

BRITISH SHOCKED BY SPEIDEL'S APPOINTMENT

WAR-TIME ATROCITIES RECALLED

LONDON.

BRITISH public opinion has been shocked by the announcement that ex-Nazi General Hans Speidel is to be appointed commander of the NATO forces in Central Europe.

Soviet Farm Production

LONDON.

Soviet achievements in agriculture last year exceeded all expectations. More than 53 million tons of grain were delivered to the State by collective and State farms during 1956. This is 50% more than was previously regarded as possible in a good year.

There were equally impressive increases in other fields of agriculture, notably milk, butter, potatoes and pigs. The streets and shops in Moscow are reported to give ample indication of what these figures mean in the lives of the ordinary people, with more food of all sorts available in shops and market-places.

The increased yields are the first results of the new system of planning in agriculture, in which initiative and decision were left to the collective and State farms with complete freedom to plan production as they thought best and not according to a central directive prepared in an office far removed from the farm.

Indian Election

NEW DELHI.

The second general election in India will start on February 24. The polling for the elections of 500 members to the House of the People and 3,102 to state legislative assemblies will last until mid-March, at the end of which month the results will be announced. The electorate this year totals about 193 million, about 20 million more than in 1952.

When Mr. Harold Macmillan, the British Prime Minister, gave his approval to the appointment, which means that General Speidel will be in command of a large number of British troops, 17 Labour Members of Parliament immediately tabled a motion in the House of Commons deploring his action.

The person who drafted the motion was Mr. Emmanuel Shinwell, a former Labour Minister of Defence, who two years ago had fought for German re-armament.

The seventeen M.P.s feel that it is intolerable that British soldiers should serve under General Speidel, who is notorious for his atrocities against the French Resistance movement and the destruction of hundreds of Soviet villages.

To add insult to injury an outrageous defence of Speidel's appointment was made by the West German Defence Minister, Herr Franz-Josef Strauss. Speaking in a television interview, he said "I believe that the appointment of a German General with experience on both the Western and Eastern fronts will be to the general benefit of all partners."

He continued that British M.P.s who were opposed to the appointment would realise "that the enemies of the last war are now allies, and that the allies of those days are not exactly allies today." The West German Government had nominated someone for the post "not because we were so eager to get a high position in NATO but because it was the wish of our allies," he added.

GERMAN INTELLIGENCE

The appointment of General Speidel was followed shortly by the announcement in Bonn that the

master-mind of Hitler's intelligence service in Eastern Europe during the war, Reinhard Gehlen, has been given a big new job.

He is to be known as "President of the Federal Intelligence Agency." For years Gehlen has been head of the biggest spy network in Europe and a close collaborator of the U.S. espionage service.

The announcement comes at a time when America and the Western Powers are returning with a rush to their cold war policies, and when reports of sabotage and espionage in Eastern Europe are increasing.

Gehlen's organisation is reputed to have 4,000 agents, mostly former members of the S.S. and the Nazi security service.

United States Interference In Laos

LONDON.

The Western embassies in Vientiane, Laos, are making frantic attempts to upset last month's agreement between the Royal Government and the Pathet Lao on the formation of a National Union Government, writes Australian correspondent Wilfred Burchett.

The agreement was signed after almost two months of negotiations between the Prime Minister and the head of the Pathet Lao forces. As in Cambodia last year, American threats include the old cry that they will cut off economic aid if Laos persists in a policy of neutrality and admits 'Communist' Pathet Lao elements into the Government. A steady flow of American arms is crossing the Mekong River at night and being distributed amongst elements who the Americans hope can be relied on for attempted coups.

The activities of the British Embassy staff are hardly less frantic and are particularly resented. British Ambassador Halliday has made himself thoroughly disliked for his flagrant intervention in internal Laotian affairs. Laotians point out that the British, as co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference, should be bound to respect the terms of the agreement which the International Commission unanimously approved this month.

The American position in Laos depends almost exclusively on the fact that they entirely finance the Royal Army, which they had hoped to integrate into SEATO.

Durban Speakers Remanded

DURBAN.

The six speakers who have been charged for addressing a meeting of the Civil Liberties Defence Fund in Durban on December 6, 1956, appeared in Court last week. They are Adv. H. Mall, Miss Florence Mkize, Dr. Hathorn, Mr. Selbourne Mponya, Mr. A. Paton and Prof. Kuper. No evidence was led and their case was adjourned to March 28 and 29.

NYASALAND OPPOSED TO WHITE DOMINATION

LONDON.

"WE do not want white domination and we want to rule ourselves. We welcome Europeans here to stay, but we want them to know that we shall not allow them to rule us," a Nyasaland African M.P. told the British Colonial Secretary during his recent trip to the Federation.

The M.P., Mr. Wellington Chirwa, told the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Lennox Boyd, that whatever the British Government might say to convince them that federation was a good thing, the Africans of Nyasaland would remain unconvinced and would get out of the Federation.

At a meeting with African members of the Nyasaland Legislative Council the Colonial Secretary insisted that federation was 'in the best interests of Nyasaland.' The

Africans present, however, pressed for the withdrawal of Nyasaland from the Federation in favour of union with Tanganyika and Uganda. They said that Federation was imposed against their wishes and that Nyasaland should be an African State.

After the meeting the African members issued a statement saying that they were extremely disappointed and remain unconvinced by Mr. Lennox Boyd.

The only concession which the Colonial Secretary was prepared to make was a tiny one—that the Legislative Council should be presided over by an unofficial speaker instead of the Governor. The reason given for this change by a European member of the Council was that it would lead to freer speaking and "avoid possible discourtesy to the Crown's representative."

CHINA AND HUNGARY IN AGREEMENT

LONDON.

FULL agreement between the Chinese and Hungarian Governments on the situation in Hungary has been expressed in a joint communique issued recently. The communique was issued after one-day talks between representatives of the Hungarian Government and a Chinese delegation of 25 headed by Mr. Chou En-lai, Prime Minister.

It states that the drive to eliminate mistakes within the framework of the People's Democratic regime developed into severe battles between the forces of the revolution

and the counter-revolution. The armed counter-revolution was smashed with the aid of the Soviet Union, says the communique, which goes on to condemn U.S. interference with Hungary's internal affairs.

Reforms In Germany

LONDON.

Sweeping local government reform giving locally-elected bodies far greater power and doing away with much red tape have been approved by the East German Parliament. Over four million citizens took part in discussions on the proposed reforms.

Protest Against Ban On Trade Unionists

CAPE TOWN.

The Food and Canning Workers' Union, affiliated to the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions, has protested in the strongest possible terms against the banning notices served on SACTU President Mr. Leon Levy and General Secretary Mr. Leslie Massina.

"In our opinion this is an unwarranted interference with their rights as individuals and as trade unionists and will create unrest and dissatisfaction among the 30,700 workers whom they represent," says the protest.

"We cannot understand how it is claimed that Mr. Levy and Mr. Massina are promoting feelings of hostility in the Union of South Africa between the European and Non-European inhabitants when they have, in all their articles and speeches, pleaded consistently for co-operation among all workers of all races.

"We feel that to ban them on the grounds of promoting hostility between Europeans and Non-Europeans is not in keeping with the facts and has penalised them for a crime they have not committed.

"On behalf of our members we demand the immediate withdrawal of these banning notices."

YUGOSLAVIA

Meanwhile the Hungarian Minister of Finance, Mr. Istvan Kosta, has declared at a public meeting that Hungary wishes to establish close and friendly relations with Yugoslavia.

"We hope our Yugoslav comrades will understand that under existing conditions we have acted as best we could and that they will believe us when we say we have broken forever with the policy of hostility pursued by Rakosi and Gero," he said.

"We have not kept a single vestige of our mistaken policy of the past and we want to establish the best possible relations with our Yugoslav sister." They did not accept in detail all the Yugoslav criticisms, he said, "not because we refuse to accept friendly advice, but because we know the situation in Hungary better than our friends."

RELATIONS WITH SOVIET

Mr. Kosta said that Soviet-Hungarian relations "should not be based on servility, on the adoration of a country because it happens to be a great power, nor on the copying of everything Soviet. The old state of things, when the negation of Western culture went with kowtowing to even the most second-rate products of Soviet culture, must never return. These two cultures must be equally represented.

"But we cannot approve the new fashion which consists in removing from the public eye all the products of Soviet culture," he added.

ALGERIANS ON GENERAL STRIKE FOR INDEPENDENCE

LONDON.

THE Algerian people have conducted a week-long general strike to focus world attention on their demands for independence while the status of their country was being discussed in the United Nations this week.

All Algerian industrial workers in all the main towns participated in the strike. Shopworkers and civil servants joined in too. Over the whole country it was estimated that 80% of the civil servants were on strike and 90% of the shops were shut.

In Algiers, the capital, following threats from the French military commandant, French troops went from shop to shop smashing in the doors to force them to open again.

Altogether 15,000 French troops and armed police remained on duty in Algiers, patrolling the streets. Armoured cars were stationed at crossroads and tanks blocked all the roads leading out of the city. Barbed-wire barricades ringed the Casbah quarter, where the Algerians are most densely crowded.

French troops and police had been specially reinforced for the occasion and a special helicopter force was put at their disposal for sudden movements against the Algerians.

Sixty thousand Algeria workers

in France came out in a sympathy strike.

MOLLET EMBARRASSED

The strike came at a time when the Mollet Government in France was doing everything it could to pretend that the Algerian question concerned it alone and that it was at last re-establishing order in Algeria, where for over two years French armed forces, now numbering over 300,000 have been at war with the Algerian patriots.

Mollet is finding himself more and more dependent on Right wing support in order to remain in office, so that he no longer puts forward even his limited plan for elections in Algeria for fear of alienating the arch-reactionaries. So far has he compromised himself that, according to the Paris correspondent of the London Times, the maximum agreement he can find amongst his followers is on three points:

"The need to do something in Algeria;
"No Algerian independence; and
"No interference from the United Nations or other Powers."

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SPOTLIGHT on SPORT by Robert Resha

SPORTSMEN SEEK FAME and FORTUNE OVERSEAS

FORMER national bantamweight champion, Louis Joshua, of Durban, left Cape Town in the 'Pretoria Castle' some two weeks back to campaign in Britain with a view to getting a crack at the Empire bantamweight title at present held by Scotland's Peter Keenan.

I don't rate Joshua's chances very much. He left South Africa with two defeats behind him. In December he lost the title to Saxton Mabena and two days before he left he was beaten by Peter Samuels of Leopold.

Apart from other factors, Joshua can be beaten by a clever fighter who can box. He is the rushing type of fighter who has practically no defence. With his style he is ready made to be taken by the British boys whose main weapon is a straight left all the time.

I wish Joshua all the luck nevertheless. He will need it.

Soccer Player

GERALD Francis, the 23-year-old South African Coloured inside forward, left Johannesburg last Sunday for Britain where he intends playing as a professional. Gerald, who plays for the famous Blackpool side in Johannesburg, first played for the Transvaal Coloureds in 1950 at the tender age of 17 years.

In 1953 he played as an inside forward in the Transvaal inter-race team that beat Natal. And it was during that year that he first played for the national Coloured team. He has never been dropped since and has played six times for the national Coloureds.

It is a pity that Francis has to undergo a trial period with Leeds, the English second division side, for there is no doubt that he is the best inside forward in South African soccer—black or white. Gerald Francis is at home in any position—except goal.

We wish him all the best.

Cricket Controversy

NOTICES have been sent out to members of the South African Cricket Board of Control inviting them to an important meeting of the Board, to take place in Johannes-

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burg on February 23 and 24. It is understood that only after this meeting will the public be informed whether the tour of our country by the Kenya team was a success or not.

It is rather unfortunate that the public has to wait for two months for this information. It is, however, clear that whether the tour was successful or otherwise, it revealed the weaknesses of the Federation.

To start with, the very foundation of the Federation was shaken by this tour. The long dispute between the Coloured and Malay Boards as to which was the Coloured Board was accentuated by the Kenya tour. Because this dispute was not settled the Coloured Board decided to pull out, but was later persuaded by the Cricket Board of Control to take part in the tour and settle the dispute afterwards.

STRONG CASE

In this dispute, on racial lines, that is, the Coloured Board has a strong case. For even although the aim and object of the Cricket Federation is to bring the various racial groups playing cricket into one solid body to administer cricket in this country, it set-out to work on racial lines.

After the African, Indian and Coloured Associations had affiliated, the Barnato Group, which is commonly known as the Malay Association, was asked to join the Federation. Because the affiliation to the Federation is on racial lines, the Group was advised to affiliate as Malays even though their Association accepts any cricketer irrespective of race or creed. This was the undoing of the Federation.

This matter will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting. It will certainly not be settled by begging the Barnato Group to accept the name Malay.

What is required today is a new approach and that means the scrapping of the Federation as an inter-racial body and the formation of one cricket organisation to cater for all cricketers.

JIMMY Elliott, who has been hailed by South African boxing writers as a brilliant middleweight boxer, was completely outclassed by the American middleweight, Jimmy Martinez in Johannesburg last week-end.

I have always liked Elliott's style of boxing. He is the clever type with a solid defence, but I have never thought that he was in the class of say, Joe Maseko.

Elliott beat McAteer, the Empire champion, in England last year. But that means nothing. British fighters have shown that with Empire titles and all that they just can't compare with Americans.

If Elliott wants to get anywhere let him take a trip to the tough school of America instead of meeting and beating British "softies."

THE NATIONALIST GOVT. WANTS A SHOWDOWN

I SUPPOSE I could write about the Flag Bill this week, but I won't. It was important only up to a point.

Most South Africans (White and Non-White), I think, would be happy to see the Union Jack, notorious symbol of British imperialism, disappear from South Africa. But Mr. Arthur Barlow, who introduced the Bill, had something else in mind.

Mr. Barlow's motion came in very handy for the Nationalists, who have two ends in view: an immediate one of embarrassing the United Party, and a long-term one of further extending their domination over all other groups—or, rather, of acquiring a symbol of yet another conquest.

That the U.P. was embarrassed, was plain. Mr. Lawrence's speech was a ponderous egg-dance. His unenviable task was to produce a standpoint which would offend neither the Nationalists, whom the U.P. is trying to woo, nor the old die-hards in English-speaking Natal: a standpoint acceptable to Piet and Frikkie, and also to the venerable ex-Senator G. Heaton Nicholls.

One Volk

That is one half of the story. The other half is that the Nats seized on the Flag Bill to promote their slogan that there is only one Volk in South Africa, and Mr. Strijdom is its prophet.

The Nationalists regard the abolition of the Union Jack and the institution of the Union Flag as the only flag, as a big step towards their republic, in which all things will be strictly republican. They are accepting the Union Flag, not because they like it (they detest it—particularly the little Union Jack in the middle), but because it establishes the principle of only one flag.

Mr. Strijdom made it quite clear that, as soon as this battle is won, the struggle can begin to throw out the Union Flag and introduce a flag truly representative of herrenvolkism.

If anyone had suggested in the debate (which they didn't) that the Non-Whites should be asked for their views, Mr. Strijdom probably would have looked at him as if he were mad. Mr. Strijdom does not believe it possible for Non-Whites to have feelings on these finer matters of flags and anthems.

I doubt whether Mr. Strijdom knows even that the ANC has a flag, although even he must have heard of Nkosi Sikelele Afrika! Never mind, Mr. Strijdom: the green, yellow and black of the ANC flag will flutter in the most unexpected places one day, and then you'll have plenty of time to study it.

Tut, tut, I said I would not talk about the Flag Bill, and here I go chattering away. My apologies.

Events Moving Fast

The Government's sudden decision to accept Mr. Barlow's Flag Bill is a sign that events are moving fast; the Nationalists are becoming impatient. Everyone thought that Mr. Barlow had planned the Flag Bill in consultation with the Nationalists, but it was not generally expected that Mr. Strijdom would accept it unconditionally and proceed with it right away.

THE NATIONALISTS QUITE OBVIOUSLY REGARD 1957 AS THE YEAR IN WHICH HERRENVOLK RULE MUST BE CONSOLIDATED.

The signs are everywhere: the arrogant attitude, savage attacks on critics of Nationalism, intensified police activity—all revealing a desire for a show-down.

When Senator Leslie Rubin introduced a motion in the Senate, protesting against the manner of the "treason" arrests, the Nationalist Senators staged a mass walk-out, and in reply, Mr. Swart "reacted angrily to Senator Rubin's request (for an inquiry), and accused him of being part of an organised attempt to undermine the authority of the police, and to tell the Non-Whites that the police were their enemies."

LOOKING AT PARLIAMENT

The walk-out, plus Mr. Swart's insulting attitude, reflect vividly the Nationalist mentality. They do not concede to Senator Rubin the right to air his unpopular views. They want to shut him up. These tactics of intimidation, of branding every critic of Nationalism as a traitor to South Africa, have already had the effect of muzzling the U.P.

The U.P. took up the same attitude in the "treason" arrests debate as it had done in the Assembly towards the bus boycott: it lacked "information" on the matter and therefore would refrain from discussing it. Again, one must ask—what information? The treason arrests were reported fully by most newspapers and plenty of details were furnished of individual arrests.

Intimidation

The campaign of intimidation by the Nationalists, using the police force as a branch of the Nationalist Party, is already one of the significant issues of 1957. In Parliament and out, a concerted attempt is being made to silence the Government's opponents and, where this proves impossible, to isolate and subject them to furious accusations of "incitement," "treachery" and "trouble-making."

It will be a year in which the courage of anti-Nationalists will be put to the test. I have no doubt what the answer will be outside Parliament—there is enough courage there to outlive ten Nationalist Governments. But inside Parliament, I fear, the spectacle will not be a pretty one.

The new Leader of the Opposition, Sir de Villiers Graaff, has shown himself in the past two weeks as even more right-wing, more ineffectual, more appeasement-minded than his predecessor, Mr. Strauss. It is a sign of the U.P.'s internal decay that it accepted the miscegenation provision

in the Immorality Bill without a murmur. There were no protests, as far as one can gather, by the so-called "liberals" in the party, and no word of reproach in U.P. circles outside Parliament.

Without even a tiny twinge of conscience, the U.P. crossed the floor to vote with the Nationalists on a principle which they had opposed hotly when it was first introduced in 1950.

The U.P., always an opportunistic body, has degenerated so fast this session (compelled by its policy of wooing Nationalists), that one must not expect even the irregular, unco-ordinated outbursts of defiance which marked previous sessions.

Responsibility

A heavy responsibility, therefore, falls on the Africans' Representatives and Labour M.P.s in the Assembly and Senate—they total 11. By disciplined teamwork, they can make an impact on Parliament, in spite of Mr. Strijdom's bulldozing tactics. But it means making use of every opportunity—and rigidly excluding opportunism.

No one should be misled by the Parliamentary Order Paper into thinking that this will be a mild session. It is not only the Bills that count. We have been plunged into a period which will be characterised by bitter struggle over basic rights, like freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Mr. Swart is striking swiftly and savagely. The anti-Nationalists must return blow for blow.

C.P.E.

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