Soviet forces recently withdrew from Port Arthur a week ahead of schedule.



NEW AGE LETTER BOX

The Time Has Come

It is time, Africa, it is time; time to understand, realise and appreciate what we are and what we shall be. The cowards who attack the people's movement condemn the salvation of their own children. They forget that no leader can stand in front of the people without a cross. "Be faithful and I will give you a crown of life," said Jesus.

The time has come to show the cowards that this time is for heroes only.

Long live the leaders of the freedom movement! Freedom in our life-time! Afrika!

G. MLANDU.

Nqamakwe.

Repression in British Guiana

From far-away British Guiana comes a letter from a friend—Mr. Ramkarran, a former Member of Parliament of the deposed Jagan Government.

The terroristic and suppressive measures of the British rulers are growing, and in many cases are the same as in South Africa.

Mr. Ramkarran writes—"I am not permitted to visit the office (of the People's Progressive Party) under what Her Majesty's fascist Government calls the "emergency regulations," evoked since the suppression of the Constitution and the deposition of the Government, and under the same order meetings of five are banned, trade union and political leaders are restricted to their area of residence and police permission has to be obtained even for religious functions. Police raids go on, with frequent seizures and imprisonments.

"You who have lived under this sort of nightmare for years will appreciate what the restrictions mean to us. After a whole year I am now permitted to seek employment in the city—three miles away—on condition that I remain in the store all day and that I return to my area by 5 p.m. every day.

"Please give my warmest regards to Sam Kahn and other valiant fighters in South Africa. You may rest assured that your name will live wherever people respect freedom and justice."

PAUL JOSEPH.

Johannesburg.

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6560-5

A.N.C. Wanted On the Farms

May I say what is taking place at a farm in the district of Bushbuckridge? The Africans there are toiling hard under the direct control of a taskmaster who knows nothing of what an African person means. He uses a sjambok to force them to do what he wants.

The power of freedom is in our hands. I call upon the leaders and organisers of the African National Congress to send to those far-off places, farms, villages and reserves, their teams of organisers to call and shout with the voice of freedom inside and outside the home of every inhabitant.

In these places children are turned into orphans, mothers into widows by harsh taskmasters.

W. E. BOSHELLO.

Brakpan.

Imprisoned, Banished

I feel that a tribute should be paid to four outstanding men—Gwentshe, Lengisi, Alwyn and Monare.

These men are suffering today so that their people and their children should be free from oppression. Their names will go down in the historical record of our struggle when the history of this country is rewritten.

Fear not, you men,
Your struggle is a just one,
You battle for truth;
Remain fearless of any evil,
For truth will vanquish evil.
We, the oppressed, owe you much.
The day is coming
When we shall say
We are free people.
Your fight is the most sacred.

F. MQUDLWA.

Cape Town.

The Insulting Word "Bantu"

The term "Bantu" is an African word (Nguni) meaning "persons," whether they be black, green or white. Its singular form is U-muntu. But this word is being wrongfully applied as a substitute for the term "African."

In the Government's opinion it is the best name for the Black man. We all know that to them we (the Africans) are Natives or Kaffirs.

Let us endeavour to counteract this root of malice, indignity and insult to our nationality.

I am of the opinion that names like "The Bantu World," "Bantu People's College" and the "Bantu News Agency" contribute much to the wrong use of the word "Bantu." I particularly regret to say that the name of a so-called national paper is The Bantu World.

M. O. K. SETLHAPELO.

Johannesburg.

O.F.S. President's Call

As president of the A.N.C. in the Orange Free State I call on all the Branches of the A.N.C. and all other bodies—African and all the other races in the Orange Free State—to close their ranks and work hard and get ready for the Congress of the People. I call upon Congress volunteers in O.F.S. to work day and night to see that delegates are elected and demands sent. Remember the clarion call of the President, Chief Albert Luthuli.

J. B. MAFORA,
President, A.N.C., O.F.S.

It Became Dark In Our Eyes

Lilian Ngoyi, popular woman's leader now touring Europe and the People's Democracies, sends this moving letter on the 10th anniversary of the liberation of Europe from the Nazis.

We went to one of the largest Nazi concentration camps known as Buchenwald, now a museum in the German Democratic Republic. This was seeing real hell. We saw what it meant to be cruel. We then understood what is really meant by the struggle for peace. Especially me, I was all the time not quite clear about peace, but now I took a new pledge that I shall tell my people that what I have seen should never happen to any human being no matter to whatever camp they belong to, not even to the Nationalists, because they are human and only need to be educated.

I was very proud when we were asked to join the procession of the men and women who carried the wreaths to the monument of these people who were so tortured to death. The reason for going to this horrible place was the celebration of the tenth year since liberation. The weather was very bad but there were delegates from all over amounting to 30,000. The honour which the people gave us is more than I can in this letter explain.

It became dark in our eyes as mothers, when the orphans whose parents were killed came marching, still worse when the people who were also in the camp came. And still these people had a song which they composed when they were waiting for their turn to be tortured. You can already picture how it was. A sad day, but educative.

We were shown round by one of the men who served in this camp as a prisoner for four years. As he spoke you could read his mind. He said that we should never allow such camps to be erected for any people. I saw the gas chambers, I saw lampshades made from human beings skinned alive, I saw a cell as big as our toilets where people used to sleep nine in number. Then I said to myself rather die fighting than to be tortured kneeling on my knees. LILIAN NGOYI (now somewhere in Europe).

Group Areas And Hitler

The aim of the Government to move the Coloured people from areas which they have inhabited since their birth is yet another phase towards our march to Hitlerite fascism. The forcible removal of people from their homes as was displayed in the Western Areas and subsequently other areas once more reveals the stark, naked fact that South Africa is already a police state.

The people in Cape Town realise this, and for this very reason are not going to move voluntarily.

We are once more reminded of those horrible days when Hitler was in power, when Jews, Poles, Russians and all other foreigners were forcibly removed from their homes and dumped into ghettos, which were later to be used as concentration camps and slaughterhouses.

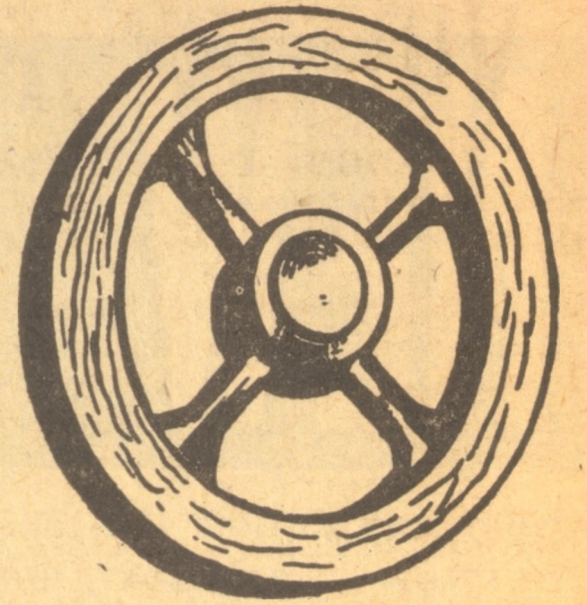
We in Cape Town are determined not to fall into the same grave as did those, our unfortunate comrades. That is why we are rallying to our Congresses. That is why we are sparing no energy in preparation for the Congress of the People.

Mayibuye!

JAMES ISAAC FRANCIS,
Lansdowne, Cape Town.

EDITORIAL

NINE DAYS TO GO



THERE are now only 9 more days to go before the Congress of the People opens in Johannesburg. Most of the delegates have been elected, and the preparations for the great meeting are entering their final stages.

Soon the Freedom Charter will have been written, and a new stage in the fight for freedom in South Africa will begin.

But the importance of the Congress of the People does not lie only in the vistas which it will open in the future. FOR ALREADY THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE CAMPAIGN HAS IN ITSELF SERVED A GREAT PURPOSE.

The campaign has helped to bring the leadership of the liberatory movement into closer contact with the needs and demands of the ordinary people.

And at a time when, after the great upsurge of the Defiance Campaign, there was a marked decrease in Congress activity and membership, the campaign has effectively served to put an end to the decline, to arouse new interest and enthusiasm among the members and supporters of the four organisations which are sponsoring the Congress of the People—the African National Congress, the South African Indian Congress, the Congress of Democrats and the South African Coloured People's Organisation. In areas where Congress activity had become almost non-existent the movement was revitalised and active propaganda work was done.

Alliance Cemented

Yet another important success which the campaign for the C.O.P. has already had has been the degree in which it has cemented and emphasised the alliance, as full partners, of the four sponsoring organisations. On the firm and unbreakable unity of these bodies depends the future of South Africa as a democratic land free of all traces of racialism or national oppression, and the campaign for the Congress of the People has been a powerful means of forging that unity through joint and co-operative action.

THE CAMPAIGN HAS VIVIDLY DEMONSTRATED THAT IN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM THE CONGRESSES STAND OUT AS THE UNDISPUTED LEADERS. OTHER BODIES WHICH HAVE MADE A PRETENCE AT SUPPORTING THE MARCH TO DEMOCRACY—NOTABLY THE PATHETIC LIBERAL PARTY—HAVE BEEN SHOWN UP AS BEING UNPREPARED TO ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THE GENUINE DEMANDS OF THE PEOPLE.

The preparations for the Congress have taken place at a time when all democrats are being stirred into greater activity, both in defence of their living standards, as evidenced by the recent wave of small, courageous strikes, and in defence of their political rights, as shown by the campaign against Bantu Education, the Group Areas Act and the Senate Bill. The campaign has served to some extent to canalise these activities and to create the consciousness that South Africa's evils stem from the same source—the fascist Nationalist Government and its racialist policies—and that the only solution is the defeat of that Government and its replacement by a truly democratic Government, freely elected by every South African, irrespective of the colour of his skin.

Only the future will show the extent to which the efforts of democrats are able to make the Freedom Charter an enduring landmark on the road to liberty.

BUT IT IS MOST HEARTENING TO SEE THAT THE EFFECT OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THE CORRECTNESS OF THE DECISION TO CONVENE IT.

SOVIET-YUGOSLAV DECLARATION GREAT VICTORY FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

LONDON.—The joint declaration signed by Marshal Bulganin, Premier of the Soviet Union, and Marshal Tito, President of Yugoslavia, following the recent negotiations between delegations of the two countries in Yugoslavia, represents another victory for the policy of peaceful co-existence.

The declaration said the negotiations, which "were conducted in a spirit of friendship and mutual understanding," covered "an exchange of opinions on international problems" and also "a comprehensive survey of questions concerning the political, economic and cultural relations between the two countries."

After setting out the basic principles on which co-existence between peoples of differing social systems must be based, the declaration specifically called for the inclusion of People's China in the United Nations and "the satisfaction of the lawful rights of the Chinese People's Republic in relation to Taiwan (Formosa)"; the reduction and limitation of armaments and the prohibition of atomic weapons; the establishment of general collective security; the utilisation of atomic energy for peaceful purposes; a solution of the German question "on a democratic basis and in accord with the wishes and interests of the German people, as well as the interests of general security."

The declaration also expressed the intention of the two Governments to promote measures to re-establish normal relations between the two countries and peoples, to strengthen economic and cultural relations, "to support and facilitate co-operation of the public organisations of both countries by means of contact, exchange of socialist experience and a free exchange of opinion," and to conclude treaties to protect the rights of citizens of one country who reside in the territory of the other and, where desired, to effect their repatriation. "Both Governments are agreed that the treaties must be based on respect for the principles of humanity and on the universally accepted principles of free will in relation to the persons in question."

KRUSCHEV'S STATEMENT

Perhaps the greatest interest in the negotiations attached to the declaration which was made at Belgrade airport on the arrival of the Soviet delegation by Mr. N. A. Krushchev, leader of the delegation.

He said: "The Soviet delegation have arrived in your country in order, jointly with the Yugoslav Government delegation, to define the path of further developing and consolidating the friendship and co-operation between our peoples, to discuss our common tasks in the struggle to ensure that our countries flourish, in the struggle to lessen international tension and strengthen universal peace and the people's security."

"The peoples of our countries are bound to each other by ties of ancient fraternal friendship and joint struggle against the common enemies. This friendship and militant co-operation were particularly strengthened during the difficult trials experienced in the struggle against the fascist invaders in World War II. During those bitter years all the Soviet people greatly sympathised with the heroic struggle of their Yugoslav brothers, and wholeheartedly hailed the courageous combat actions of the People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia under the leadership of Marshal Tito.

"Our peoples will always remember that here, at Belgrade, the Yugoslav and Soviet warriors jointly delivered blows at the enemy and liberated this ancient Slav city from the Hitlerite occupationists. The peoples of the Soviet Union warmly greeted the establishment of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia. It is generally known that during those years excellent relations were established between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, between our States and our Parties. However, subsequently these good relations were ruptured.

SINCERELY REGRET

"We sincerely regret what took place and decisively thrust aside all that attended that period.

"On our part we definitely associate with all this the provocative role played in the relations between Yugoslavia and the U.S.S.R. by the now exposed enemies of the people — Beria, Abakumov and others. We have thoroughly studied the materials on which were based the grave accusations and insults lodged at that time against the leaders of Yugoslavia. The facts show that these materials were fabricated by the enemies of the people, despicable agents of imperialism who deceitfully wormed their way into the ranks of our Party.

"We are deeply convinced that the period of unhappy relations between us is over. On our part we are ready to do everything necessary to remove every obstacle in the way of full normalisation of relations between our states and of strengthening friendly relations among nations."

HISTORIC FRIENDSHIP

Krushchev went on to state that the conditions for co-operation between the two countries existed — "the centuries-old historic friendship of the peoples of our countries, the glorious traditions of the revolutionary movement, the necessary economic base and common ideals in the struggle for the peaceful prosperity and happiness of the working people."

The Soviet Union, said Krushchev, built its relations with other countries on the "principle of the peaceful co-existence of states, upon the principles of equality, non-interference and respect for sovereignty and national independence, upon the principles of non-aggression and recognition of the inadmissibility of some states encroaching upon the territorial integrity of others.

"We hope that in future, too, the relations between our countries will develop on the basis of these principles, to the benefit of our peoples. And this will be a big new contribution to the relaxation of international tension, to the preservation and strengthening of world peace.

"Yugoslavia's desire to develop relations in all states, both in the West and in the East, meets with our full understanding. We consider that strengthening the friendship and ties between our countries will help to improve relations between all countries, irrespective of their social systems; will help to strengthen world peace."

The Soviet delegation had come to Yugoslavia "to discuss with you in a brotherly spirit all the outstanding problems. . . . We consider the establishment of mutual trust between our parties likewise desirable."

PARTIES BASED ON SAME PRINCIPLES

The parties of the two countries were based on the same fundamental principles, and if they kept

those principles in mind they should be able to "achieve complete mutual understanding because they have a common aim—struggle for the interests of the working class and the working peasants, for the interests of the working people."

In conclusion, Krushchev said the interests of the workers and peasants, the interests of the international working class movement and the common aims of the struggle for the consolidation of peace, for a better future for mankind, required that the leaders of the two parties establish mutual trust between those parties on the basis of their fundamental principles.

They would be failing in their duty to their peoples and the working people of the whole world if they did not do their utmost to bring about such understanding.

On the conclusion of the negotiations, the Soviet delegation visited Bucharest, capital of Rumania, where they had talks with Czechoslovakian, Hungarian and Rumanian leaders. A statement

issued afterwards said the leaders of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Rumania welcomed the Soviet-Yugoslav agreement, which had contributed greatly to the relaxation of world tension, would deter the forces of aggression and strengthen world peace. A similar statement issued in Sofia declared Bulgarian support for the agreement.

GREECE IN TROUBLE

ATHENS.

The economic situation in Greece is steadily deteriorating. According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Social Welfare recently, in seven prefectures in Western Greece there are some 310,000 people certified as destitute out of a total population of about 800,000.

During the first two months of 1955, 3,000 young Greeks emigrated to Australia, Brazil and other overseas countries, and it is expected that by the end of this year over 20,000 will have left Greece.

Prices and taxes are rising sharply, as the Government is facing a deficit of 1,800 million drachmas in its new budget. Proposed U.S. "aid" to Greece in 1955-56 will amount to no more than 15 million dollars worth of wheat and industrial finished goods.

SOVIET AHEAD OF U.S. IN JET BOMBER PRODUCTION

Hullabaloo in Washington After May Day Parade

NEW YORK.—American military circles have been greatly disturbed by evidence of Soviet jet bomber development which has filtered through to U.S. Intelligence. They have discovered that the Soviet Union is now producing in quantity, and operating, a heavy jet bomber which is at least as good as the latest American B-52—and the American plane is only just beginning to come off the production lines.

The newspaper *Aviation Week* reported that ten Soviet type-37 bombers were sighted at a low altitude over Moscow before and after the May Day parade this year. This discovery threw American military circles into a near-panic, because they have always deluded themselves that the U.S. has a lead in the production not only of atomic weapons but also of the planes to deliver them.

Senator Saltonstall, former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said: "We've got to admit or agree that their production as shown on May 1 over Moscow is more than we had anticipated at this time."

General Twining, U.S. Air Chief of Staff, said: "The aeroplane that gives us real reason for concern in the United States is the Soviet long-range jet heavy bomber. Last year they showed us one. This year, in the rehearsals for May Day, there were flights of more of these long-range jets—enough that we have to accept that they are in production."

The General added that although "we have a lot of experience in building big bombers, it looks as though the Soviets are getting ahead in production."

The Air Force, through the Defense Department, then issued a statement drawing attention to Soviet progress in heavy and medium jet bombers. The statement said:

"This knowledge is evidence of the modern technology of the Soviet aircraft industry and the advances which are being made by them."

ULTERIOR MOTIVE

Politicians and newspapermen decided these statements were intended to have a bearing on the Senate's consideration of the military budget, but they had unforeseen consequences. Democratic Party Senators used them to attack the Eisenhower regime for failing to keep the U.S. ahead in the arms race.

Senator Stuart Symington, formerly Truman's Air Force Secretary, said the Eisenhower Government must be held responsible for losing "control of the air" to Russia.

A Senate committee was appointed to consider the whole question. The chairman of the committee, Senator Russell, said the growing strength of the Soviet Air Force could only be described as "alarming."

"The hearing thus far confirms my position held for some time that we have consistently underestimated the Soviet's ability to design and produce the most terrible weapons of destruction."

President Eisenhower, at a Press conference, tried to undo some of the damage. "To say that we have lost in a twinkling all of this great technical development and technical excellence, as well as the number in

Big Business Getting Bigger

NEW YORK.

Business and industrial mergers and acquisitions have been increasing steadily in the United States over the past seven years and are now almost as frequent as they were in 1946-47, according to a report of the Federal Trade Commission.

Two-thirds of the mergers have involved firms with assets valued at over 10 million dollars.

A total of 1,773 mergers were recorded since 1948 and 2,100 acquisitions since 1950. These figures are compared with the 2,303 mergers which took place in 1928-29, immediately before the depression.

The trend towards mergers was particularly noticeable in the food products industries. One Florida dairying firm, with assets of 90 million dollars, had made 48 acquisitions and mergers since 1948—more than twice as many as any other firm in the country. Three of the most publicised mergers were in the motor industry, between Nash and Hudson, Packard and Studebaker, and Kaiser and Willys.

These, said the report, had "posed a dilemma for the anti-trust agencies," because it seemed that the only way to ensure continuing competition for the big three (Ford, General Motors and Chrysler) was to allow the smaller firms to join forces, even though this was apparently against the law.

After the release of the report, Senator Kilgore said that the Judiciary Committee of which he is chairman would begin a "full-scale investigation" of the entire anti-trust field, including merger activities.

our total aircraft, is just not true."

Unfortunately, the very same day Brigadier General W. M. Burgess, Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence for the Continental Air Defence Command, made a speech saying that the Soviet Union had planes as good as the American, and more of them.

The next day his chief, General Twining, had to eat his own words by way of answer to Burgess, who, according to Twining, "did not tell the truth." Twining added: "I am confident we are ahead today."

General Gruenther, N.A.T.O. Supreme Commander, weighed in with the contribution that "Russia is quite a long way behind." Tactical Air Commander General O.P. Weyland said his forces were "one step ahead," and Defence Secretary Harold E. Talbott said the U.S. programme was "just about right."

THE RESULT

Outcome of the whole hullabaloo was a decision by the Air Force to order a 35 per cent increase in the production programme of its heavy jet bomber, the B-52. According to the Air Force, the B-52 has a speed of over 600 miles an hour and can reach a target 6,000 miles away without refuelling.

Mr. Talbott said the amended programme would enable the U.S. to produce the B-52 well ahead of the original dates.

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