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Dictatorship of the Proletariat Established at Galle Face

Mr. BANDARANAIKE WAS MID-WIFE TO MARXIST'S 2-HOUR GOVERNMENT—(By Our Own Correspondent)

THE island of Ceylon witnessed the establishment of a Dictatorship of the Proletariat at Galle Face Green last week when Comrade Bandakski kept his thundered promise to the people to form an alternative government to that of Premier Dudley Senanayake.

For two hours the new Government functioned. The new Ministers for Justice and Internal

Security were in action at once, and gave the Capitalist exploiters a lesson in absolute justice and stable government.

They amply demonstrated that Marx was right when he said that the workers had nothing to lose but their chains. The workers were free, joyously free! They celebrated their freedom by hugging their fellowmen who happened to be passing by. In their joy they invented novel methods of enjoyment.

They ripped joyously through the

tyres of passing cars, and the exploding tubes added greatly to the merriment.

Our comrades proved that in a workers' state cars don't need garages and it brought tears of inspiration to see the number of eager hands that helped to tear apart the old Capitalists' idea of protection for cars. And in their enthusiasm they threw the parts of the garage like confetti at pedestrians and even at fellow comrades.

A visiting couple from Great Britain was greeted with "hurrahs", and one of the Permanent Secretaries of the newly-liberated state, Comrade Chandiya (well-known for his famous formula for distilling pot-arrack) of Mariakkade, personally threw a playful brick at the

lady. She herself entered fully into the spirit of the thing and went off in a faint, while her husband shouted "Long Live the Revolution!"

All old scores were forgotten. It was touching to see the re-union between Comrades Philip and Colvin. When the former rose to speak, Comrade Colvin's joy knew no bounds. He promptly organized a demonstration.

Oh! the joy, the peace, the flower of the revolution.

In this scene of merriment only one thing was missing. That was that thing the midwife of the 2-hour Government, none other than our dear Comrade Bandakski who was earlier seen shedding tears of joy. He, being a modest, dear fellow, had quietly bolted!

NO FREEDOM TO INDULGE IN ROWDYISM

Premier's Pertinent Pointer

THESE are not for meetings. It certainly interferes with the freedom to indulge in rowdyism and the freedom of making a nuisance of oneself to the general public. But there is no restriction whatever for the holding of meetings for the expression of public views!"

This observation was made by the Prime Minister on a discussion which followed the reply to a question in Parliament regarding Police restrictions on permits for processions and demonstrations in Colombo. Certain general restrictions on permits when they are issued, were exempted. These were necessary to maintain law and orderliness and prevent the possibility of clashes with other users of the public high ways.

The Prime Minister gave the list of political parties who had been refused permits and there had been no discrimination for or against any party. The United National Party has been refused except for the Rally to be held once a year like the May Day Rally. Then the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Communist Party, the V.L.S.S.P., the N.L.S.S.F., the Labour Party, the Harbour Workers, Bank Clerks. A permit even for the commemoration of the late D. S. Senanayake was also refused.

In reply to certain observations made by the Member for Ruanwella about "peaceful demonstrations", the Prime Minister said:—

"The Hon. Member for Ruanwella speaks of peaceful processions. Let him realise that all this started with the procession that was far from peaceful, an occasion when they had a meeting in the Galle Face and thereafter nearly smashed up the dispensary of the Hon. Minister of Labour. Unfortunately, there was not enough of a Police force to pre-

vent them from indulging in rowdyism. Miles away the places of people who were totally unconnected with the meeting were smashed up. So since then there has been a control of this nature. They are perfectly free to have political meetings; nobody is seeking to control political meetings. These are not meetings. It certainly interferes with the freedom to indulge in rowdyism and the freedom of making a nuisance of oneself to the general public."

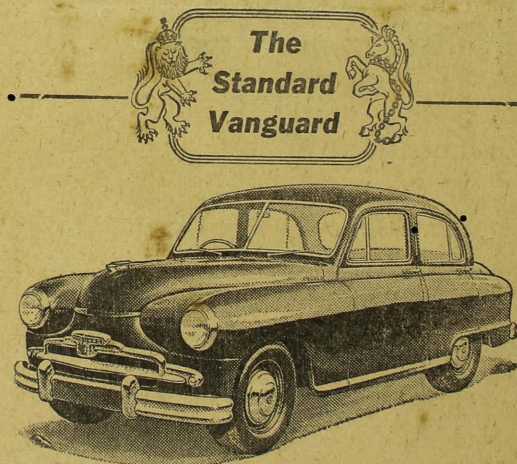
A CASE IN POINT

The observations made by the Prime Minister about the "peaceful processions" which the Member for Ruanwella defended, found confirmation on Thursday at the monster meeting held on Galle Face ended in a wave of hooliganism, and resulted in a great deal of damage to property—boutiques, shops and vehicles with passengers in them.

The Prime Minister has taken strong measures to stop repetition of similar outbreaks and vulgar displays. In his capacity as Minister in charge of Defence, in whom the control of Galle Face is vested, he has, as a precautionary measure, decided to ban all meetings—both political and religious—on Galle Face Green, for a period of three months.

In the Senate, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke in reply to a question by a Senator in regard to this wave of hooliganism, said that in a democratic country, the Opposition, the right of free speech, the right of public meeting, was far more important than it was to the Government of the day. He asked the Opposition to share the responsibility of seeing that the right of free speech did not end in hooliganism. In conclusion he added:

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Finance Minister Presents Austerity Budget for 1953-54

THE Minister of Finance presented his Austerity Budget for 1953-54 in the House of Representatives on Thursday, the 23rd instant, in a speech which lasted one hour and forty minutes. In moving the second reading said that the estimates of expenditure financed from current revenue for the financial year totalled Rs. 791.8 million, and the estimates of revenue from existing sources for the same period amounted to Rs. 865.5 million. Loan fund expenditure was estimated at Rs. 241.7 million. He asked the House to consent to a total expenditure of Rs. 1,033.5 million. He observed that on the expenditure chargeable to current revenue there would be a surplus of Rs. 73.7 million and when loan fund expenditure was taken to account, they would find an over-all deficit of Rs. 168 million. He prefaced this with a review of the fiscal and monetary measures adopted by the Government during the last five years. It was a comprehensive analysis of the financial position of the country and the problems now facing it as a result of the reduction in the national income; following the downward trend of world prices for Ceylon's export commodities.

NEW REVENUE PROPOSALS

The new revenue proposals to

bring in Rs. 88.4 million are as follows:—

1. Higher taxes on large income earners.
2. Comprehensive revisions of import duties—luxuries and semi-essentials.
3. Increased Bank rate: The Central Bank rate goes up from 2½ per cent. to 3 per cent.
4. A public loan of Rs. 80 million to be floated from August 1 to help finance the overall gap of Rs. 82.6 million (left after the new revenue proposals).
5. Termination of tax relief for building small houses.
6. More generous tax relief for individuals and companies engaged in new industrial enterprises and new agricultural undertakings.

FIRST RE-ACTIONS

It would appear that the first reactions for the Budget revenue are favourable. The Chairman of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce has observed that a "drastic situation needed drastic steps" and the Government had met the situation "but" he added "the Government did not appear to have been well advised financially in the past."

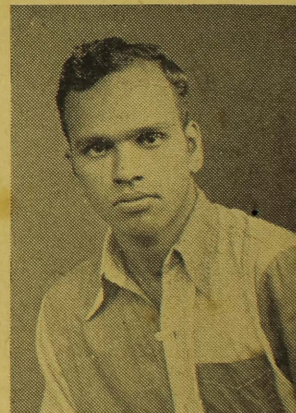
"About 18 months ago practical bankers and practical businessmen could have warned the Government that this situation was likely to develop and steps could have been taken to prevent the necessity for such a drastic budget."

INVITED FOR SOCCER TRIALS

N. Nallavelu, U.N.P. Youth Leaguer, has been invited for the soccer trials held by the Ceylon Football Association. A soccer team will be taken to Burma to participate in the Quadrangular Tournament. He is the only player from Trincomalee who has been invited for the first trial match, in Colombo. He hails from the Trinco United Sports Club and was its Soccer Captain in 1951 and 1952. He has played in representative games such as the C.F.A. Competition and the Inter District Tournaments since the inception of these two competitions. He was the Vice-Captain of the Inter District Soccer eleven (Trinco) this year (1953). He is the "Star" Right Half in Trincomalee.

He is a regular member of the Departmental team — S.N.S.O. He was one of the Asiatics selected to represent the Royal Naval Yard

tournament. He has a bright future before him in the field of sports.



Mr. N. Nallavelu



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SOME REFLECTIONS ON PLANNING

By T. M. G. Samat

FINANCIAL history should be recorded in this Island when the 3 cost accountants under the Colombo Plan Technical Co-operation for South-East Asia arrive in our midst and set about tackling our problems.

The event however is more likely to receive less attention than the arrival of Ralph Keene. I say so to give a general idea of how much or rather how little management accounting is appreciated in most circles here as representing a new and specialised field of general accounting.

Is Ceylon able to provide organisation machinery by means of which an industrial group or a business group could be controlled by its management? Certainly not in most cases. In a few cases where it does it has to come from directions in London so far away from the concentration of the business!

Objective control upon modern lines is of vital importance to the nation. Incidentally it is a subject on which an article by the writer appeared on 5th June in the columns of this journal. Probably if there was more of objective control our industries could be in a better position than now with raw material available at such high levels with consumption assured by the insatiable needs of the nation for consumer goods.

In this Island objective control should concern most the lack of close relation between money in capital tied up and availability of material and skilled labour. Trouble here would result in damage to productivity and when this happens

with a balance of payments problem the damage can be considerable. An examination on this aspect would reveal how idle capacity could cause injury to the economic structure of the country. Where initial capacity installed has been inadequate the concern has been faced by the necessity for expansion of capacity resulting in dislocation and expense. Where initial capacity installed has been too much the concern has been burdened with cost of idle capacity hanging like a millstone round the neck.

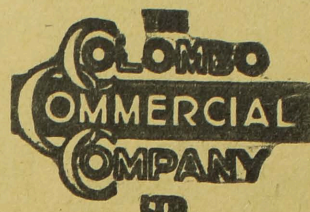
In consequence contracted dates need extensions and capital has to be expanded and laid on for longer periods than originally contemplated.

All this would mean that detailed planning of future operations and checking of progress should be in the hands of management accounting outside the field of general accounting. It is vital in the interest and welfare of the country.

Government has already set up a functional branch more or less on these lines called "O and M"—Organisational and Methods branch. Its purpose is to watch organisation and administration methods in order to increase turnover and remove defects and inefficiencies. The branch keeps in touch with all developments in the field of organisation including mechanical facilities. Development on these principles and some procedure for their general application could benefit industry and general works considerably by increasing productivity, reducing waste and helping to recover from the balance of payments difficulties. This is a point that should receive the attention of the 3 cost accountants whose arrival in this Island is awaited.

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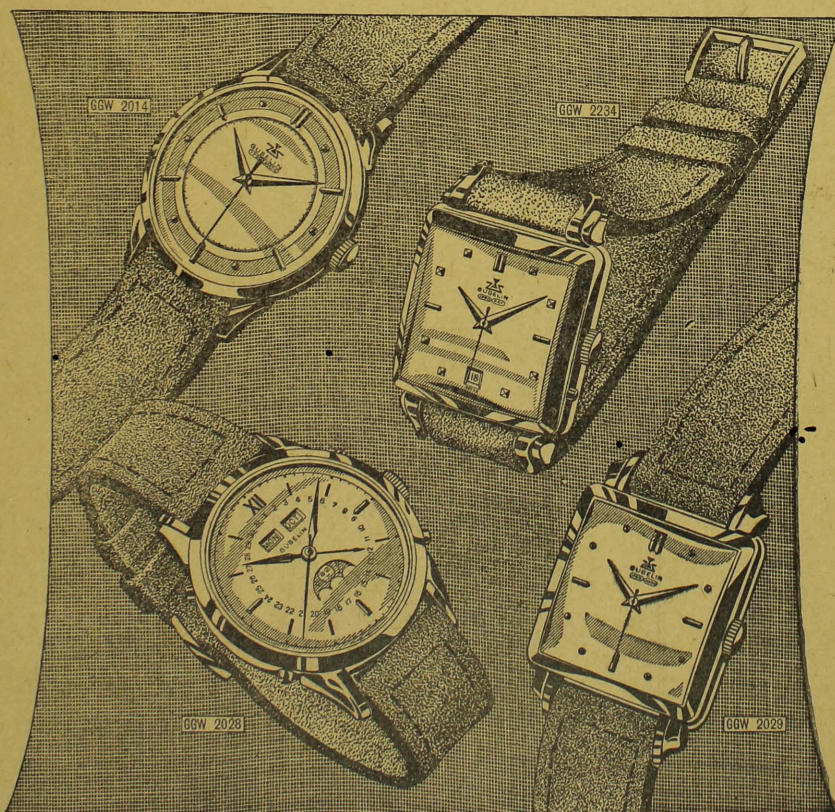
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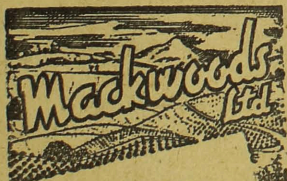
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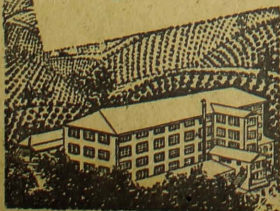


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Friday, July 31, 1953

MR. BANDARANAIKE

Mr. Bandaranaike moans the lack of public regard in Ceylon for the position of the Leader of the Opposition. He has now realized partially what he expounded in this column early this year when we wrote an Editorial on one of Mr. Bandaranaike's speeches in Parliament. We warned him that if he did not maintain strict regard for Parliamentary institutions and the democratic forms of Government he would be classed with the rest of the bunch of third-rate agitators. We warned him that he had it in him to destroy himself as he has always done by vacillation, by the week-kneed, doddering frailty of a man afraid of those who shout. With all his classical learning, his unrivalled gifts of the mind, his oratorical genius, he has allowed himself to be used as a pawn in the Leftist game in Ceylon. Much was expected of him and he had, as none else, a meteoric rise. But he dissipated his energies, he behaved like a spoilt child and allowed ambition to mock his useful toil. People have forgiven him much but they cannot forgive him always. We certainly cannot forgive the waverer who allows himself to be led and is frightened to lead. People know now that he roars like a lion when his Leftist friends collect a huge crowd by their combined presence on a platform and he lords it over them all, but they also know that he is afraid to dare hold a rally by himself. The truth today is that this Mr. S. W. R. Dias Bandaranaike, (ex-Secretary and President, Ceylon National Congress, ex-President, Ceylon Liberal League, ex-President, Sinhala Maha Sabha, ex-Vice-President, U.N.P., and now President of his S.E.L.F. Party), cannot get a crowd at Galle Face Green on his own. And he certainly will not dare face a Galle Face crowd and tell them he is opposed to Marxism. That is the tragic situation into which he has propelled himself. To join him today is to join the reds. To join him today is to be an agent of the enemies of democracy. To join him is to clutch at a straw in a current in a river in spate.

He cannot expect people to

forget that he raised the issues of religion and language, both picked on for their vote-catching values. And then, instead of staying steadfast and constant, he quickly changed his stand and compromised on these issues when he analysed the electoral map and found that there these cries would immediately lose for him the whole of the northern and eastern provinces; all the Muslim votes; one-third even of the Sinhalese, apart from the U.N.P. fortresses of Dodangaslanda, Dedigama, Wattegama, etc. numbering nearly twenty, which stand up to the stoutest battering.

That change of front was only the beginning. And from then on he has been in the hands of the Marxists who find him temporarily useful and will soon throw him out when his role has ceased to be of use.

MISSION TO INDIA

AGAIN it has happened. The "Times of India" publishes a report from its Ceylon Correspondent stating that this country has adopted a new "Get Tough" Policy against Indians in pursuit of which 400 Indian fishermen have been arrested for deportation.

The "Daily News" publishes an interview with an official in the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs about this. The official says the "Times of India" report is an "inaccurate and mischievous" one.

That is all that has been done. Now, we suppose, everybody is happy, and the damage has been repaired!

Surely, the Defence and External Affairs Ministry realizes that all this information is unnecessary for local consumption. Surely every Ceylon schoolboy knows the Government's policy with regard to Indians. Does the Ministry expect to buy thousands of copies of "The Daily News" and distribute it all over India?

The situation must be terribly bad if even the "Times of India" gets the Ceylon situation wrong. It is India's best informed paper and its Editor was one who lived in Ceylon for three years. Several months ago we suggested that the Information Officer could be gainfully employed if he were sent on a mission to India so that he could meet the journalists in charge of news desks and Editors of newspapers. It takes a man of Mr. Hulugalle's know-how to do this. We earnestly hope that some portentous "official" will not be entrusted with this delicate mission.

U.N.P. Women's Branch in Pungudutivu

MR. V. Carthigesu addressed a public meeting at Pungudutivu Kayts Constituency in the Northern Province, and organised a Women's Branch Association at Pungudutivu. He explained the policy of the party and the principles for which the party stood. He advised the people to take lively interest in promoting those principles. It was up to the

people to loyally support and maintain the good work done for the economic welfare of the country.

The following office-bearers were selected:—President: Mrs. K. Ambalavanar; Vice-President: Mrs. S. Murugesu; Hony. Secretary: Mrs. Amirthagowri Carthigesu; Treasurer: Mrs. N. Ratnagopal and a Committee of seven members.

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Mediocrity Better Than Genius Sometimes

Says Eardley Gunasekera

AT a time when the world is simmering in political turbulence, it is appropriate that we should remember that the tussle is between Communism on the one hand and Democracy on the other. It is our option to choose between these two and this option is moulded and directed by our knowledge of them.

Communism is a class struggle whereby it is sought to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat. This is not all. It believes that all solutions are for the common good. It must be admitted that in theory a number of Communistic conceptions as Marx put them down are commendable but what must be deplored is that in theory they are unworkable.

Democracy on the other hand is a system of government by which everyone has the opportunity of ventilating personal opinions. It realises that the world is something heterogeneous, something having a diversity of complexion. The individual and the sanctity of personality is nourished. For all practical purposes therefore let us assume that it is a government of the people, by the people and for the people though no system of government can be built on a system of prepositions. Democracy is more than that.

If this definition is accepted and the idea of the heterogeneity of the world is accepted, there is no difficulty in realising that there are more individuals of the common clay than those possessing exemplary qualities of mind and body. It is here that the principle of mediocrity and genius comes into operation. A peep into the street, the bus, train, hotel and all over we see

individuals engaged in the ordinary duties of everyday life. It is they who form a government in a democracy. A variety of activities ranging from street sweeping to high grade specialised intellectual work is involved.

It would then be appreciated more to have in our legislatures individuals who are mediocre. This is only a proposition and those responsible for guiding the destinies of the people need not have the rare characteristics of a genius. What is required is the ability to understand the difficulties of the common man, to understand his taste and his nature. Having found such a person then, the solutions to these problems would be more effective than those of a genius. Democratic legislatures must be so composed as to be a replica of the people it represents. By people it is not meant individuals whose qualities are par excellence. If we succeed in having in our legislatures representatives with a practical sagacity and a faculty of judgment and compromise we would have achieved much. In a democracy these are more valuable than educational qualifications and superior intellectual attainments.

There is certainly no intention to exclude from our legislatures the services of a genius. On the contrary a democracy will be the poorer if this were to be done. It will be deprived of a source of unimpeachable thought if this were to happen. A democracy has much to gain from the services of a genius but an influx of them in democratic legislatures may turn out to be an impediment to progress. It is impossible to fix the proportions of mediocrities and geniuses but it could be safely assumed that though a mediocrity is sometimes better than a genius mediocre thought and action must always be tempered with that of the genius.

The Fallacy of Communism

By A. G. G. Perera

COMMUNISM has become a worldwide movement; it is on everybody's lips. Some shun it like the devil, while others embrace it avidly. It cannot be denied that it has acquired considerable moral and political power in the world. The ethics of Communism appeal spontaneously to the idealism of youth and have even touched the hearts of kings.

The dictatorship or the proletariat or the working class is primarily a dictatorship and therefore cannot be democratic at the same time. The people merely become the obedient tools of the ruling clique at the top.

A Communist state is the creation of a minority overthrowing a majority by force. If the appeal of Communism is able to convince the majority a conflict and bloodshed will not be necessary but experience in the past has shown that Communism is not possible without a bloody conflict. The will of the minority (i.e. the Communist Party) cannot prevail over the majority unless by open conflict and force is the only weapon through which Communism can be achieved.

In the name of Communism workers of the world unite only to usher in a regime where even the little freedom they have in a capitalist set up is lost. What they win is a world where they become merely the tools, the willing workers under a Communist hierarchy. I certainly do not hold a brief for Capitalism. The evils of Capitalism often make democracy a farce, but Communism is no answer to Capitalism. The alternative path on the other hand seems to lie through effective Socialism, where

a truly socialist welfare state can be achieved without bloodshed according to the wishes of the majority. If Capitalist democracy is bad, Communism is worse.

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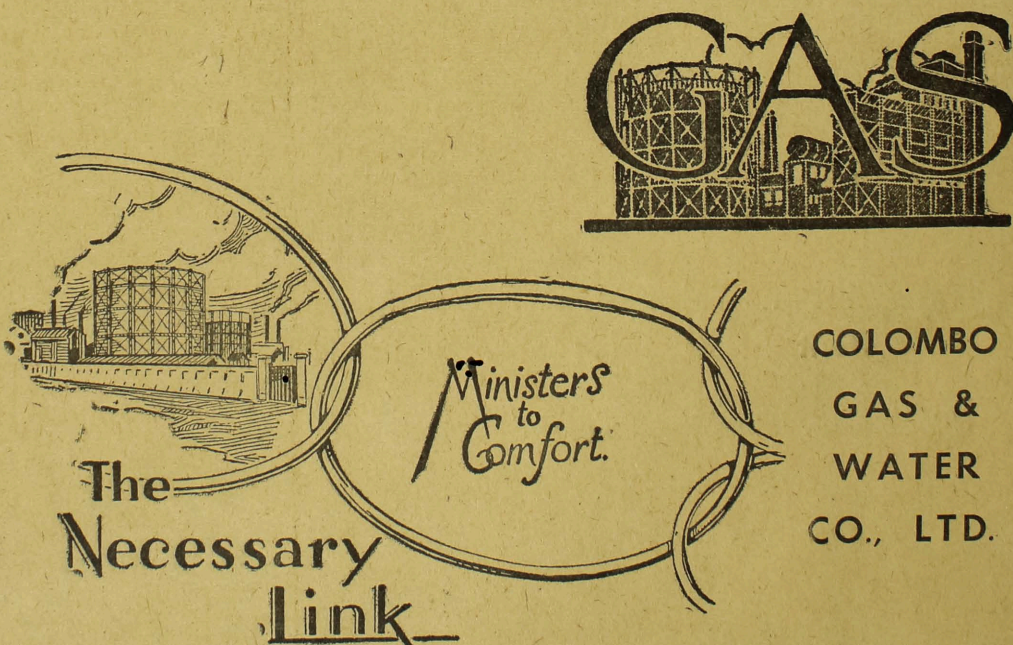
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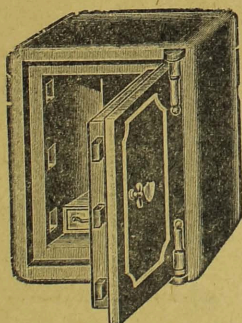
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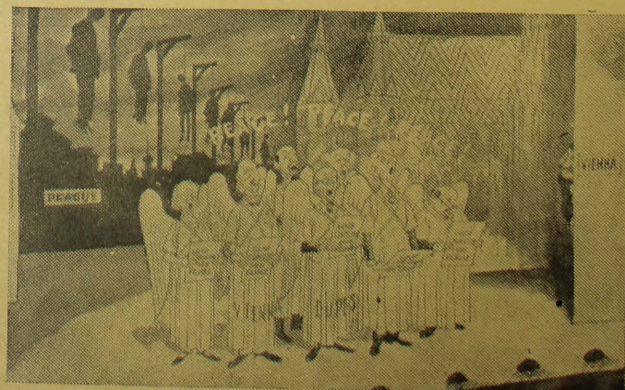
By Stanley Morrison

ONE has only to contrast the conduct of the Opposition in England with that of the Opposition in Ceylon in time of austerity to realise what a difference there is between the national self-discipline of the two countries. Apart from the disgraceful scenes enacted on Galle Face last Thursday, the persistence with which leaders of the Opposition blind themselves to the financial plight of the country and clamour for a "soak-the-rich budget", which they know cannot by itself solve our financial difficulties, all this is a sad commentary on the political irresponsibility of our Opposition leaders. This lack of responsibility on their part is a grave drawback in a young dominion which is held up as a model to the rest of Asia. Can such an Opposition be trusted to form a Government?

And the really clever Budget which the Finance Minister has framed to meet a very difficult situation proves up to the hilt the utter futility of the nostrums proposed by the Opposition for curing our economic ills. Despite the fact that he has increased the taxes on the rich to a dangerous point (dangerous in the sense that it might discourage the spirit of enterprise) the Finance Minister has (from such taxes on the rich) hopes of raising fresh revenue, which, however, falls far short of the sum he will save by removing the food subsidies. The public clamour raised by those gentlemen who want still higher taxes on the rich can (it will be seen) only have the effect of drying up those sources from which the Government desires to raise loans and from which the capital for badly needed new industrial and agricultural enterprises must come. A "soak-the-rich" policy, therefore, is a mere vote-catching stunt, which is calculated to appeal to the masses. The fact that such a cry has been well received by the masses as well as the thoughtless sections of the middle class only proves that one of the most urgent needs of Ceylon is adult classes for the political education of the masses. In England the "soak-the-rich" cry has lost its appeal after the pathetic manner in which the last Labour Government handled its financial problems. The continued strength of the present Tory Government is directly due to the quiet efficiency with which it restored the financial solvency of Britain and thus made Britain more independent of American aid. It was a Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. R. A. Butler, who coined the phrase "trade not aid," which is today the hallmark of Britain's independence. On political sphere, Sir Winston Churchill was not ashamed to go cap in hand to the Americans for financial assistance. Besides, even in the political sphere, Sir Winston Churchill's Government has exercised a

far stronger influence on Washington than the government of Mr. Attlee. After all, it was the weakness of the Labour Government which acquiesced in General MacArthur's advance to the Yalu River, which brought the Chinese into the Korean war and complicated it almost beyond repair.

Now, the point I wish to make is that right through the post-war years the British people have born an amazing series of hardships without serious complaint and without indulging in acts of hooliganism, while they have turned a deaf ear to those opportunist politicians whose siren voices allure them vainly into courses of conduct which would spell financial disaster for Britain. Hence, Britain today is financially strong again and she is once more in the vanguard of the Democratic leadership—checking America when that inexperienced country makes the wrong moves in the international political field. It would be idle to expect Ceylon ever to play a leading part by her influence in international affairs respecting Asia if the Government is handicapped by the unscrupulous tactics of an Opposition which cannot rise above the necessity of making political capital of the Government's difficulties. Today it should be clear as daylight (whether due to the mistakes of the past or to the colossal rise in the prices of imported rice and other foods or both) that unless the whole country pulled together and stopped strikes and demonstrations which would gravely hamper the whole community and not the Government only, then Ceylon will be heading for chaos. And chaos would mean only one thing—the loss of our independence. After all, nobody denies that the Government has made mistakes in the past. What government has not made such mistakes? During the tenure of office of the last Labour Government of Britain that country was on the verge of bankruptcy. But now it is useless crying over spilt milk. It is everyone's patriotic duty to stand by the Government so that the country can survive its present difficulties. Strikes and demonstrations that hold up the country's economic activity will only increase those difficulties. And above all, the best way of overcoming the higher prices the people now have to pay for their food would be for people to work harder and cultivate any kind of food on every bare piece of land. A great deal of our difficulties is due to our stupid reliance on a rice diet whereas a large part of our food requirements would be met if the people would accustom themselves to consuming manioc, sweet yams, maize, green gram, etc. The Government cannot do everything. It would be a dreadful training in democracy for the people if they can only survive by perpetual appeals to the Government for spoon-feeding on an ever larger scale. The spirit of self-help is sadly lacking in this country. A people with self-respect would not go on asking the Government to do everything for them.



Strange Back Cloth

The Red Network in the United Kingdom THE MACHINERY IN ACTION

By John Baker White

(Continued)

NOT all the direct or indirect interferences of the Soviet Government in British domestic affairs follow this detailed pattern. Mention has already been made of the acrobatic exercises of the British Communist Party between 1939 and 1945, and there are many others. But this study of Soviet policy may conclude with a short analysis by which we may see how a decision taken in the Kremlin is put into effect in the United Kingdom and reaches the ordinary citizen, and how an attempt is made to exploit his or her reaction to it.

In 1948, the Soviet Government launched its "peace" campaign, the object being to show the interests of world peace to be identical with the policies pursued by the Soviet Government. This campaign was made the central theme of Communist activity throughout the world, and in its various developments it remains so up to the present. We can now trace the organization and administration of a single operation within that campaign, namely the Stockholm peace appeal.

Early in 1950 a decision was taken in the Soviet Politburo on the advice of its propaganda experts to launch a campaign for collecting signatures for a document to be drafted in such a way as to imply that the United States' possession of the atomic bomb was the sole menace to world peace. The Soviet machine's main representatives on the World Peace Council, Padayev and Gulayev, having briefed the Communist Party majority on the Council, summoned a plenary committee meeting of the World Peace Council which met and issued the appeal as its main resolution in Stockholm on 15th March, 1950. The final draft of the appeal as eventually circulated read:—

"We demand the total banning of the atomic weapon, the arm of terror and the mass extermination of populations.

"We demand the establishment of strict international control to ensure the implementation of the ban.

"We consider that any government which first uses the atomic weapon against any country whatsoever would be committing a crime against humanity and should be dealt with as a war criminal."

"We call on all men of good will to sign this appeal."

It will be noticed that while the appeal was presented as a solution to the question of world peace, in fact it said nothing about peace or war or about aggression, but concentrated entirely upon the atomic bomb; further, it made no mention of the fact that a workable plan for the abolition of the atomic bomb and the international control of atomic energy had been voted for by a majority of the United Nations and vetoed by the Soviet Union.

The other international organizations controlled by the Communists immediately took up and supported the appeal and urged their members to sign and obtain signatures for it.

The World Peace Council passed on its instructions to its British subsidiary, the British Peace Committee, which began to organise a campaign for signatures in this country. The British representatives of the other Communist-controlled international organizations did the same.

These international organizations, though charged with the public conduct of the campaign, and though receiving their instructions from their own channels, are nevertheless, as has been shown, merely subsidiaries of the Communist parties. And meanwhile, the Communist parties themselves had received their instructions: the Cominform Journal of 24th March, 1950, gave its own public instructions to them. The national executive committee of the

British Communist Party instructed its branches in the conduct of the campaign and they provided the actual organization, in persons and material, necessary for it. At the same time it organized the sending of suitable letters to the press.

In the towns of Britain local "peace" committees were set up as branches of the British Peace Committee, to be, officially, the bodies for organizing the collection of signatures. In practice this task fell on the members of the Communist Party branches under their own Party orders.

To take one known example, typical of many, a London branch of the Party began to send its members out with sheets of paper with the "appeal" printed at the top, about the middle of April, 1950. Their main method of operation was to attempt to get persons at their places of employment to sign the document, and also to go from door to door calling on people whom they thought might prove susceptible and be willing to sign.

On the afternoon of 18th May, two months after the launching of the appeal in Stockholm, a young woman member of the Communist Party knocked on the door of a house in a London street and asked the housewife to sign. She knew nothing of the organization and plans behind the campaign, nor that the young woman was a Communist. The caller merely told her that she represented the British Peace Committee, of which the housewife had heard very little, and showed her the appeal, asking her to sign if she was against war and the atomic bomb. Like most people the housewife was against these things and, like many others, she was persuaded to sign the paper.

In Great Britain some 1,300,000 signatures were said to have been obtained by such methods, and from the world as a whole several hundred million signatures were claimed by the World Peace Council. It is true that a very large proportion of these came from citizens of Communist countries who had no option but to sign, and that a number of signatures in such countries were fraudulent. In China more than 344 million were claimed (Cominform Journal of 11th January, 1952). The population of China in 1947 was about 471 million, men, women and children.

The Communist Party branches sent their collections of signatures to the British Peace Committee, which forwarded them all to the World Peace Council. This Council then announced the number of signatures. It went on to claim, as did the Soviet press and all organs of the Communist Government everywhere, that these signatures represented a vote by the peoples of the world in favour of Soviet policy. Thus the unsuspecting housewife's signature, which indicated no more than the desire for peace, was used, with millions of others, to support the action of those who shortly afterwards launched the war in Korea. And all those signatures were used by Communist propagandists to attempt to persuade the Western governments that their policy of self-defence and co-operation with America was contrary to the will of their peoples who desired peace and co-operation with the Soviet Union, i.e., peace on Soviet terms.

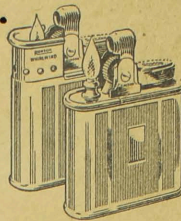
The Stockholm appeal was followed in May, 1951, by a precisely similar campaign for a "Five-Power Pact". The technique was the same and the basis of the appeal—disingenuous generalities of a peaceful-sounding nature—was similar. But this campaign had considerably less success, largely owing to the exposure of the previous one. Even so, there remained in Great Britain some people whose goodwill could still be exploited by the Communists, not merely to the extent of their signing the appeal, but even in numbers of cases of their actively supporting the campaign.

(To be continued)



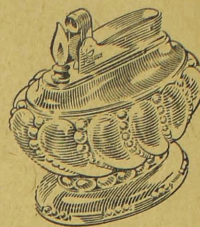
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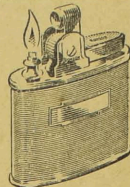
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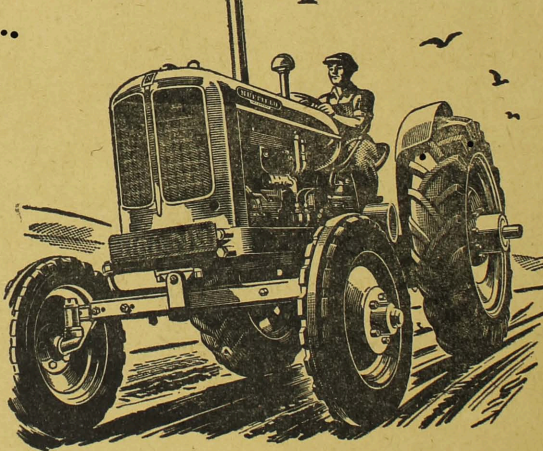
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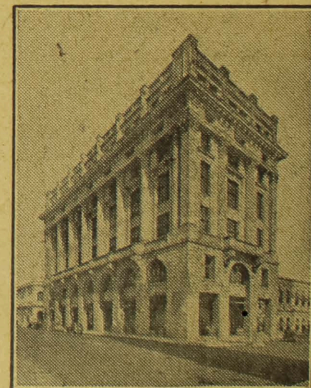
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