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UNCTAD - will it be words or deeds?



Editorials

Indira's "red" letter day

A VILLAGER visiting New Delhi for the Republic Day parade should be forgiven for thinking it was in honour of our friends from Russia and Yugoslavia rather than a tribute to India's national heritage. From the moment President Tito, accompanying President Husain in the state coach, arrived at the saluting base to join Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin, Mrs Gandhi did her best to turn the occasion into a "red" letter day.

The villager would not know that last November Mrs Gandhi was the only non-Communist head of government at the 50th anniversary celebrations in Moscow.

When Mr Kosgygin tells a Delhi civic reception that Indo-Soviet friendship "cannot be shaken by circumstances", Mrs Gandhi should brush up on her late father's speeches of ten years ago about China.

If non-alignment means anything she would not have tolerated Mr Kosygin's blatant public support for North Vietnam against South Vietnam in a country which, as Chairman of the International Control Commission, is supposed to be, at least officially, impartial.

Instead of humbug communiques stressing India's and Yugoslavia's support for Cambodia's right to resist foreign incursions (obviously directed towards anti-Communist troops in South Vietnam), Mrs Gandhi might respond to the call by both Cambodia and the United States to reactivate the ICC so that all incursions—Communist or anti-Communist—are resisted.

Those who warn against Russia's wooing of India as a further step in her expansion south and east may prove to be the wisest patriots.

What price language?

There was a young lady of Riga, Who rode with a smile on a tiger; They returned from the ride With the lady inside,

And a smile on the face of the tiger.

EXTREMISTS in the DMK appear to be forcing the hand of Madras Chief Minister Annadurai. He is riding a tiger. Last week his Government resolved to eliminate the use of Hindi in all high schools of the State and to suspend the National Cadet Corps unless its commands were switched from Hindi to Tamil. A few days earlier he advised the Deputy PM not to land in Madras in view of the anti-Hindi feelings of his people.

Now neighbouring Mysore's Chief Minister, Mr Nijalingappa, alleges that the outburst of violence in Bangalore on Morarji Desai's visit and consequent rioting and arson was conducted by elements from outside Mysore State. His accusing finger points to DMK volunteers from Madras.

If Mr Nijalingappa is to be believed, the tactics of the DMK may recoil on the large Tamil-speaking population settled in Mysore

settled in Mysore.

Mr Annadurai keeps reassuring New Delhi he does not want secession. But what will be the result of his Government's policies and his Party's tactics? There may still be time for him to extricate himself.

Which way UNCTAD?

IF NUMBERS, effort and preparation could guarantee success, the second United Nations Conference on Trade and Development opening in New Delhi, February 1, cannot fail. Six hundred of the UNCTAD Secretariat in Geneva have flown to assist delegates.

Some predict that a "Magna Carta for developing nations" could be the result. Figures on trade balances of developing countries are alarming in spite of aid (see *Antenna*, page 5). They naturally want more trade but many seem to overlook that to narrow down issues to one of rich and poor nations does not go to the heart

of the problem.

Beyond all questions of increased technical aid, preferential tariffs, etc. there are two basic questions which delegates will have to answer. First, how do you deal with individual, national and even regional selfishness? Secondly, how can men find hope that a new society can be created? Without such hope every attempt to speed up material development will be illusory.

That this important conference is being held in India is no accident. Many may ask what will UNCTAD do for India? But what will India do for UNCTAD?

Indian Ocean volcano

It is ironic that less than a week after the announcement of speeded British withdrawal East of Suez, troops from Singapore should be flown to Mauritius, at the request of Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, to help restore order. At least 17 people had died in gang wars.

Over-population complicated by communal differences underlie Mauritius' troubles, of which the present riots between teenage gangs of Creoles and Muslims are a symptom. To maintain living standards among its growing population (half of whom are under 17) Mauritius must increase production of sugar, its only export. But

the island's small size puts a ceiling on what can be produced and this has nearly been reached. Rising food prices, 15 per cent unemployment and fear of the future aggravate tensions among Mauritius' 390,000 Hindus, 230,000 Muslims and 224,000 others (Creoles, Europeans and Chinese).

As it attains independence on March 12 this year the prospects before Mauritius look bleak. Generous aid, emigration and a search for fresh sources of income, perhaps from tourism, appear to be necessities. One essential is that Mauritians face the future together.

Briefly Speaking... Briefly Speaking...

It is easy to love humanity. It is your neighbour that is so hard to

Sensible

THE Govérnment of India's decision to issue visas to South African delegates to the UNCTAD conference is a sensible one. Distasteful though South Africa's apartheid policies may be, she is a strong industrialised nation which does give considerable aid to African states of southern Africa such as Malawi. Today even capitalist and Communist countries sit down to discuss many issues. The idea that because one disagrees with a nation's policies one should treat it like an international leper is untenable.

Monetary magicians

MONETARY experts of the "ten richest nations" have been meeting in Paris to draw up a scheme to increase the



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world's monetary resources. The scheme was approved in principle by the International Monetary Fund last September. Their efforts remind Birbal of the mediaeval alchemists' search for the "philosopher's stone" that would turn all it touched into gold. From earliest times men have sought ways to create wealth without work. Yet till the present, Kipling's axiom still stands: If you don't work you die!

Birbal wishes the monetary wizards better luck than the alchemists and, for the record, lists the "group of ten" richest non-Communist nations: USA, UK, France, Canada, Belgium, West Germany, Italy, Holland, Sweden and Japan.

Empire builders

Following an investigation of the A survey by the Pacific Area Travel causes of Eygpt's military debacle last June, President Nasser is said to have exclaimed, "My God, they (his senior officers) have built empires in the army!" Now, under the stern supervision of some 6000 Russian military experts, the Egyptian army is being rebuilt and its officer corps reoriented. Shades of Lord Cromer! (The British "advisor" who became virtual ruler of Egypt.) Who is. building empires now?

Mercenaries

PERSIAN GULF sheikhs offered Britain £25 million annually to keep her forces in the area after 1971, according to reliable sources. But the British Government refused the offer although it is trying to get West Germany to pay more for the up-keep of its 50,000 troops there. Evidently the UK Government has no objection to its troops being mercenaries—so long as they quit their East-of-Suez commitments.

Writers' protest

THE trial and imprisonment of Russian writers Daniel and Sinyavsky aroused worldwide protests - even from devout Communists. Recently 550 American writers sent a petition to the Soviet Embassy in Washington asking for their release. The trial last month of four more young Russian intellectuals evoked a similar

wave of protests. Mr Kosygin, on his travels abroad, may talk of "resisting imperialism", but at home, his Government seems to be tightening the screws on freedom of speech and

Stupid!

Seven ships carrying coal from China and Poland are arriving shortly in Chittagong, states a release put out by the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. What stupidity that Pakistan should have to import coal from countries thousands of miles away while mines in India are shutting down for lack of business!

No return

Association shows that 49 per cent of US tourists who have been to India would not come back or recommend their friends to go there. The reason was their unpleasant experiences on past visits. Something for every Indian - and not only the Tourist Minister — to think about.

Birbal

Is tomorrow as secure as today?

No-one can say

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FROM THE CAPITAL

Will second UNCTAD only produce words?

by ANTENNA

NEW DELHI On the two-month-long second United Nations Conference The industrial nations, with less on Trade and Development, which opens here on February I, are centred -than a third of the world's populathe hopes and aspirations of the entire developing world in building up their tion, command four and a half times economic sinews not through external aid but through a larger slice of inter- more exports in primary products

anywhere in the world under UN their primary products at home auspices. It will attempt to draft a instead of conserving them for programme for implementing the foreign markets. decisions taken at the first meeting four years' ago in Geneva.

If one looks at the progress of the developing nations in the first half of what was called the development decade, one finds that the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America have made very little economic gains. In fact, the very purpose of the decade has been defeated, for in these years the yawning gap in the living standards of the developed on period commencing 1960. one hand and the developing and the undeveloped on the other hand has widened instead of closing.

A clear indication of the growing disparity between the haves and the have-nots in the world is the changing trend in international trade since 1950.

World exports increased from \$56,000 million in that year to \$203,000 million in 1960, but the share of the developing countries fell from 33 per cent to 20 per cent, while that of the developed countries rose from 59 per cent to 69 per cent and that of the Communist countries from eight to 11 per cent.

Developed countries get more

In short, the rising share of the developed economies in world exports has continued since the first UNCTAD conference despite the fact that the purpose of constituting it was to reverse this trend. The sluggish rate of growth of the foreign trade to developing countries has been diagnosed as the result of the nature of their exports. These are mostly primary commodities for which the demand is inelastic. Then there is the challenge of substitutes and synthetics, technical developments leading to reductions in the use of these products and the growing industrialisation, however slow,

Indeed, trade not aid will be the in the developing countries together keynote of this meeting of about 130 with their unrestricted population nations, the largest conference held increases which consume more of

Primary products too

Even in the export of primary products, the developed economies are at a considerable advantage over the developing, for the share of the developed, barring the Communist bloc, in the sale of traditional goods excluding fuels was about 74 per cent against the 16 per cent of the developing countries in the five-year than the developing nations.

The main task of the developing nations - known as the 77 - at the second UNCTAD will be to reverse this unhappy situation and to foster the export of their manufactures as well as to increase the volume of their primary exports.

Except in the case of a very few primary products, the terms of trade have been moving steadily against the developing countries, and as a result the economic aid they have been receiving from the developed countries and international agencies like the World Bank has been more than cancelled out by the fall in their export earnings.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

your toes

MODERN LEXICON — III

I AM FLATTERED to learn what erudite fans Freebooter's column has! And to prove it I list below some further definitions sent in by readers for "Freebooter's Dictionary" - the soonto-be-published and never-to-be-equalled handbook for all those who wish to understand modern-day terms:

From: M. P. Gurusamy, Tirunelveli District, Madras State:

ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Occasion for reminding people about the existence of some political party.

BOOK REVIEW: Something written about a new publication by someone who has not properly read it.

HISTORY: A subject studied in educational institutions but forgotten in the outside world, hence it repeats itself.

MINISTER: A temporary position offered to a politician.

OPINION: A view expressed in certain situations; may be changed according to political weather con-

PUBLIC MEETING: An occasion for

speakers to talk at length on no specific topic.

VOTES: Grains harvested without cultivation. Sometimes purchased at the lowest price. Correct value not known to the possessors.

From V. R. Desai, Dharwar 1, Mysore

STUDENT: Any young man involved in agitations for reasons he does not fully understand; also occasionally attends college.

This leaves me space for only three more of my own definitions:

HINDI: Link language used between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

PL-480: A type of life-saving wheat, produced in the US; purchased with hard-earned rupees, not to be confused with gift wheat.

WORKING COMMITTEE: Name given to inner council of the Congress Party which sits about planning work for others.

Any more? Send them to: Freebooter's Dictionary, HIMMAT Weekly, 294 Bazargate Street, Bombay-1,



This week HIMMAT...

DOUBTS the wisdom of the Gujarat Government in denying rationed foodgrains to people with over Rs 6000 annual income and REGARDS this step as likely to encourage corruption and tempt the unscrupulous.

PROPOSES an electoral thumbsdown for the 44 Bombay municipal councillors, including two exmayors, who have been served with notices for non-payment of

IS UNNERVED by US electronic devices in Vietnam able to detect approaching persons or vehicles miles away and bring automatic retaliation, and WONDERS how these gadgets distinguish between friend, foe and bystander?

CHEERS the procession organised by Bombay Swatantra leader Madhu Mehta which took out an effigy of "language fanaticism" and dunked it in the sea.

GROANS at the proposal of Rajasthan Jan Sangh leader S. C. Agrawal that all with more than three children be banned from election to Assemblies, and SUG-GESTS that a resolution to limit the size of Ministries rather than families might prove more useful.

DEPLORES the ban on southern language films in Bombay forced on cinemas by the Shiv Sena, and CALLS ON the Sena, instead of this petty retaliation against the ban on Hindi films in the South, to set an example of generosity to the nation.

COMMENDS Kerala's Communist Industries Minister, T. V. Thomas, for saying the State would welcome foreign investment in new industries whether from Socialist or capitalist countries.

REMARKS that with 289,100 cases pending in the various High Courts as at March last year, justice in India is not only blind but lame, and SUGGESTS that a complete overhaul of the judicial system is overdue.

ANTENNA-FROM PAGE 6

Thus, this dependence on more and more aid and not on trade has ed to the increasing indebtedness of the developing countries. A stage has now been reached where many of them cannot repay their debts when they fall due and cannot get fresh loans from their creditors. The failure of the developing countries to make a significant breakthrough into the world market for manufactures is shown by the fact that while total exports of these goods rose from \$65,000 million in 1960 to \$110,000 million in 1965, the corresponding figures for the developing countries were \$3700 million and \$6300.

The developing countries will come to the conference armed with these figures, which make very telling arguments for a more intensive effort on the part of the developed countries to put into effect the decisions taken at the first UNCTAD.

There are some economic indicators which give rise to the hope among them that their demands will be satisfied. One encouraging sign is President Johnson's declaration that he accepts generalised preferences at the Latin American summit at Punta Del Este last year. But the cautious optimism on this score is tempered by the fear that this offer is not accompanied by new quota arrangements to insulate sensitive industries in the developed countries from the threat of undercutting by a flood of cheap imports.

Separate aid fund

Again, the decision taken in December at a ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development to concede preferential entry on a non-reciprocal basis to certain manufactures from the developing countries is a hopeful sign,

Another source of hopefulness is the possibility of supplementary financing for the development projects undertaken by the developing nations. This stems from a suggestion emanating from Britain and Sweden at the UNCTAD for a separate aid fund to be set up under the World Bank to provide loans to needy nations after the short-term resort to the International Monetary Fund's compensatory finance has been exhausted.

India is expected to lead a move for a 20-year reprieve from repaying foreign debts from the developed nations as well as from the international

aid-giving agencies in hard currencies. The Indian delegation, together with others, will propose that such debts should be paid in local currencies into the regional development bank concerned — there are three in existence, one each for Latin America, Africa and Asia - to finance new projects, thus eliminating the need for fresh injections of foreign aid.

This proposal is to be made together with one for softening the terms of aid and for an agreement on the long-term consolidation of the repayment of debts already incurred wherever a nation's heavy indebtedness obstructs its economic develop-

Industrial nations under strain

But despite the optimism that surrounds the conference it is doubtful whether it will achieve the declared objectives of the 77 developing nations. One major cause for this doubt is that the economies of some of the leading industrial nations are showing signs of grave strain and they will not therefore be in a position to undertake any large increase in their intake of either primary or manufactured goods from the developing countries.

Clearest of the symptoms of the economic difficulties of the developed nations are Britain's recent devaluation of sterling and slashing of external commitments and the heavy pressure to which the dollar has been subjected in recent weeks.

While the climate for increased trade seems unfavourable, that for economic aid at the current levels is equally bleak. Thus, like most other ventures sponsored by the UN and launched with great hopes, the second UNCTAD may end with much talk but little achievement, leaving the crisis of economic growth the developing nations face no nearer solution than before.

VIEWPOINT COMPETITION

Should office hours be lengthened? Closing date: February 16

** Should the marriage age of girls be raised?

Closing date: March 1

Prizes: Rs 25, Rs 15

Send entries of not more than 500 words to Viewpoint, HIMMAT, First Floor, 294, Bazargate St., Bombay-1.

MAHARASHTRA

Mountains of hate can crack

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT

tralia's National Day were celebrated in the town square of Panchgani on January 26. Speaking for Australia at the occasion was Mr Kim Beazley, MP. Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Australian Parliament, Sheikh Surur, Director of Personnel, Eritrea Province, represented Ethiopia.

Rajmohan Gandhi, who was asked by the Municipal President of Panchgani to raise the flag at the town celebration, asked, "After we have celebrated Republic Day, is our life and nation going to change? Will you make Panchgani a pattern for nations? The way you live in homes, in the streets, honesty in shops and Municipality, relations between leaders and people, and between neighbours could be an example. Not just Asia Plateau but the whole of Panchgani will be a revolutionary centre to serve the world."

At the Assembly of Nations taking place at Asia Plateau, 250 delegates from 24 nations heard dockers, trade unionists, student and Harijan

SO THEY SAY

Some of the worst men in the world are sincere and the more sincere they are the worse they are.

QUINTIN HOGG, MP, UK

Bihar legislators are unpredictable. MADHU LIMAYE, MP

We should be concerned with what has got to be done and not who should do it.

Congress President NIJALINGAPPA

Perhaps there is saturation in our thinking.

Finance Minister Morarji Desai, denying that saturation was reached in taxation

A link language should be there for uniting the country and not for divid-

Home Minister Y. B. CHAVAN

INDIA'S Republic Day and Aus- leaders from Calcutta pledge that "the mountains of hate in Bengal will crack and the tide of violence will be turned."

> Student leaders from Presidency College, Calcutta, said to be the headquarters of the Naxalbari extremists, told the conference, "Up to today we have tried to lead our organisation by appealing to the intellect of the students. Here we have learned to appeal to their consciences as well and we shall take this approach to Calcutta." They urged a force of MRA to join them in taking action to change the atmosphere in Calcutta University.

Satya Banerjee, official of the Transport Workers' Union of West Bengal, said, "With the streams of men and women from all walks of life and from every part of India coming to this centre, one finds a new hope that things are going to change.

Speaking at the end of the Hindi

drama, "Jo Bhool Gave Hain". His Grace the Archbishop of Agra said, "MRA is not a new idea. In every century there have been convinced people or groups of people who have worked to make the world a better place. In the Middle Ages in Europe, when there were wars and fights, a certain friend of God, St. Francis of Assisi, started a movement to bring peace. In this century this movement is MRA, and we have to thank God for it. You can count on my full support to make the idea of MRA known in Catholic circles."

Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Surur of Ethiopia told the Assembly that in the brief space of time that MRA had worked in his country "it has already had a profound effect on relationships between people and on our society. My presence here is a sign of how seriously my Government and my people take this work."

Sheikh Surur called for the establishment of a centre similar to Asia Plateau in Ethiopia "so that from my country an answer will radiate to all Africa. Ethiopia, as the seat of the Organisation for African Unity and as a link between Africa, Europe and Asia, needs firm moral buttresses. The burden of hate and bitterness that many in my country carry can be lifted by the application of Moral Re-Armament."

MYSORE

Anti-social elements' violence

FROM SUBASH THADANI IN BANGALORE

guistic minorities — was plagued by arson and incendiarism in supposedly anti-Hindi riots last week. What intrigued this writer most was that the incendiarists were petty shopkeepers. It was evident that they were settling old scores with the police.

It all started on January 20, when Chief Minister Nijalingappa, a member of the old anti-Morarji, anti-Hindi Syndicate, and now Congress President, tried to iron out internecine party feuds by inviting Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai to Mysore State. Morarji need have no illusions of his popularity in Bangalore. He was to have inaugurated the "Kapali" - a new 70mm Cinerama theatre, the first of its kind in

Outside the theatre, three groups of agitators defied Section 144. These

BANGALORE - the city of lin- included students, who, as in 1965, were under powerful instigation from their colleagues in Madras. The Madras Students' Agitation Council reportedly sent the President of the Bangalore University Students' Union a pink saree and blouse, with bangles. The implication was evident.

Then there was the Kannada Dal, which demanded that any new theatre in the State (there are 61 theatres in Bangalore itself) should be inaugurated with a Kannada film. "Kapali" had an English picture as its inaugural show

Lastly, there was the hard core of anti-Morarji, anti-North elements, liberally sprinkled with goondas and professional trouble-makers. The day ended with stoning of the glass panes of "Kapali" and the 70mm air-conditioned "Sangam" theatre nearby.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The estimated loss was Rs 50,000. away from these stormy scenes.

The agitation resumed two days later, being sparked off by seemingly minor stone throwing by students who had assembled in their various colleges to pass anti-Hindi resolutions. After provocation on both sides, the police, in an effort to disperse the student crowd, entered the university campus, fired 200 tear gas shells, and beat all and sundry, including young women and the Principal of the Central College who was reported, falsely, to have been killed.

The next day, the University was shut down. The students withdrew the agitation but the police failed to control anti-social elements. By the evening, the city was paralysed. Three buses had been burnt, many street lights smashed, the roads covered with broken glass. Business

official five killed and 12 injured, signal being given to the Police Comthe rumour went around that 35 missioner. A saving feature was Morarji thought it prudent to stay were killed and a few hundred that the residential areas were largeinjured.

January 24, with Reserve Police re- people condemned the anti-social inforcements from the rest of the activity and dissociated themselves State pouring into Bangalore and, from it.

had been totally halted. Against the most important, the political green ly unaffected. Decency asserted it-Calm was restored on Wednesday, self when the everyday Kannada

WEST BENGAL

Congress comes to the party

FROM S. K. MUKHOPADHYAY IN CALCUTTA

SO, AT LONG LAST, the Congress legislators from the Congress Legisformally decided to join with Dr P. lature Party to join the Coalition has Front to form a Coalition in West Bengal.

While the selection of only six

C. Ghosh's Progressive Democratic been hailed, the inclusion of three former Ministers did not satisfy many. Mr Atulya Ghosh, busy settling down again to his old position of supremacy in the Party hierarchy, said some time back that if Congress went for a Coalition in West Bengal it should not include Ministers who 'had belonged to the former Sen Cabinet.

> The idea was, of course, to keep Mr P. C. Sen, the former Chief Minister, and his supporters at arm's length so that none could raise a "coup" against Mr Atulya Ghosh. But then Mr Ghosh sensed such a move might boomerang so he agreed to push some of his old, trusted men in to fill up the gaps. Besides, a shrewd politician like Mr Ghosh does not necessarily mean what he says in public.

Old-timers

Amongst the three old-timers included in the Cabinet, Mr K. N. Das Gupta and Mr B. S. Nahar are the leader and deputy leader of the Congress Party in the Legislative Assembly, and this seems to be their one claim to selection. As for the third one, Mr R. L. Sinha, people say that since he belonged to the Upper House he should not have been in-

Regarding the other three, none questions the integrity, efficiency and scholarliness of Dr Pratap Chandra Chunder, till recently the President of the West Bengal State Congress Committee. He is one of the few young hopefuls in the Congress Party. Some feel that he should not have left the party organisation at this psychological moment when it was just on the process of emerging once more as a potent force in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

HIMMAT, February 2, 1968

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REPUBLIC DAY

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BHARAT.



A way out for Wilson—and Britain

FROM GORDON WISE

LONDON Devaluation, defence cuts and social service trimming may prove to be Mr Wilson's Dien Bien Phu, for among a vast section of the public he is no longer believed. He is suffering from a "credibility gap"-a widening gulf between what he says and what people now accept as truth.

The extent of public disenchant- above all, honesty. A Member of ment can be measured by the spate Parliament once asked, "What would of speculation on the future of Parlia- happen to an MP who became absoment itself, in its present form.

part in inducing this mood. When coming a statesman." This MP did a hare is started on any issue, espe- in fact become a statesman and was cially a political scandal or sensation, the press pack whoops in hot pursuit. more cautious lost their seats. British newspapers have amazing "inside sources". When the Prime Minister announced his cuts, scarcely one had not been accurately forecast by

the will and conscience of the ordined to bridge the credibility gap at ary people which is not yet reflected the top could start at the bottom at Westminster. One columnist com- and seems to have started already. mented, "The country is astir with Whether or not the "Back Britain" genuine political concern. No Government drawn from the present Parliament, whose origins lie in a nation which was still asleep, will be able to reflect the new awakened spirit which is catching fire throughout the land-except, so far, in Westminster

son. Despite the flurry of forecasts clearer heart and a firmer will." A about his demise, he could yet re- university lecturer from Glasgow establish himself in the three years and more which remain of the pre- "The nation which abolished the

Ek-minit!

lutely honest?" Came the wise reply, The mass media have played a big "He would be in grave danger of bere-elected when colleagues who were

The British public feels that the falsehoods have been so monstrous that half-truths, or rather relative honesty, will not suffice. It will need to be absolute honesty in Westmins-Paradoxically, there is a stirring of ter and Whitehall. The change requirmomentum can be maintained, it does reflect a desire of ordinary people to "do something".

Healthy sign

A school principal, writing in The Times, offered a simple recipe for There is a way out for Harold Wil- British lustre: "A clearer head, a took it a stage further. He wrote, sent Parliament. It would require, slave trade should now turn to a re-

solute attack on world poverty."

It is a healthy sign that the people are becoming sick of a steady diet of economics and more economics three times a day, served up through press and television. They know instinctively that there is more to life than creature comforts.

A visit like that of Singapore's Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, has help-

> CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The week in ASIA

JAKARTA - Three thousand Indonesian youths shouting, "We are hungry," stormed the offices of acting President General Suharto. They raised slogans against high prices and corruption.

SINGAPORE - India and Singapore signed an air services agreement allowing their national airlines to operate in each other's country. High Commissioner Alirajpura said Air-India hoped to use one of its Jumbo jets on the New Delhi-Singapore-Australia route next

KUWAIT - Kuwait will take steps in co-operation with other Arab states to safeguard the Persian Gulf in the wake of the British pull-out from the area in 1971, according to its Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-ahmad.

TOKYO - Seven miners died of natural gas which burst through a tunnel wall in a coal mine in northern Japan. The blast took place 1800 metres underground and rock falls hampered rescue work.

RAWALPINDI — Pakistan, Iran and Turkey decided to allow free movement of goods between their countries, according to Pakistan Radio. Experts from the three nations met here to discuss measures to boost trade.

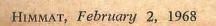
COLOMBO - The Cevlon Government decided to use its 82,000strong army in the battle for food self-sufficiency. This is part of the plan to save as much as possible on the food import bill.

PORT LOUIS - British troops flew into Mauritius as riots between Muslims and other races shook this British island colony which becomes independent shortly. At least 18 people were reported killed.

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia and Singapore agreed to work out a joint plan for air defence after the British withdrawal in 1971.

SURABAYA — Indonesian troops launched an offensive against Communists in East Java.

CAIRO — President Nasser re-instated Vice-President Aly Sabry as Secretary-General of the Arab Socialist Union - Egypt's only political party. Nasser himself took over the ASU for a thorough reorganisation of party machinery after the June war.



"Now that brings me up to my fourth birthday!"



ed to nourish this vague questing of the spirit. Mr Lee was espousing a cause on which the political parties have turned their backs: Britain's continuing global involve-ment. Mr Lee told the British public, "You just cannot hope to keep a country great on a systematic dosage of saccharine on film and television. crifices."

good hearing and that he was heeded. East Asia in the light of the new Less calculable was the stirring of British policies. conscience that he fostered.

man of Malaysia has called for a con- upon to redress the balance of the ference of Commonwealth countries old.

It is fair to say that Mr Lee had a concerned with the defence of South-

It would seem that the spokesmen Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rah- of these new nations are being called

India's new Ambassador in Nepal

· FROM RAM PATRAO

A decline sets in when you make a KATHMANDU Presenting his credentials to King Mahendra last month, population only look to live for the the new Indian Ambassador, Mr Raj Bahadur, formerly Indian Minister for day and not be prepared to make sa- Information and Broadcasting, pledged his endeavour to reinforce Indo-Nepali friendly ties.



These were at a low ebb recently in official circles following the reported appeal by certain Indian leaders (including J. P. Narayan, N. G. Goray, Nath Pai and K. B. Sahaya) for the immediate and unconditional release of Nepali political prisoners, including the deposed Prime Minister, B. P. Koirala, languishing in gaol since December 1960 without trial.

The Indian Ambassador recalled the ancient bonds of religion and culture, geography and economy between the two countries.

The King shared the sentiments expressed by Mr Raj Bahadur that the common endeavour and objective of the two countries "is to reinforce friendship and understanding and eliminate factors tending to prejudice these ties". King Mahendra said, "We are happy to say that the relations between our Government and the Government of India are based on mutual respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of each other and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other." With these words, he once again, indirectly, put Indo-Nepali friendship "on trial" by testing the ability of India to suppress the banned Nepali Congress—now in exile in India.

Mr Raj Bahadur also reviewed, to the King's satisfaction, the various Indian-aided projects in Nepal, the 100th of which has been completed.

However, despite increased Indian aid in recent years and the excellent rapport the immediate past Indian Ambassador, Mr Shriman Narayan, had with the Palace during his three year tenure, the Indian influence in Kathmandu is far from satisfactory. Mr Narayan received anonymous letters from several Nepali Congress leaders advising him to be more "people-bound" than "palace-bound"!

That the Chinese should have such immense influence in Kathmandu for much less aid is indeed a telling commentary.

President Makarios orders elections

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

NICOSIA Bells rang, cars honked, people began demonstrating in support of their President, Archbishop Makarios, as soon as he had spoken to the country recently announcing a Presidential election this month, The doorman of the stately hotel next door told me with a broad smile, "Our President is a very clever man. He will be re-elected with an overwhelming majority."

leader of this strife-torn island, has around Archbishop Makarios. The been the head of state for almost recall to Athens of Grivas, and the eight years. It

is true to say that he has won the respect and affection of many. It is also fair to say that during these years fear and hatred have multiplied, especially among the 100,000 people of the Turkish community of the island. It is doubtful,



President Makarios

however. whether anyone else would have been able, as he did, to keep the balance between all the forces - left, right, centre - which exercise their pressures upon the man at the top of this emotion-filled East Mediterranean Republic.

The mid-November crisis revealed the deep divisions of the Greek-Cypriot leadership: the military at last made their peace.

President Makarios, the 54-year-old under General Grivas; the politicians withdrawal to the mainland of 15,000 Greek troops, have created a feeling of frustration and insecurity: where is Cyprus heading?

While discussions were still going on in New York at ambassadorial level, the Turkish Cypriots announced the formation of a new administration. They explained it by the desire to have one voice speaking for their community. But the Greeks saw in this action another step to achieve partition of the island, under the umbrella of Ankara.

The announcement that the Cypriots would be called to the polls in February is the latest event in an increasingly disturbing situation.

There is no doubt that President Makarios will head the country again after the February poll. The new mandate could open an era of real statesmanship affecting positively a weak Greece and an impatient Turkey, and draw the world's attention towards the way two brothers, on an island which they have to share, have

Peking puts on a "smile attack"

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

HONG KONG While claiming that the cultural revolution has achieved glorious victories, Peking now announces that the students must practise revolution within the classroom and not, as they did last year, with violence and indiscipline all over the country.

were at the peak of their excesses in It was Liu who trained the majority Mao-inspired attempts to overthrow that "Chinese Khrushchev", President Liu Shao-chi. Now a whole year and a half since the Red Guards started their campaign against the head of state they still have not got rid of him. Nor does the Peking press name him specifically yet. He is still referred to as "the top party person in power" and his supporters as "the handful of people taking the capitalist road".

An old Chinese revolutionary of a previous generation who knows Mao, Liu and Chou En-lai personally, told me the other day that he believes Mao only controls some of the large cities now and that vast areas of the

It was this time last year that they country are being run by Liu's men.



Mao Tse-tung: losing control of the countryside?

In Hong Kong now there is being CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

overdue.

of the men who run Communist China. He gave them their jobs so their loyalty is to him. Mao has not got enough support within the Communist Party to oust Liu and so does not dare to call a party congress which is long The week in INDIA MADRAS - Following a resolu-

tion passed by the State Assembly scrapping the three-language formula, the Madras Government ordered all schools to teach only Tamil and English. It also suspended NCC and ACC training in all educational institutions.

PATNA — The Mahamaya Prasad Sinha Ministry was voted out of office when a no-confidence motion of the Congress-Soshit Dal alliance was carried in the Assembly by 163 votes to 150. Mr Satish Prasad Singh was sworn in as caretaker-Chief Minister.

NEW DELHI — Soviet Premier Kosygin, who arrived here on a sixday visit, pledged Soviet help to India and Pakistan "to proceed further in the course set at Tash-

BANGALORE - Seven people died when police fired on violent anti-Hindi mobs which stoned buses, shops and cinemas.

CALCUTTA - Ninety-two people died in Ekbalpore, Watguni, and south Calcutta after taking country liquor from an illicit distillery. Among the dead were five women, a constable of the Calcutta armed police and an excise peon.

CHANDIGARH - A massive rally sponsored by constituents of the United Front demonstrated against the Congress-backed Gill Ministry, demanding a mid-term poll. Former Chief Minister Gurnam Singh led the procession.

GAUHATI - The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee warned that it would resist further attempts by the Centre "to balkanise or dismember" Assam in solving the Hill problem. Meanwhile, riots engulfed this town as mobs protested against the reorganisation of Assam.

TRIVANDRUM - The Marxist Communist Party has planned a deliberate policy of mass agrarian and labour struggles. A resolution adopted by the State Committee of the Party asked the Kerala Government to help the agitational approach.

BOMBAY - The Maharashtra Government proposed to permit the free sale of toddy with an alcoholic content of about six per cent.

JAIPUR - The Rajasthan Rulers' Union affirmed its "fullest confidence" in the concord of former rulers. It also noted with concern the unilateral abrogation of electricity and water by the State Govern-



published a collection of Liu's thoughts in opposition to Mao's little red book. Recently the publisher's shop was attacked by the pro-Maoists.

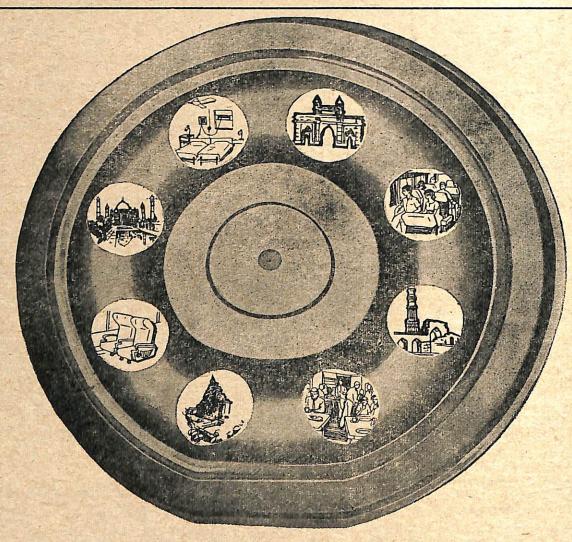
Meanwhile reports reach here daily of continued fighting between the pro-and anti-Mao Red Guards and workers and peasants. They come from many parts of China in spite of the "decisive victory" claimed by Mao-

promise of an end to the troubles.

In Hong Kong the Communists have changed their tactics. There are no more bombs. Instead we have what some of the newspapers call "the smile attacks"-no more violence, but smiling faces to win back the sympathy and support of the masses who turned against the Communists during their months of senseless attacks, both physical and verbal, on the Government, the Chinese leaders and the police.

Communist stores are trying to at- great potential danger.

ists at the end of 1967. 1968 shows no tract business again with fair words, not too much of Mao's Thoughts and still cheaper bargains. But the newspapers warn that "the smile attack" is even more dangerous than the bombs. Intensive efforts are being made to infiltrate schools again in spite of the conviction and imprisonment of many Communist teachers and students for creating disturbances last year. The threat by Government to close down the 33 Communist schools makes the infiltration into other non-Communist schools a



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Malaysia's multi-racial co-operative gets results

Tun V. T. Sambanthan is Malaysia's Minister of Works, Posts and Telecommunications. He is President of the Malaysian Indian Congress, a part of the Alliance Party, which holds 125 seats out of 144 in the House of Representatives.

Rubber is the life-line of Malaysia. The natural rubber producers are in a crisis with falling prices and fragmentation of estates reaching a point where economic production is often impossible and the livelihood of thousands of rubber tappers is threatened. What can be done?

In 1960 Tun Sambanthan founded the National Land Finance Co-operative Society and has been its President since that time.

What gave the impulse to start a cooperative scheme for ownership of rubber estates?

"When the British left in 1957, there were some investors who felt uncertain about the future and so they decided to sell rather than to wait and see. A number of middle men got hold of these rubber estates. These were chopped up and workers



found themselves out of employment. A few thousand families had to return to India as a result. A great number of the workers on Malaysian rubber estates have been Tamilians who have lived in this country for a couple of generations.

"The course open to the public seemed difficult. The cost of one plantation may go into millions of dollars in Malaysian currency. A dollar in Malaysia is worth roughly Rs 2.50. Who could expect to pay these vast amounts? Could there be an answer in a co-operative pooling of money?"

What would be a reasonable amount for a Malaysian plantation worker to put into a co-operative effort?

"My idea was: one member, one month, ten dollars. Ten thousand members, one month, one hundred thousand dollars. Ten months one million, and so on. This idea got going and the workers responded. Our aim was to show the country how it could be done. Within the first

HIMMAT, February 2, 1968

PM Tunku Abdul Rahman admires the silver rubber-tapping knife presented to him by Tun V. T. Sambanthan at the opening of the National Land Finance Co-operative Society's M \$3,332,867 Bukit Sidim Estate

year the first estate was purchased. The membership has risen from a start of 5000 in 1960 to 55,000 in 1967. Now the National Land Finance Co-operative Society owns over 20,000 acres of estates. After six years of progress in this field the Malaysian Government has now come forward with ten-year loans of M\$ 5 million per year for three years."

Individual initiative must have been needed.

"The situation did call for fresh thinking on the serious problems for the workers. We in the co-operative movement felt that other solutions must be found as well as the new method of finance. We decided to try intercropping. When the rubber trees are freshly planted it takes five to seven years for the latex to form, so that the trees can be tapped. Growing vegetables in the waiting time could be profitable.

"With help from Taiwan we have been able to grow even cabbage and cauliflower. In experimenting anyone is free to find new ways."

What did you find most important in your approach to this scheme?

"To give men faith in themselves. So many have lived their lives feeling only a small part in the big machinery of an estate. They need to find a sense of being, to know that they as individuals matter.

"It is no sin to be poor. But it is sin to be poor in heart. We must find a way to strike at the root of penury in the heart, the thing that makes men feel powerless, makes them feel less than human beings and breaks the initiative in them. These men will gain, and have gained, a sense of selfreliance. We are striving now to help their sons and daughters to higher education."

What future aspirations do you have?

"The co-operative is a structure by which people of an area get together to solve their problems. It is a multiracial project—although it started out with a majority of Indians, it could show the co-operative movement as a dynamic agency for the upliftment of under-privileged people of all races."

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The week elsewhere-

UAR SHOW TRIAL

officers and others accused of plotting to overthrow Nasser's Government and reinstate as armed forces head the late Field Marshal Amer. The accused included a former Defence Minister and former chief of intelligence. Another trial, of officers blamed for the Egyptian Air Force's destruction last June, has reached its final stages.

Prodded by Russian advisers, President Nasser sacked his entire Gene-CAIRO—The trial began of 54 ex- ral Staff following the June defeat, and launched a thorough re-organisation of the armed forces, curtailing the privileges of Army officers.

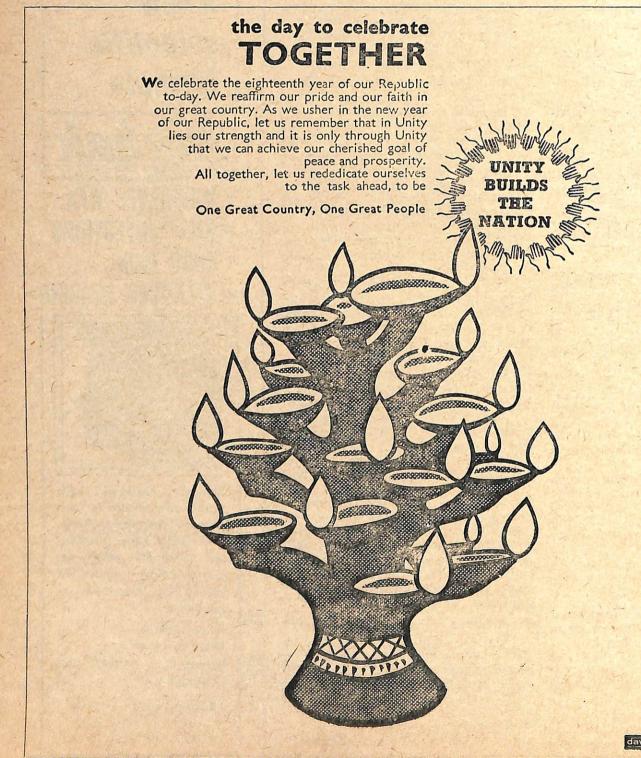
KOREAN CRISIS

WASHINGTON—Seizure of the US intelligence ship "Pueblo" by North Korea sparked strong reactions. The US Government, while pursuing diptine's unsuccessful coup attempt.

lomatic measures to get the vessel freed, recalled nearly 14,800 air reservists for active service and sent a naval task force including the nuclear carrier "Enterprise" into the Korean

JUNTA RECOGNISED

LONDON-Britain and the US resumed normal diplomatic relations with the Greek military government. The move followed consultations between NATO members, of which Greece is one. Diplomatic contacts were broken off after King Constan-



Tennis recovery

OUR TENNIS stock, which had slumped with the exit of Krishnan from major competitions, has received a shot in the arm with the splendid success of Premiit Lall in the National Championship at Delhi, Lall had scored a sensational victory



Premjit Lall in action

over holder Jaideep Mukherjea in the 1967 tournament and got the better of Krishnan in the final, when the latter retired in the fourth set with a strained back, to become the National Champion.

He was surprisingly reduced to a spectator in the all-important inter-zone Davis Cup match against South Africa in Barcelona last November while Krishnan and Mukherjea were crushed 5-0. Returning to India, Lall had a couple of setbacks. But he returned to his best form in the National with a convincing fourset victory to retain his title.

Still, Indian tennis has a long way to go. Lall and Mukherjea will have to develop far greater consistency, both individually and as a pair. They did well to win the Asian doubles title, beating Tiriac and Nastase in the final to neutralise the East India defeat; but the Rumanians went one up in the Cricket Club of India.

Tough hockey

AN EAST GERMAN team now touring India are keeping the Olympic and Asian champions and their officials on their toes with their "Continental" style of play. The visitors do not hesitate to use their weight and reach to neutralise the skill of the lighter opponents; and there is more hustle than dazzle in their methods. But these robust tactics can and do put the champions off their game and stride. This was seen in the first "Test" between the visitors and India which ended goal-less in Bombay. The Indian team are now adapting themselves to overcome the bustlers. The second and the third matches brought the Indian team narrow victories. The experience

will stand the champions in good stead when they go out to defend their Olympic title in Mexico.

More hockey visits are in the offing. The Singapore and the Malaysia teams which have been participating in the Pre-Olympic International promoted by Pakistan at Lahore are breaking journey in India on their way back to play some games. Not much is expected by way of opposition from Malavasia following reports that many of their players have been on the sick list. Singapore can put up a good show if they reproduce the form which helped them to hold West Germany goal-less in Lahore.

With a projected visit to Kenya in the near future Indian hockey, unlike soccer, cannot be faulted for lethargy in its Olympic preparation. Perhaps it is overdoing these activities. Staleness can be as devastating as inadequate training.

Pre-Olympic soccer

INDIA, eliminated in the qualifying rounds of the 1964 (Tokyo) Olympic Soccer Tournament, does not seem to have any greater hope in Mexico this year either. For our standard has not improved in the past four years, judging by our team's failure to qualify for the Asian Championship in Bangkok in 1966 and its poor showing in the Merdeka Tournament in Malaysia last August (finishing 8th out of 11 teams).

The Indian Football Federation seems to be least concerned about the quality of soccer so long as the routine competitions are gone through. The rout of home teams by visiting European sides like Zalgiris of Lithuania and Slavia of Prague in recent months has failed to rouse the Federation out of its apathy.

Within the next six weeks India will be on its way to Israel to try for a place in the Mexico Olympic Championship. To achieve this we have to get the better of Israel, Korea, Burma and Ceylon in a Pre-Olympic League. Considering that Burma and Korea were joint winners of Merdeka and that Israel will be even more powerful at home, India's task is formidable.

The Indian Football Federation is setting great store by the presence this month of ace German coach Dettmar Cramer who took his national team to the World Cup final against Britain in 1966. Cramer has been deputed by the International Football Federation to tour all soccer countries in Asia. India is fortunate to have him on the eve of the Pre-Olympic League. But too much cannot be expected of the visiting expert; for his. assignment includes the training of home coaches and an under-20 team. Cramer's headquarters will be the Cooperage ground in Bombay. Cramer's guidance in team tactics will be invaluable but even he may not be able to eliminate the individualism and timidity which have prevented our teams from bringing out their best in international matches.

This India

VIOLENCE IS OLD **FASHIONED**

A NATIONALIST Member of Parliament from Scotland was recently elected to the House of Commons. This separatist streak has always been there. but for decades the Scots and the English have laughed and joked about it. The Sunday Telegraph of London recently reported that it is not that Scots have started to love Scotland more but begun to love Britain less.

I think the same is true of our country. It's not that the South Indians, North Indians, Bengalis or Nagas and Mizos have started to love their regions more but begun to love India less. Language riots - anti-Hindi and anti-English - have ravaged the country during the last week. Many have been killed, hundreds shot at and injured. Headlines about violence increase daily.

Hate is the problem

"Violence is old fashioned and ineffective," says a former anti-Hindi rioter from Bangalore. Sachidananda is a tool grinder. Two years ago he took part in anti-Hindi demonstrations in the South. He fought against what he called North Indian superiority. "I hated North Indians. After meeting Moral Re-Armament I apologised to them for my hate. Now I am working with them to unite India," he says with sincerity and conviction. He feels that the real problem is not language but hate, in and between

In the last six months Sachidananda has been working in Delhi with Harijans and industrial workers. He himself is a Brahmin. He has learnt to speak Hindi, but above all he has won the trust, confidence and friendship of these hard-boiled, rugged men. He has been to their homes. Hates and fears in their lives and hearts he has tackled by telling them his own experience of change. These workers regard him as their best friend. I have met some of them - that is what they tell me.

Would it be more worthwhile and intelligent to win North Indians (or South Indians, whichever is valid in the case) than to destroy buses, burn railways, loot and riot?

Regionalism is a small and a divisive idea. It can be replaced only by a bigger idea. Could it be that India will find an answer to her own haranguing, hate and fragmentation when she takes on to unite the world?

• topscorer Neerja Chowdhuy

HIMMAT, February 2, 1968

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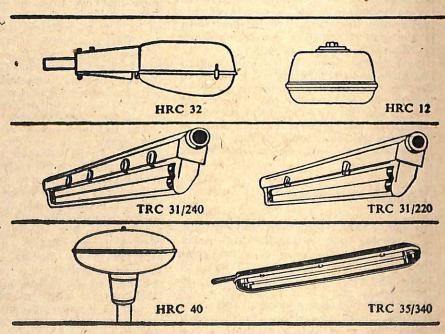
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M'BAREH SI BEKKAI 1909-1961

ONE of thousands who fought in the French Army after Morocco became a French Protectorate in 1912, a tall Berber Chieftain fought with outstanding bravery for France in the Second World War. During the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes he had a leg shot off. His name was Si Bekkai and he was appointed to be Pacha of Seffron after the war.

In 1953 the French Resident General forced the Sultan of Morocco to abdicate and he was exiled in Madagascar. Si Bekkai reacted with speed and vigour to this act of "great injustice", by resigning his post as Pacha and going into voluntary exile in Paris.

There he was met by three French journalist friends who urged him to attend the 1953 sessions of the Moral Re-Armament Assembly in Caux, Switzerland.

The effect of this event on his life was decisive. Speaking in a plenary session of the Assembly at the close of his visit, he said, "Since the start of the tragedy which has engulfed my country, I have been seeking a solution which would permit my nation and France to get out of the present impasse while safeguarding our mutual friendship. It is miraculous that Caux has brought me the answer. I commit myself to apply the absolute moral standards of Moral Re-Armament. It is a challenge, and I know how to accept challenges. I want my country to be happy in a world united and at peace.'

Two years later, he was at the heart of French-Moroccan negotiations at the Aix-les-Bains Conference to determine the status of independent Morocco. At that time he sent a message to Dr Frank Buchman at Caux, saying, "We are determined to make Moral Re-Armament the philosophy and practice of our Government."

When the Sultan returned from exile and mounted the throne of an independent Morocco as King Mohammed V in 1956, he named Si Bekkai as his Prime Minister.

Shortly before he died in 1961 he went on a pilgrimage to Mecca where he met many of the Middle East's leaders, and he made known to them in no uncertain terms his deeply held convictions.

END THE LIP-TALK

AFTER a week long conference on the glory of Tamil culture, the act of fanaticism displayed by a leading member of a political party by tearing off bus nameboards because they contained the names of the rivers of North India, is highly deplorable; especially in front of foreign delegates in Coimbatore.

While the beginning of the conference was marked by the stamp controversy, the end of the conference is accented by this name-board incident. It only betrays the chauvinistic tendencies and narrowmindedness of that member. It goes to prove that the slogan, "Every country is my country. Every man is my kinsman," is mere lip-talk. Let the glory of Tamil culture and civilisation not be a thing of the past.

N. RAMACHANDRAN, Madras 8

THE SHEIKH'S FORMULA

Your editorial "Sanity About The Sheikh" (HIMMAT, January 12) indirectly supports his release by the Union Govern-

The Sheikh's approach appears to be to make the Government of India say that the Kashmir problem needs to be reopened for a permanent solution with the help of Pakistan. Whenever he speaks of any possible formula, he mentions that without Pakistan, it would not be fair to effect any settlement.

The Sheikh knows that by remaining equivocal, he probably could please all

The Union Government has no feasible formula. It is felt that he should be conscious of the consequences. However he has been told in clearcut terms that no solution of the Kashmir question is possible outside the Indian Union.

What the Sheikh wants, but does not yet spell out, is that Kashmir territory be made independent, both India and Pakis-

tan assuring its autonomy and giving a free passage to the State's goods and people. Jammu, in that event, can be allowed to secede from the valley and be integrated with Himachal Pradesh.

Our Government is not strong enough to make this concession even though it might solve the Kashmir problem once and for all. The problem of Kashmir will stay with India and Pakistan for many years to come and if the Sheikh persists he might find himself once again in jail.

T. S. PRASAD, Mysore

RADIO "PEACE & PROGRESS"

AFTER reading about this in certain weeklies I tuned in to "Radio Peace and Progress". The broadcast on January 13 was so shocking that I am afraid to tune in again. The broadcast, briefly summarised, says that the milk powder donated by the US people is poisonous and contagious and warned the Indian people to be careful.

The Americans are still helping us in a period of hunger and famine. The milk powder is not poisonous but "Radio Peace and Progress" is poisonous and dangerous by misguiding the people.

I hope the Indian Government will lodge a protest.

M. RATHANDAS, Warangal

NEVER MISSES

I AM so interested in reading Freebooter's column that I never come home without reading it after purchasing HIMMAT in the stall.

V. R. DESAI, Dharwar 1

WEST BENGAL - FROM PAGE 8

State. But then, some argued, it very well could be a wily move of Mr Atulya Ghosh who might not feel very comfortable over the growing popularity of Dr Chunder in the partyhierarchy. The two others, Mr Abdus Sattar and Dr Binode Behari Majhi, were obviously chosen from the minority communities, a rather routine procedure.

That the selection of the six ministers did not meet the approval of all was evidenced by the fact that Mr Ashutosh Ghosh, MLC, declared almost immediately that 31 Congress legislators were to withdraw their Obviously, he felt he or some of his new Ministry. Although the situa- survives who escapes."

tion has been patched up, considering what has happened during the last few months in the name of defections, one cannot vouchsafe anything now.

Meanwhile, the UF chalked out their plan of action. Once more the Marxists will be dictating things with Ajoy Mukherjee a silent and helpless spectator.

Mr Iyoti Basu in a fiery speech gave hints of the line his party would follow in the coming days. He said they were opposed to any Assembly session and if called, they would oppose its functioning even at the cost of their lives. Mr Basu has fully realised that if the Assembly met, the United Front would face a crushsupport to the Coalition Ministry. Mr ing defeat. Thus it was better not Ghosh had played an interesting role to attend the Assembly but to drag in helping the PDF form a Ministry. the issue into the streets. He is a firm believer in the Sanskrit adage own men should get a slice in the "Ja Palayati Sa Jibati" i.e., "he

East of Suez

by Raimohan Gandhi

"IN THREE YEARS OF SO Britain will have withdrawn from her position the London Times, January 24.

son Government's announcement negative. that all British forces in the Persian Gulf and in South-East Asia will be withdrawn by 1971. The premature and incorrect,

validity, many of them dissent military sense. from it wholeheartedly.

Mr Wilson, evidently, was particularly weak while presenting the new policy to Parliament. Commenting on his performance, The New York Times wrote: "Mr Wilson, some thought, was trivial, boring, bumbling in his big speech." The Guardian said that his was "almost a resignation speech."

The Conservative leader, Mr-Heath, used strong words. "What mattered to the world and country was that there was not a member of the Government whose word here or abroad could be trusted," he said in the House.

"Limited significance"

A member of Mr Wilson's own Party, Desmond Donnelly, MP for Pembroke, was sterner. Renouncing the Labour Party whip and speaking of betrayal and broken promises, he said, "Mr Wilson should resign and leave public life. He is a transitory phenomenon of limited significance."

Quite apart from whether the Wilson plan of contraction will thoughts, this one is short of the stay for long as British policy, whole truth. Understanding and there are other factors.

or left or elite groups establish a the government's view is clearly crucial.

turies the people have not only been accustomed to making and as a world power" — editorial in unmaking governments, but also to doing what they believed in, irres-This conclusion The Times has pective of the kind of government reached on the basis of the Wil- they had, the answer is in the

Government officials may decide, owing to special forces and circumstances, to close bases and Times' verdict is likely to prove offices and to divert funds. But a law effectively preventing British For one thing, the British peo- men and women from assisting the ple have not been consulted in the life, liberty and progress of Asian, Government's pulling-out decision, Arab or African nations has yet and if the House of Commons de- to be devised. This can be true bates, newspaper editorials and not only over civilian affairs but the letters columns have any also, in some circumstances, in a

Normal preference

Propaganda has it that the British people now prefer to be involved only with affairs British. After visits to dozens of British towns and working closely with scores of British men and women from every kind of background, my conclusion is that this is only propaganda.

A comfortable home, television, a car, a washing machine, even a garden, things that hold an appeal for people everywhere, do not for some reason seem to satisfy many an ordinary Britisher. Given the choice, he would rather work to feed and heal hungry bellies and bodies in wearisome climes.

In the overcrowded cities, ancient villages and modern dams and factory towns of Asia and Africa, there is urgent need for unselfish and faith-filled Britishers, Europeans and Americans in large numbers.

Mao's celebrated remark about power being what comes out of the barrel of a gun has truth in it. However, like many of his the possession of common aims Is a country's role what its for the world can give strength government says it is? With and power with or without demany nations the answer would monstrations of a military prebe yes. Where dictators of right sence. And there is some justification in the view that in our pattern to which people conform, ultra-jet age the dispatch of soldiers and equipment from one corner of the world to another But in a country where for cen- can be swifter than is thought.



Having said this, it is clear that British withdrawal from Singapore and the Persian Gulf will leave behind a dangerous vacuum. Who will fill it?

The idea that Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore should jointly meet the military and financial burden in South-East Asia may appear attractive. If it is pursued actively by the four Governments, other democratic nations of Asia would only rejoice. In the light, however, of present Australian and New Zealand defence possibilities, this coalition cannot adequately replace the British role.

The Americans, despite automatic Asian views to the contrary, may be unwilling to pick up the load. Even if they are willing, Lee Kuan Yew, the Singapore Premier, and possibly also Malaysia's Tunku Abdul Rahman may disfavour a major American base in their area.

Will the Russians now seek and win a position in the Indian Ocean? The Soviet Navy has already, after decades of patient effort, reached the warm Mediterranean waters. The West has accepted its presence there.

Look to Britain

The Russians may or may not be as keen on world Communist revolution as they once were. But there can be no doubt that Soviet naval bases in West Asia or in South-East Asia will have the effect of undermining democracy and strengthening Communist movements throughout the region, including in India. And if, in an age where alignments can rapidly change, Moscow and Peking were to rediscover their affinity, a Soviet base could be transformed overnight into a Chinese one.

It is not beyond the united powers of men and nations that still cherish liberty, and its source, to find a solution. It is certainly the duty of Asians to make themselves more responsible for their own affairs. But there is no denying that Asian statesmen and citizens are going to look to the people and leaders of Britain for initiatives that might answer the proposed pull-out.

FIND THE BALL Competition No 57



The ball in this cricket action picture has been painted out. All you have to do is to mark a cross (not circle, arrow, etc) where you think the ball is. Then cut out the picture and coupon and send it to "Find the Ball", c/o HIMMAT, 294 Bazargate Street, Bombay 1 before noon on Monday, February 12.

The winner will be announced in the following issue There is no limit to the number of entries you can make, but only one cross may be marked on each picture. The Editor's decision is final

Nearest entry wins Rs. 25 On the ball wins the Jackpot*

*Each week half the prize of Rs. 50 will be awarded to the nearest entry. The other half will be carried forward to a "Jackpot" to be won by the first competitor who marks EXACTLY the centre of the ball. This Jackpot Prize will accumulate by Rs. 25 per week until it is won

Name	
Address	
I agree to the rules of the competition as cutlined above.	

WINNER OF **COMPETITION 55**

is L. J. Sawant, C/o Kalakar Photo Studio, Veer Mahal, Parel, Bombay 12. Rs. 25 for nearest entry (2 mm from

2nd Prize (Swish Shaving foam in Aerosol Can) to K.S. Harimoorthy, 33a Seluka Subbier Lane, East Veli Street, Madurai, Madras (3 mm from

Next week's Jackpot: Rs. 100



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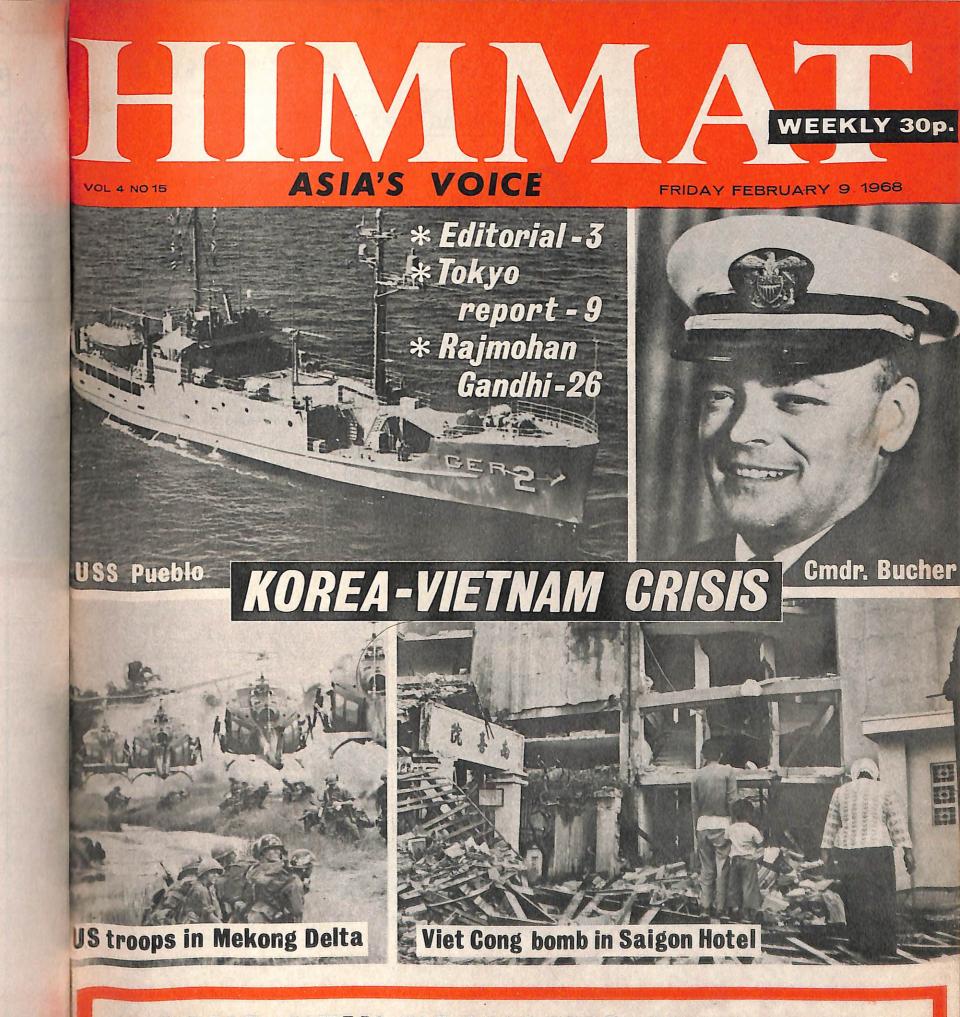
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INDIA'S NEW ECONOMIC OVERLORD?