

MIGHTY DEMONSTRATION OF ASIA'S YOUTH AGAINST IMPERIALISM

With the banner slogans of "Hands Off Asia", "Youth of South East Asia Unite", "Death to Imperialism: Liberty to the People", the two-mile long procession of youth representing 18 countries of Asia marched through Calcutta's streets on Saturday (February 21) evening, galvanising the whole city. It was the "Hands Off Asia" demonstration organised by the S. E. Asia Youth Conference which opened here on the 19th instant.

- 30,000 In "Hands Off Asia" Procession
- Central Govt.'s Searches, Bans, etc., On Delegates

LEADING the 30,000 strong procession were youth from liberated China's battlefields carrying aloft the blood-stained shirt of one of their comrades fallen in action, killed by an American bullet fired by one of Chiang Kai-shek's U.S.-trained soldiers; leading it were youth from Viet Nam's frontlines who had taken three months to break through the French blockade and reach Calcutta; leading it were the heroic youth of Indonesia.

Calcutta's worker youth in tramwaymen's uniforms, in oil-stained clothes straight from the factories; peasant youth from neighbouring villages with lathis on their shoulders; Calcutta's students, office-going youth and women; students and youth from all over India and Pakistan swelled the procession.

Twentyeight young men and women from the Soviet Union, including the Soviet Central Asian Republics, who had come as observers, as well as representatives of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), the International Union of Students (IUS), from Yugoslavia and Australia, were also in the procession—expressing the solidarity of the democratic youth of Western countries with the bitter, bloody struggle of Asia's youth against imperialism.

The slogans told clearly of the demands that were common to the people of all Asia: "Abolish landlordism; land to the tiller; Abolish child labour; Confiscate foreign capital; Nationalise in-

dustries". The sharp anti-imperialist slogan, "Imperialism has only changed its cloak—drive it out completely", proclaimed the determination of the fighting youth of all Asia to fight to the death against all vestiges of imperialism and the native reactionaries who shelter it.

The procession terminated in a mammoth meeting of over a lakh strong at Deshbandhu Park after a four-mile tour of the city and there amidst scenes of fiery and militant enthusiasm, an effigy of imperialism was burnt.

It was a different kind of Asia from the one we had seen a year ago at Delhi at the Asian Relations Conference.

In Delhi there was all the spectacle that wealth and power could make but there the very men who had accepted the imperialist plan and who were passing off their shameful compromise as independence, were the leaders and organisers of the conference. And thus they talked not of the need for fighting unity of Asian countries against imperialist machinations but only of economic and cultural cooperation among them.

In fact, when the representatives of Viet Nam and Indonesia had raised the issue of active cooperation in the fight against imperialism, the Nehru Government had sidetracked the issue on the plea that the Asian Relations Conference could take no 'political' decisions!

The Youth Conference at Calcutta symbolised another Act, not of the upper-class



Part of the "Hands Off Asia" Demonstration.

[Photo: Shyamadas Bana]

compromisers with imperialism but of the common people who knew that no advance was possible until imperialism was

its native allies were decisively smashed.

And that was why the leaders who go to the Government at Delhi did not relish the idea of... through Pandit Nehru sent a message hoping that the youth of Asia would come closer together to "enlarge... freedom in Asia".

Students' Congress (President A. Verma). Probably as the result of discreetly conveyed advice from the powers that be in Delhi, the Socialist leaders of the SC withdrew from the... and international... Communist...
C. O. B. B. B.

BOMBAY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

must unite in the struggle against the incendiaries of a new world war, the Anglo-American imperialists, who dream of world domination, in order to win the lasting peace which is the desire of the toilers of all countries.

We must have international solidarity in the fight against Yankee imperialism, which has taken the path of striving for world domination, of ending national independence, and enslaving all peoples to the Wall Street financiers and the giant American monopolies.

It would be the greatest mistake to believe that British imperialism has already been finally beaten in its struggle against the anti-imperialist movements of the colonial peoples, though greatly weakened by the war and forced into the position of "junior partner" of American imperialism. British imperialism cunningly strives to regain its full control of the lives of the colonial peoples.

Desperate Efforts

The division of India and the blocking of communist passions, the so-called granting of independence to the Arab countries while maintaining huge armed forces on their soil, the armed intervention in Greece and the support for the Dutch imperialists against the Indonesian Republic and the French against the Nazis—all of these indicate the desperate efforts of British imperialism to divide, deceive and weaken the national movements in order to prepare the way for their destruction.

After the war the situation has changed. The great Soviet Union emerged from the furnace of the anti-Fascist war greatly strengthened and not weakened as the imperialists had hoped. The Soviet Union today stands as the heroic centre of the struggle for independence, peace and democracy.

Groups of European countries have freed themselves from imperialist control and the rule of the exploiting class and are moving along Socialist paths. The passing of this large territory, and a population of more than 80 millions, from the orbit of imperialism further weakens imperialism and strengthens enormously the world democratic forces.

The Chinese revolution, advancing with giant strides, is changing the balance of forces in Asia and the world in favour of the forces of peace, progress and democracy.

In Greece, Anglo-American imperialism and Greek Fascism have failed to destroy the democratic forces of the people whose struggle is meeting with notable successes.

Mass Communist parties counting millions of members have grown up and are leading the workers and peasants in the fight for liberation.

Thus it will be seen that the Democratic Camp is stronger than the camp of reaction.

Further than this, the capitalist world stands on the brink of

national unity of the working-class.

As you know, our Party and the Australian trade unions were able to render assistance to the Indonesian Republic. During this struggle for the boycotting of military supplies for the Dutch, we in Australia saw stirring examples of international cooperation of the working-class in real life. Side by side stood striking Indian, Indonesian, Chinese and Australian workmen in a fighting unity against imperialism.

It was a practical example of the internationalism we have learned from our great teachers, Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) sends fraternal greetings to the delegates of the Second Congress of the Communist Party of India. The Central Committee of the CPSU wishes the Communist Party of India success in its struggle for unification of the democratic and patriotic forces of the country in order to strengthen the national independence and the sovereignty of India.

SUSLOV

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks)

workers, no less than 60 thousands slept, when in the while other thousands wand around the country, persecuted by the authorities. The was 6/- for single and 8/- married men. Thousands of red farmers were compelled leave the land. I do not think the Australian masses will cept such conditions again.

Our Communist Party, too, the responsibility to lead the ter struggles that are approaching. Since the war there been many big strikes in tralia, strikes against the cost of living, high prices great profits for the capita

★ THAN TUN: BURMA ★

COMRADE Chairman and Comrades!
On behalf of the Communist Party of Burma, I greet the Second Congress of the Communist Party of India.

At this Congress, we are represented by a strong delegation. This, we believe, will strengthen the ties which already exist between the Communist movement in India and the Communist movement in Burma.

Like your country, our country is passing through a most critical phase in the history of our national liberation struggle.

Faced with unprecedented upsurge of the colonial peoples, imperialism is resorting to new tactics and manoeuvres—that of drawing away the national bourgeoisie, which had hitherto been in the people's camp, that of splitting the national front of the peoples against imperialism, utilising the colonial bourgeoisie against the people and bringing about civil wars.

This is what is happening in our country, in your country, in China and in other colonial and semi-colonial countries, though in differing patterns.

You will remember that the people of Burma played, a heroic role in 1945 during the great anti-Japanese rising. It is to the eternal glory of our Party that it is our Party which initiated, organised and led the anti-Japanese resistance, bringing it to a successful conclusion.

We also take pride in the fact that after the fall of the Japanese, we took the initiative and had a major share in building up the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL)—a national movement unprecedented in the history of our liberation struggle—the national movement which continued resistance against the British imperialist plans of re-establishing their political, economic and military domination.

Owing to our shortcomings and weaknesses, we were out-manoeuvred, and since September 1946, the national bourgeoisie leadership inside the AFPFL began to compromise with imperialism. This compromise was finalised in



Than Tun, General Secretary, Burmese Communist Party

the Anglo-Burmese Treaty. By this treaty the national bourgeoisie has finally agreed not to fight British imperialism any more and has gone over completely to subservient collaboration with imperialism.

On January 4, 1948, Burma was formally declared a fully 'Independent Sovereign State'. But behind this facade of sham independence the old colonial social order is retained, British imperialism continuing its domination, though the form has changed.

Imperialism did not hand over power to the national bourgeoisie until it was sure that the national bourgeoisie had given up the path of opposition and that, it was going to use the power so transferred not against imperialism but against the people.

The record of the AFPFL Government after the declaration of "Independence" clearly shows that it has not, and cannot, solve a single fundamental problem of the people.

In all fundamental questions, it has come out against the people. It is today advocating industrial peace, workers and peasants producing more, more exports and less imports, etc. In short the AFPFL Government has become today a subservient

tool in the hands of imperialism to suppress the people's movement for real independence and people's democracy.

That is only one side of the picture. Our great people fought the Japanese Fascist and British colonisers — fought with arms — are daunted. Today they are reeling these new imperialist attacks.

The movement of the working-class for confiscation of British capital and nationalisation of key industries, the struggle of the peasantry for food and land, the struggle of the oppressed middle-classes for better living conditions, the general democratic movement of the entire people for democratic liberation, the heroic struggle of the people in Arakan and Central Burma against military suppression, democratic movement of the Karen (though it is still weak because of the reactionary feudal leadership which is exploiting for its own selfish ends the honest desire of the Karen masses for national self-determination), the struggle of the people in the Shan States for overthrow of feudal-autoocratic rule—all these are developing in opposition to British imperialism, opposition to the national bourgeoisie which is making desperate efforts to disrupt and crush the rising tide of the democratic forces.

The forces of democratic revolution are marching forward, marching forward to shape their own destinies with their own hands.

The Communist Party of Burma is today making all-out efforts to unite all these diverse currents into one stream of general revolutionary democratic movement for real independence, for a people's democracy and for lasting peace.

Faced with a mighty revolutionary upsurge, imperialism with the subservient collaboration of the national bourgeoisie has brought Burma on the brink of a disastrous civil war, in order to crush the impending revolution.

Our entire Party is today concentrated on the building of the Democratic Front based

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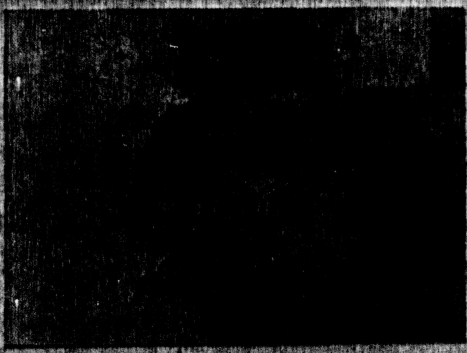
thousands slept in the parks while other thousands wandered around the country, persecuted by the authorities. The date was 9-1 for single and 9-1 for married men. Thousands of ruined farmers were compelled to leave the land. I do not think the Australian masses will accept such conditions again.

Our Communist Party too, has the responsibility to lead the bitter struggles that are approaching. Since the war there have been many big strikes in Australia, strikes against the high cost of living, high prices and great profits for the capitalists.

Capitalism and imperialism have been shattered and all roads lead to Communism. The forces of peace and democracy are stronger than those of reaction. The conditions for the victory of the masses over the exploiters are maturing in each country.

—Down with Imperialism!
—Wage the fight for national independence and for a lasting peace!
—Forward to a peoples' democracy!
—Long live Comrade Stalin and the great Soviet Union!
—Workersmen of all countries, unite!

N TUN; BURMA ★



man Tan, General Secretary of Burmese Communist Party.

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AFPFL-Communist Party (CP) unity (without the collaborating bourgeois leadership) to avert civil war, to smash the imperialist-feudal-bourgeois combine, to set up a new people's democratic State—a State based on the class alliance of workers, peasants and oppressed middle-classes, in which the working-class is in firm leadership, in which all exploiting classes are kept out—a new State which is transition to Socialism.

We are advocating AFPFL-CP unity because the majority of the AFPFL masses, who still nurse illusions about their leadership, stand for real independence and peoples' democracy. We are firmly convinced that they can be won over to the side of the democratic revolution. But as for their leaders, they have completely deserted the peoples' camp.

When after the assassination of General Aung San, we made efforts for AFPFL-CP unity, the present AFPFL leadership obstructed unity under the direction of American imperialists. They are today continuing with this anti-unity activities. We, therefore, specifically say that AFPFL-CP unity without the collaboration leadership—the leadership which is following the dictates of Anglo-American imperialism.

Forging a fighting united front under new conditions on the one hand, we are, on the other hand, making all-out efforts to avert the civil war instigated by Anglo-American imperialists and their running-dogs, the collaborating AFPFL leadership.

But we are not afraid of the consequences. We are prepared to return blow for blow.

We are conscious of our own strength. In spite of the combined attacks of the imperialist-feudal-bourgeois combine, our Party is, taken singly, still a major party that is the strongest single party inside our country. The role of our Party in relation to the national movement is greater than our numerical strength. At the same time, we are the Party of tens of thousands of the finest cadres in our country. Behind us is the experience of partisan warfare, the experience of anti-Japanese arm-

(Continued on page 10)

Than Tun's Speech

(Continued from page 5)

ed struggle, the experience of the militant resistance, struggle against the "Anti-Communist Annihilation Drives" of the imperialist - bourgeois Government through "Operation Flush" and "Operation Arakan".

We have more than a lakh of class conscious militants who have had military training, many of whom have had experience of partisan warfare and who can be swung into action whenever the occasion demands it. We also have lakhs of workers, peasants and common people behind us.

Let me repeat again. We are making all-out efforts to prevent civil war. But if the national bourgeoisie, backed by Anglo-Americans, insists on having it,

well they will have it. We are prepared to return two blows for every blow struck against us — smash the imperialist feudal-bourgeois combine — establish real independence, a people's democracy and a lasting peace.

You, comrades of the Communist Party of India, have a special role to play. You will have to take up the banner of national independence and sovereignty in your own hands and smash the imperialist-feudal-bourgeois combine. By doing so, you will be assisting the movements in Asia for real independence.

Comrades, the great victories of the People's Liberation Army led by the Chinese Communist Party have greatly heartened the oppressed peoples in Asia. But the victories by themselves

are not enough. The democratic movement in China must become closely linked up with that in other colonies and semi-colonial countries.

We in Burma have a special role to play in this connection. We are doing our best to forge the links between the victorious Chinese People's Liberation Army and the onward march of the Burmese democratic movement.

Comrades, 1948 is a decisive year for the liberation movements. It will decide the fate of the liberation movements in South-East Asia.

The Anti-Imperialist Democratic Camp has been formed. It is led by the great Soviet Union. It is composed of the New Democracies, the working-class movements in all capitalist countries, the democratic move-

ment of China and the national liberation movement of all colonies and semi-colonies. Unity and firmly led by the Communist Parties, our camp is far stronger than that of the imperialists, the Anti-Democratic Camp led by American imperialism.

We firmly believe in the just nature of our cause. We know that world reaction, led by American imperialism, is doomed to defeat.

As Comrade Mao Tse-tung, the leader of China's millions, has said: "The light of dawn is upon us."

Comrades, your struggle against the imperialist-feudal-bourgeois combine is one with us for real national independence, for a People's Democracy and for a lasting peace.

Let us never forget the oneness of our common struggle. Let us, therefore, unite and the victory will be ours. Comrades, lastly on behalf of the Communist Party of Burma, I am presenting to this Congress a banner to solidify the oneness of our

struggle for real independence and People's Democracy, and for a lasting peace.

—Long live the Democratic Camp headed by the Soviet Union!

—Death to the Imperialist, Anti-Democratic Camp led by American imperialism.

—Long live the Communist Party of India.

Wickramasinghe's Speech

(Continued from page 4.)

In 1947 the biggest strike struggle was launched when 50,000 workers including Government employees participated. The national bourgeoisie joined hands with the British imperialists to beat down the workers. Warships were sent from the Trincomalee Naval Base to the Colombo Harbour and naval units were employed to guard the streets of Colombo.

Repressive legislation was introduced and armed police opened fire on workers' demonstrations.

Recently the national bourgeoisie staged an independence celebration in Ceylon.

In Burma our comrades at least had the satisfaction of a symbolic gesture, a ritual. The British Governor and the Union Jack floated down the Irrawady while the National Flag of Burma was hoisted.

In contrast the Duke of Gloucester was specially imported to celebrate the independence of Ceylon. After he performed the ceremony under the shadow of the Union Jack on behalf of his Royal brother for his subjects in Ceylon, the Buddhist philosopher of the Ceylon University chanted Vedic hymns to prove the eternal and immortal qualities of Royalty.

After the celebration and after the Duke had departed the national bourgeois leader, the native Prime Minister, unfurled the Sinhalese Flag on an improvised bamboo post a few feet below the Union Jack.

The British Governor who has after the independence become the Governor-General of Ceylon and the British visitors and

1 It has fine Virginia Tobacco

2 It is expertly blended

3 It is perfectly packed

4 It is rolled in best quality paper

5 It is manufactured in perfectly hygienic conditions