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HIMMAT

WEEKLY 25p.

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Asia's new voice

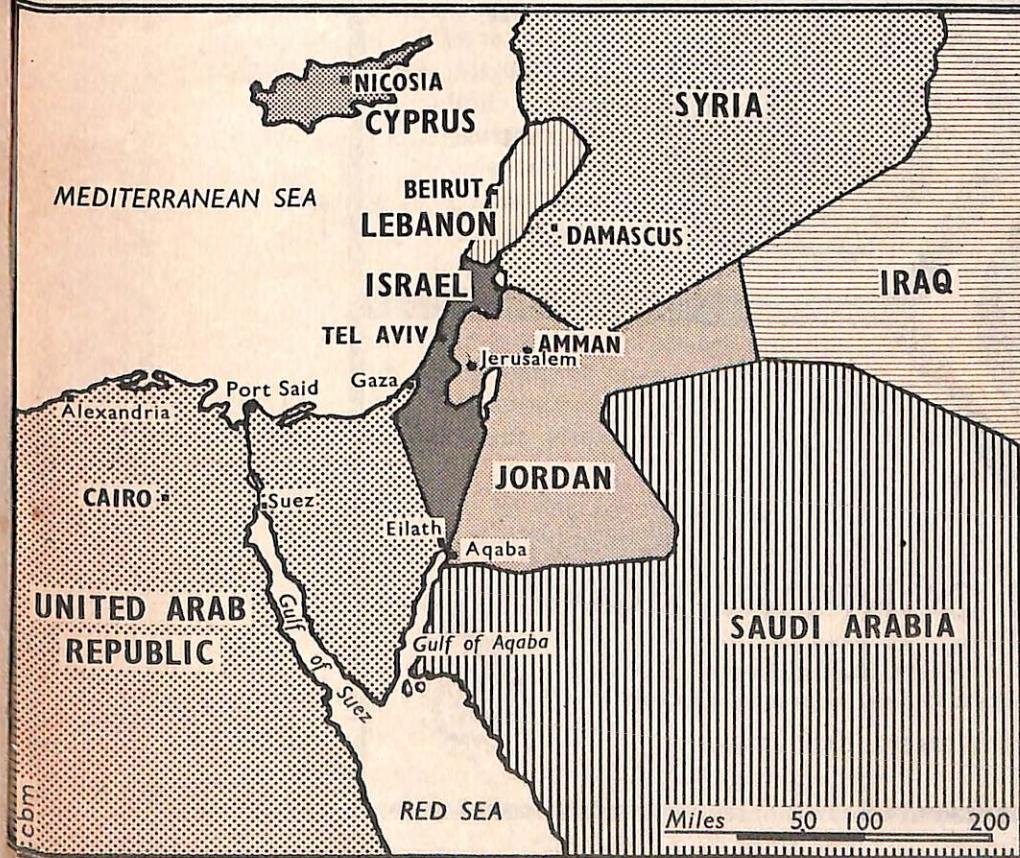
FRIDAY JUNE 2 1967



President Nasser—UAR



Prime Minister Eshkol—ISRAEL



WILL IT BE WAR?

PAGES 3, 19

Special Report from Beirut

PAGE 9

ALU COIN ALUMINIUM

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AND ALLOY
INGOTS
EC GRADE
WIRE BARS
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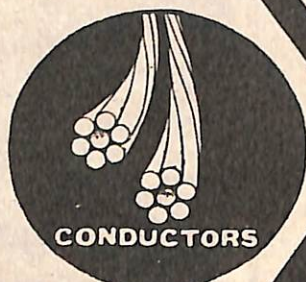
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HIMMAT

Asia's new voice

WEEKLY

BOMBAY FRIDAY JUNE 2 1967

Will it be war?

THE ISRAELIS are an ancient people in a young nation. Egypt is an ancient nation whose people have found new confidence.

With two sweeping strokes—blockading the Aqaba Gulf and demanding withdrawal of the UN forces in Gaza—President Nasser has brought West Asia to the brink of war.

“Our fundamental objective,” says Nasser, “will be the destruction of Israel. I could not say this three or five years ago, but today, 11 years after 1956, I have confidence in our present forces in the Arab world.” (see chart on page 19).

Master strategist that he is, he has called in the pledge of the Soviet Union to support him “in the battle and not allow any (Western) intervention”.

He prefers a straight battle between the massive forces of the Arab countries and the small but crack armed forces of Israel. The London *Times* assesses that “odds are in favour of Israel in event of conflict with her Arab neighbours,” but “if there was a prolonged total war of attrition... it can be postulated that the Israelis would eventually be overcome by sheer weight of numbers.” Israel with its 2½ million people stands in the ocean of Arab humanity totalling 70 million.

Israel is weakest in her naval power and it is in the naval field that Nasser has played his first card. Israel, on her own, cannot break the Aqaba Gulf. America wants the blockade lifted. The point is: how far will President Johnson want to go at this juncture?

U Thant's voice is not to be ignored. He has rightly asked for “a breathing spell”. With the UN contingent removed, the sensitive border between Egypt and Israel is “live” again. Even if a breathing spell is obtained in the Gulf of Aqaba by the West—and Israel for the time being—clashes appear inevitable on the Egyptian-Israeli and the Syrian-Israeli borders. One incident can lead to another.

The big powers, by a generous supply of weapons to both sides have created a tinder box which some are now claiming to prevent from conflagration.

Moscow, having consolidated its hold in the Indian sub-continent with the Tashkent Declaration, and having successfully wooed Pakistan and Iran, has now moved to establish her influence firmly beside

the warm waters of the Red Sea. Colourless Kosygin is about to accomplish what the Imperial Tsars and colourful Krushchev failed to do.

Civilised nations need to plan a mighty move to heal the hates in West Asia, not play at power-politics. Cutting off oil is a threat, but hate is the real fuel. Nasser realises it. In his autobiography he makes the point that many of his closest friends in the past have been Jews and that he is not against them but against the State of Israel.

It is a fine distinction that vanished when he said last Saturday that he will “wage a total war of annihilation”. One cannot annihilate a State without massacring its people.

India has understanding and sympathy for Nasser and the Arabs, but he is stretching it too far if he thinks that he can always have his way and still expect India and other friends to cheer. No Foreign Minister of India can support the aggressiveness of President Nasser beyond a certain point without risking his own head. The point of no return may be close at hand.

All have their part

THERE is a growing feeling promoted by the two most powerful nations that unless a nation is very powerful or very large, it has no future in the present-day world.

Mr George W. Ball, US Under-Secretary of State, writes in the *Sunday Telegraph*, London, on why Britain should go into the Common Market. He says:

“For this age of technology has created a new order of scale which means that a nation with a population of 50 or 60 million, no matter how rich its history or gifted its people, can no longer play the world role that such history and gifts deserve.”

With due respect to the US statesman we feel that what he says is trash. There are only seven nations in the world with a population over 60 million—China, India, USSR, USA, Pakistan, Indonesia, Japan and Brazil. Does Mr Ball imply that all the other nations cannot play a “world role”? While it is true that technology can give power in the present-day world, each nation has its own destined role, its own gifts and its own avenues of greatness.

Switzerland has a population of five million with three major languages. Yet it has provided the model for democracies the world over and shown how different groups and languages can live in harmony as one. Switzerland has few natural resources and has still achieved prosperity through skill and precision.

It is rank materialism to feel that to survive effectively you have got to be bigger and fatter than your neighbours.

Briefly speaking...

Secondary aims

IT IS SAD that when the Prime Minister called the leaders of the Opposition to discuss questions of food with her almost all of them turned it down, giving one excuse or the other. Some Opposition leaders felt that the Congress would make political capital out of it.

How can we tackle mammoth problems like food when our politicians think in terms of political gain or loss rather than in terms of relieving the distress of our people?

Two anniversaries

ANNIVERSARIES of two famous men fall this week: the third anniversary of Jawarhalal Nehru's death on May 27 and on May 29 the 50th birth

anniversary of John F. Kennedy. PIB and USIS have been prompt to send quotations from the speeches of the late Prime Minister and President.

Here are two of them. Can you guess who said which?

1. "I want work and work and work. I want achievement. I want men who work as crusaders."

2. "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."*

500 million audience

AN ESTIMATED 500 million people—the largest audience in history with nearly one sixth of the world's population—will watch a world-wide TV programme next month. Entitled "Our World", the programme will link five continents via American and Russian communications satellites. At least 30 nations will be able to receive the broadcast.

While nations talk of war, science has given us means as never before to promote unity.

Far into space

A 150-INCH TELESCOPE to be built in Australia will enable study of stars 1000 million light years away. Multiply that figure by 186,000—the number of miles light travels in a second—and then again by the number of seconds in a year, and you will know the distance into space involved. The sun, by comparison, is a mere eight light minutes away.

The new telescope will be second biggest in the world and will put Australia in the forefront of astronomical research.

"Fanfare for India"

CONGRATULATIONS to the Associated Chamber of Commerce for producing a pamphlet entitled "Fanfare for India". While not overlooking the difficulties, this six-page folder aims to restore perspective by focussing on the country's progress and potential. Among the facts it gives are:—

* 1. Nehru, 2. Kennedy.

I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.

STEPHEN LEACOCK, 1869-1944

Since 1945 life expectancy increased by 18 years.

Since 1951 school and college student enrolment rose from 25 to 70 million.

India has one quarter of the world's iron ore deposits, and one third of the world's manganese.

Steel output rose four times between 1951 and 1966 to 6.12 million ingot tons. Iron ore production rose in the same period seven times to 22 million tonnes.

India's vast energy resources include 120 billion tonnes of coal, fields of oil and natural gas, water power and uranium. Electrical generation increased from 2.3 million kw in 1950 to 10 million kw in 1966 ...

So the list goes on. The Associated Chambers of Commerce concludes, "On this evidence... This is not a time for gloom and doubt but for optimism and confidence."

Birbal

FIND THE BALL

FROM THIS WEEK'S cricket competition, half the prize money will be carried forward each week until won by a competitor who marks *exactly* where the ball is. So far the prize has gone to the one whose X is nearest the ball.

Each week the closest entry will win Rs 25 but if a competitor puts his cross *exactly* where the ball should be, he scoops the ever-growing jackpot prize which starts this week at Rs 50.

BUT COMPETITORS PLEASE SEND your entries early. This week 96 entries arrived in the two mails after the closing time of 12 noon on Monday.. So please post early!

NOW TURN TO PAGE 23

For the real news read
HIMMAT Weekly

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Hope revives in Congress breasts

by ANTENNA

NEW DELHI The tired and devalued Congress Party, clutching power precariously at the Centre with a slender parliamentary majority and having lost its writ to rule in eight states, containing together 60 per cent of the country's people, is groping painfully for a coherent policy and programme to help it regain its departed glory.

As a preliminary step, it has performed an apparent caper to the left by recommending to Mrs Indira Gandhi's government that it inject a further dose of socialism into the ailing national economy.

A reappraisal of the political scene and the health of the party conducted recently here by its Working Committee indicates that it has decided to set its face against any bid to shore up its shaky underpinnings with the support of the Swatantra Party and the Jan Sangh.

On the contrary, the large majority of the top Congress leaders are of the view that their party's image as a socialist organisation has to be projected with greater vigour. In fact, working on the principle of opposites, they seem to have concluded that the less socialist the party and its governments are in practice, the more it is necessary to magnify its chimerical socialist image.

They have come to the conclusion that the reverse they suffered in the recent general election is due to public anger at the Congress failure to implement its declared socialist policies, but they console themselves with the thought that they still enjoy the support of about 40 per cent of the nation.

Another injection

They feel that the allegiance of this solid core of 40 per cent can be retained by a further injection of socialism—on paper, to be sure—while at the same time they can lure back some defectors to the rival camps.

Another hopeful sign Congress leaders claim to discern in the political climate is the cleavages in the united front governments now coming to the surface. In most non-Congress states, the ruling coalitions comprise ideologically disparate, in

truth irreconcilable, elements, and their only cementing force is their common hatred of the Congress.

Already, the people of some non-Congress-governed states are chafing as the new administrations are lagging in deed far behind the promises incorporated in their minimum programmes. And the Congress leaders therefore believe their hour of opportunity will dawn soon.

The three important socialist measures the Congress Working Committee adopted at its meeting here are: inclusion of general insurance in the public sector; progressive takeover of foreign trade by state agencies; and "social control" of the banking system. Besides, the committee also asked the central government to remove social and economic privileges other than the privy purses of the former rulers of princely states.

Though there was not much difference of opinion among the Congress leaders on the objectives outlined in the resolutions the committee passed, the hawks and the doves differed somewhat on the emphasis to be given to them. Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai was for a cautious approach, but Prime Minister Gandhi's protege, Home Minister Y. B. Chavan, took a radical posture. Then, at the urging of Mr Desai, the demand for nationalising banks was watered down to "social control."

Deeper split

Political observers, however, read a deeper meaning into the schism between Mr Desai and Mr Chavan than a mere matter of emphasis in achieving the same goal. They see in it an attempt by Mrs Gandhi to present herself as a "leftist" against the "conservative" Mr Desai. Having gained dominance in the party over its president, Mr. Kamaraj, Mrs Gandhi is said to be keen on seeing that Mr Desai does not build himself up as her rival for leadership of the government.

continued on next page

On your toes

NO IDLERS THEY

"A BIG meeting of more or less idle people" was how 19th century essayist Walter Bagehot described Parliament. But then he knew not New Delhi! No idlers they. Last week they winkled out some disturbing secrets.

The Home Minister was forced to confess that the lodging and other expenses of Sheikh Abdullah's detention between May 1965 and March 1967 had cost Rs 5,62,991. I calculate that this controversial imprisonment of the Kashmir veteran is costing taxpayers Rs 840 per day!

Mr Chavan parried questions about his release: "The Government can review the matter from time to time. But at present we are not reviewing it." It is not so much can the Government afford to release the Sheikh but can it afford to keep him.

★ ★ ★

WHILE Sheikh Abdullah has his lodgings, many new MPs have not. The Minister of Works and Housing had a stiff encounter when Members on both sides pressed for ex-MPs to vacate their Government quarters.

Mr Jagannatha Rao admitted that

36 former Members were still occupying MPs' quarters. A Swatantra Member protested that most were Congress. Mr Rao disclosed that while 27 were Congress, two were Swatantra, four were Communist and one each belonged to the Republican, Jan Sangh and Jana Congress Parties.

Mr Hem Barua was nearer the truth when he pointed out that many MPs had illegally sub-let their quarters and it was these outsiders who were now refusing to vacate. The Speaker urged the Parties concerned to discipline stubborn members, as legal action might take a year or more. So much for our MPs.

★ ★ ★

HOT and bothered Members are pressing for earlier sessions than the present 11 am to 6 pm. The proposal to meet from 8 am to 1.30 pm would avoid the heat of the day—if not the heat of the debate. But there is consternation among civil servants. They doubt if they can prepare all necessary papers in time.

After all, 11 am is a more civilised hour, especially if the card game at the club finished late the night before.

Freebooter

CHALTA HAI...



"Truly a beautiful sight, Mr Commissioner. But in India we are now self-sufficient in mountains like that."

THIS WEEKLY FEATURE comes to you through the courtesy of the EAGLE VACUUM BOTTLE MFG CO (PVT) LTD

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INSUL PEAR

VERDICT!

This week HIMMAT

HAILS the integrity of Haryana Education Minister Hardwari Lal who, having crossed the floor of the House from the Congress to the Samyukta Dal, resigned his seat and won fresh approval of his constituents in a by-election **AND ASKS** which of the other dissidents will now do the same.

WELCOMES the assurance of the Punjab Government that under new procedures public grievances will be acknowledged within a week and disposed of within four weeks.

SYMPATHISES with Kerala Chief Minister Namboodiripad who, having backed the striking non-gazetted officers against the previous administration, now admits it might be difficult to accept all their demands and asks for discussions with them to compose differences.

IS GLADDENED by the initiative of Rajasthan peasant Rama Teli, four months ago the only literate person in his village, who organised night classes, gathered slates, books and lanterns so that today there is not one illiterate villager left in Bhopalsagar.

BLUSHES for those prominent politicians and high Government officials who, according to evidence given at the Sen Commission of Inquiry into the India-West Indies cricket riot in Calcutta, obtained the special favour of quotas of tickets, swelling the overflow of admissions which allegedly incited tension and conflict.

CONDEMNS the Budget increase in postal and telegraph charges (as much as 150% in the case of registered newspapers) without at least planning for any improvement in the deteriorating services.

CONGRATULATES farmer Kanwar Singh of Delhi State—once featured in HIMMAT'S "On the Spot"—on achieving a world record yield in spring wheat by harvesting 91.4 maunds to an acre.

CONGRESS HOPE—from page 5

Ironically, this leftist gesture of the Congress has not been welcomed by the left-wing parties, and all the opposition groups, whether left or right, agree that this is nothing more than a fresh burst of sloganising and that its purpose is to "hoodwink" the people. And they are sure that the Indian elector, who revealed his political maturity in the February polls, will not be taken in by this gimmickry.

Rickety foundation

As one commentator writes: "Congress socialism frightens not so much because it is going too fast as because the socialist structure it imagines it is building rests on a foundation too rickety to sustain any kind of stable economy, socialist or non-socialist."

Critics of the Congress think that the present exhalation of socialist hot air emanating from the Working Committee is connected with preparations for a mid-term election, perhaps a year or two from now. But it has failed, they say, to implement the programmes it is already pledged to because of pressure from vested interests inside the party, with the result that the national economy is at present in complete chaos, and might soon break down altogether.

The political developments after the general election, particularly the Working Committee resolutions and the victory of Mrs Gandhi's presidential nominee, Dr Zakir Husain, are considered by some observers here as indications of the wind of change in the party. It was feared that the division at the top in the Congress would create some embarrassment for the Prime Minister. But Mr Kamaraj and other leaders who oppose her have had to reconcile themselves to her new position of strength. Dr Husain's election has put her more firmly in the saddle.

But has the political tide in the country swung in favour of Mrs Gandhi? Most keen observers feel it has not. The economic problems the government has to cope with are as menacing as ever, and the budget proposals Mr Desai unfolded in Parliament on Thursday hardly skirt their fringe.

The Prime Minister still appears to be fumbling, indecisive and vulnerable. She has chosen a "second eleven" of Congressmen to work with her, most of them pitifully dependent on her for their elevation to power and enable her to bring her any political sustenance themselves, and the aging politicians in her party on whom the door to high office has been slammed feel frustrated and neglected.

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Budget—common man has nothing to rejoice over

INDIA'S PECULIAR economic situation, combining stagnation and recession in certain sectors of the economy with general inflation and lack of demand in the heavy industrial sector coexisting with a seller's market almost everywhere else, would have made the task of any Finance Minister difficult. Mr Morarji Desai had in addition to cope with the mood of his own party, as reflected in the recent Congress Working Committee resolutions which precluded any major concessions to the corporate sector with a view to restoring confidence and reviving the capital market.

Mr Desai had also to contend with the competing claims for funds of many States, only too eager to club him with the cudgel of discrimination against non-Congress ministries. In the circumstances, his budget for 1966-67, if conspicuous for lack of any outstanding innovations, is a model of prudent husbanding of none too abundant resources.

If one takes into account the strength of the vociferous ideologists of a large plan both in and outside the Congress Party, the restriction of expenditure on both revenue and

SAY THAT AGAIN...

The greatest need of the country today is a moratorium on talk.

FRANK MORAES

The cost analysts live in a world of immutable abstractions... They don't take account of human life. They do not believe the good is as valuable as the profitable.

ADMIRAL HYMAN RICKOVER, USA

We are non-aligned and we have not been forced by anybody (It was in India's interest)... to stand by our best friend in Arabia.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CHAGLA

capital accounts to resources available is also a political triumph for Mr Desai.

Mr Desai is right in trying to focus the attention of industry to the need to step up exports. His announced fiscal measures such as the reduction in export duties of jute and jute manufactures, iron ore and manganese ore, as well as the steep excise duties on tea and coffee (to restrict their internal consumption) should give a badly needed boost to our traditional exports, which have shown marked decline in the last year.

Export promotion

Mr Desai has done well to emphasise that export promotion is as important an aspect of economic health and balance of payments as import substitution. His fiscal measures are the necessary follow-up of the Devaluation of last year, which did not yield any results in stepped-up exports mainly due to inadequate consideration of the measures needed for stimulating them in the post-devaluation situation.

Mr Desai's budget is more likely to be judged, however, by its impact on prices. It is hard to see how it can be considered anti-inflationary when it singles out such necessities of life as tea and coffee, cigarettes and textiles for heavy doses of excise duties. As a matter of fact, Mr Desai has chosen precisely those items of the common man's budget which by reason of their inelasticity in consumption are sure to yield the expected returns to the exchequer.

It is all very well for the Government to repeat assurances as has been done *ad nauseum* over the last 20 years without any significance, that increase in prices will not be permitted. The sad truth is that there is hardly an instance of the Government ever reducing the price of any goods or service produced by itself or by the Public Sector.

On the other hand, in the last month alone, Government has assured itself increased prices for steel of which it is the major producer. It

Under the Lens

by R. VAITHESWARAN



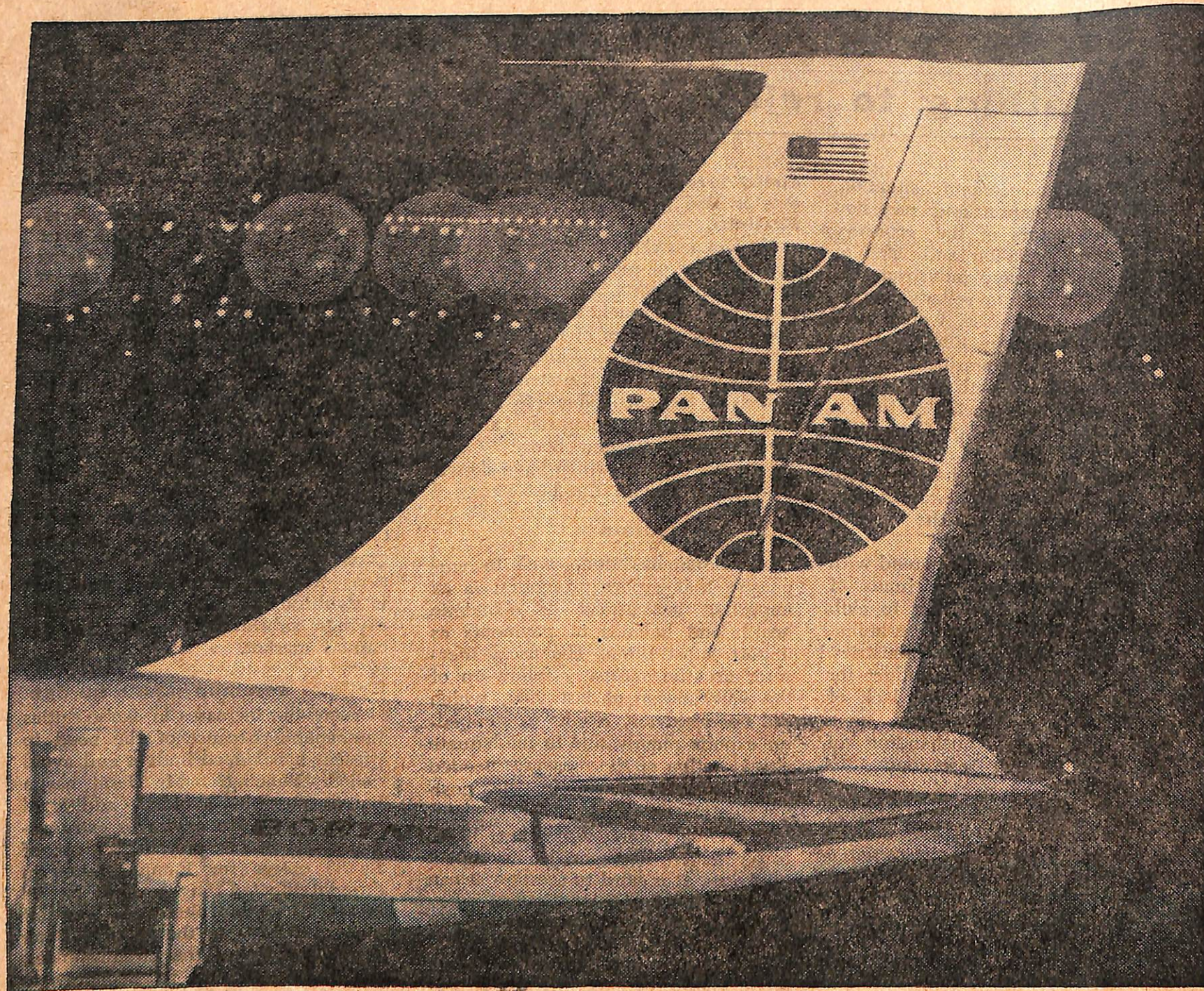
has increased steeply railway fares. Postal, telephone and telegraph rates are being increased. It is considering raising air fares. It would appear that Government, as producer, is the first party guilty of accentuating inflationary pressures and raising prices.

The effect of higher prices of essential commodities would, of course, be mitigated if the budget achieves the Finance Minister's aim of improving the climate for production. But the budget itself merely refrains from imposing additional burdens on the corporate sector and does not grant any major relief. The concessions on direct taxes are minimal. It is doubtful if they will stimulate savings substantially or revive the capital market.


Relieve common man's burden

Were the increases in excise duties inescapable because of the need to present a balanced budget and avoid deficit financing? Mr Desai has as far as possible avoided additional expenditure. He envisages extra expenditure in his present budget of Rs 38 crores for Famine relief in drought-affected areas and Rs 98 crores to enable States to pay off their overdrafts to the Reserve Bank of India. Under the circumstances, was there no room for economy in expenditure which Mr Desai could take credit for in the budget itself? Even a one per cent saving in revenue expenditure alone could have enabled the Finance Minister to confine excise duties to superior grades of tea, coffee and cigarettes and to reduce the rates of duty, at present too high, on petrol, synthetic fibres and aluminium.

The fact that Mr Desai modestly refuses to budget for reduced expenditures can only mean that he does not seriously believe that substantial reductions are possible. This is a pity for if anything could have turned the tables for the economy the Congress Party and for Mr Desai himself, it would have been the attempt to relieve the burden of the common man.



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FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

West Asia—"When elephants fight..."

FROM HARRY ALMOND

BEIRUT UAR troops at Sharm el-Sheikh overlook the six mile-wide Tiran Straits and thus control shipping to and from both Israel's port of Eilat and Jordan's Aqaba. They replaced the UN troops who had been stationed there for eleven years. The Straits are mined and the Egyptians have commenced inspecting ships.

The Cairo Foreign Ministry announcing the move stated: "We have never ceased being at war with Israel. The Israelis have never passed through the Suez Canal: there is no reason for permitting them to move through the Straits of Tiran." President Nasser later added that ships of any nation carrying strategic materials to Israel would be stopped. He particularly singled out Iran as a supplier of petroleum for Israel.

This challenge brings the situation to boiling point. President Johnson says the USA considers the Straits an international waterway. The British position is similar. Russia backs the Arabs—the UAR. The Lebanese Government asked that a visit by the American Sixth Fleet be postponed. Sixth Fleet spokesmen referred to the alarming build-up of Soviet naval strength in the area.

Moscow charges that Israeli extremists follow American incitement and assures Cairo of Russian support. The East German Foreign Minister on a visit to Baghdad announced that his country would stand by the Arabs in any case of Israeli aggression. It is not a local problem.

Of the estimated 310,000 men in the UAR armed forces, about 50,000 crack regulars are in Yemen. Israel's armed strength is about 300,000 and Syria's around 115,000. Jordan's forces number somewhat less. Although all reserves on both sides have not yet been called out, there has been a considerable call-up and leaves have been cancelled. British and American families from Syria, Jordan and Egypt are pouring in here. Some are even leaving Beirut for Cyprus. Local grocers report considerable panic buying. Here in Le-

banon, front line units have been reinforced and leaves cancelled. Patrols on the border have been stepped up.

The present tension dates from May 15 when Israel held a parade in her sector of Jerusalem in spite of international protest. The occasion was the anniversary of the creation of Israel in 1948, a day mourned by the Arabs as marking the expulsion of a million refugees from their homes. A UN resolution calling for either the repatriation of those Arab refugees or for compensation to be paid them for their property now in Israeli hands has been ineffectively repeated by each UN General Assembly and remains unimplemented.

Prior to the May 15 parade Israeli officials warned Syria that they would



King Feisal

retaliate if Arab sabotage continued. Although the parade passed without incident, both Syria and Israel gave warnings at the UN which led U Thant to voice his concern. This was followed by the request that the UN troops of the UN Emergency Force evacuate Egyptian territory. U Thant hastened to comply and considerable UAR military strength moved at once to the front.

King Feisal of Saudi Arabia, staying on in London privately after his State visit, warned that his country might use "the weapon of oil" in event of war with Israel. At least

continued on next page

The week in ASIA

PEKING — China ordered British diplomat Peter Hewitt to quit Shanghai and close his office because of alleged UK atrocities in Hong Kong.

KATHMANDU—A three-member Chinese trade delegation visited Nepal and signed the Sunkosi Hydel Project agreement. Chinese workers holding red books and chanting Mao's teachings greeted the delegation on arrival.

MOSCOW—India and Russia signed a comprehensive two-year cultural pact. For the first time Russia will assist India in applied science and technology.

DONG HA — US and South Vietnamese troops carried the war into the demilitarised zone by a three-pronged assault.

GANGTOK — The Chogyal of Sikkim wants a review of the 1950 Indo-Sikkim treaty in the context of the "changed situation" in 17 years since signing the treaty.

MANILA — 60 people died when political fanatics fought the police in Pasay city. The clash followed the hurling of a bomb in front of the residence of Mr Valentin de Los Santos, leader of Lapiang Malaya (Freedom Movement).

MOSCOW — Soviet engineers are working on a plan to divert two rivers to replenish the Caspian Sea. The level of the world's largest inland sea is now 92 feet below sea level. In 25 years it has fallen eight feet.

COLOMBO — The Petroleum Corporation of Ceylon will purchase 40 railway oil tank wagons from India for Rs 20 lakhs.

DJAKARTA — The Indonesian Government announced the release of three former Premiers who led the Sumatra rebellion against deposed President Sukarno's regime in February, 1958. Seven other political prisoners were also freed under a decree of the Attorney General.

RANGOON — Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr Adam Malik arrived in Burma on a special visit.

66 per cent of Western Europe's petroleum products come from Middle East sources. However, cutting off oil exports would work havoc with Arab economies as well. The recent cut-off by Syria of the flow of Iraqi oil through Syria to the Mediterranean gave a dangerous lurch to Iraq's economic condition, depriving her of one third of her income.

The world generally fails to comprehend the depth of the feelings of injustice in Arab hearts over the UN-imposed partition of Palestine. To this was added the humiliation of military defeat in 1948 when Arab armies went to aid their Palestinian brothers. One cannot deny the appeal made to the world's conscience by the plight of many Jewish people after World War II. It does not follow, however, that the UN should have awarded over half the territory of Palestine to a minority of its people.

For domestic political expediency the US continues to support Israel:

for what may be ideological and economic reasons the USSR now supports the Arab cause, although it was

she who first sent arms to Israel in 1948. "When elephants fight the grass is trampled."

Indian famine spurs affluent conscience

FROM GORDON WISE

LONDON The maxim "people get the kind of government they deserve" is still worth remembering when you get talking to a commuter in a bus or a tube. Quite a percentage of the continuing electoral swing against Labour, most recently expressed in the municipal elections, is a public protest against governmental measures which just have to be taken. That is, if Britain is to become solvent. There is a good deal of public self-interest reflected in this protest vote.

Some of the other percentage is a healthy suspicion of Mr Wilson's rather sudden conversion to the Common Market proposition. Really cynical observers even mutter darkly that Mr Wilson knows that this second bid for entry into the European Economic Community (EEC) will be rebuffed by France again. They point out that Mr Wilson has already covered himself by saying "it will not be our fault."

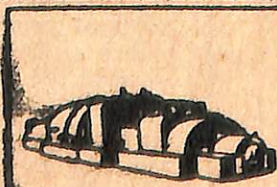
Then, claim these critics, the Prime Minister can make an attempt to have Britain enter the Atlantic Community programme, with closer ties to the United States as put for-

ward by certain influential Americans. Mr Wilson will be able to say that he honestly tried to enter the EEC but that Britain was not wanted.

The proposition of developing the Commonwealth with all its potentialities does not seem to be a serious contender in the various alternatives facing Britain.

Admittedly this Common Market conjecture cannot be in any way proven. But one thing is fairly accurate; that despite the political heat engendered in the Common Market debate, the idea does not quicken the pulse or stir the blood of the average Britisher. On the other hand, the

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plight of India does interest and concern people. Television shots of famine areas and of conditions in Calcutta, recently seen on countless British screens, have done a great deal to enliven the conscience of this affluent society.

Self-interest, as expressed in most of the Common Market arguments, will carry you a certain way. But then the people need a more satisfying programme. Closing the gap between rich and poor nations could be that programme.

The Hong Kong riots

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

HONG KONG Peking has protested to the British Government about the "large-scale sanguinary atrocities . . . Fascist outrages . . . and the towering crimes" perpetrated by the British authorities here in Hong Kong against Chinese residents.

As I write, a crowd of 1500 Mao-shouting, poster-plastering and singing demonstrators is blocking the road outside Government House. Delegations began going there four days ago to present protest notes and demanding to see the Governor. One was called the "Hong Kong & Kowloon Committee for Anti-Hong Kong British Persecution Struggle". All petitions are received but the Governor is not available.

As the members in the delegations rose to hundreds, some of whom arrived in sleek black Mercedes cars, the gates of Government House were closed and petitions received in a box just inside. Frustrated, they chanted and waved aloft their little red Mao books. They also covered the iron gates and the walls with posters vilifying the police, the Government and the Governor.

Actually only one person has died as a result of the riots and he was hit on the head by a stone which was certainly not thrown by the police. The police have shown remarkable patience and restraint in dealing with Communist demonstrators and the mobs, even when being attacked with stones and bottles. Hundreds of people have been arrested for violence, arson, rioting and curfew breaking.

School children join in

The Communist demonstrators have, on the whole, been quite disciplined but the unrest they have stirred up by their shouting of Maoist slogans, singing revolutionary songs and pasting inflammatory and anti-government posters on walls, buses, ferries and inside buildings has given the opening for hooligans and criminal elements to take the lead in violence and attacking the police.

Crowds naturally gather and get carried away. Even school children have joined in the free-for-all against authority. There is evidence of money being paid to people to riot, destroy property and throw stones.

The Communist newspapers have aggravated the situation by vicious attacks and by spreading malicious rumours of a bank run. A Government source has said that there are "sound reports" of people being paid to queue up outside some banks "to create a false sense of panic". Radio announcements had to be made frequently to assure the population that there was no truth in the rumours. The same happened in relation to rice, water and electricity.

Interestingly enough the vast majority of Hong Kong's nearly four million population, 99 per cent of whom are Chinese, has come out in favour of the Government's handling of the situation. Public opinion has been voiced as never before. There is not the slightest doubt that they want peace and stability and are against the rioters and those who have created the conditions which caused rioting and lawlessness. They are behind the police in their law-enforcement.

Over 150 organisations representing more than a million people have in these last few days pledged support for the Government's actions in this crisis.

A spontaneous suggestion to set up a fund to provide higher education for children of rank-and-file policemen is receiving great support from all sections of the community. It has been started "in recognition of the Hong Kong Police Force's restraint 'in the face of the greatest provocation' while maintaining law and order during the Kowloon riots". There is

continued on next page

The week in INDIA

NEW DELHI — The economic survey for 1966-67 suggested curbs on expenditure in public and private sectors. It proposed that present credit controls continue.

CALCUTTA — Santhals armed with bows and arrows attacked four police officers in Nakshalbari, Darjeeling District. Tribals under the leadership of CPI Marxists are carrying on a movement against landlords in this area.

LUCKNOW — Two hundred and fifty women put Revenue Minister Udit Narain Sharma under "gherao" for two hours in his car. Home Guards and police rescued him.

MADRAS — Mr K. T. Chandy, chairman of the Food Corporation of India, inaugurated a project for the production of a high-protein vegetable food, "Bal Ahar".

CALCUTTA — United Front volunteers directed traffic in the city as policemen kept off the roads in protest against political interference. On May 22 a group of policemen attacked the Howrah Thana office to protest against an arrest order against the officer-in-charge.

BHAVNAGAR — Arson and rioting gripped Bhavnagar for two days as the All-Party Action Committee called a total bandh to protest against the location of Saurashtra University in Rajkot. The IAC booking office was burnt.

JAMMU — Pakistani troops were reported to be massing in Chenab River area of Kashmir and the build-up was stated to be on a much bigger scale than in September 1965.

NEW DELHI — The Opposition failed with a censure motion against the Government for not meeting its food supply commitments to States with non-Congress governments.

GAUHATI — Mob violence rocked Golaghat town following a dispute between students and shopkeepers over prices. 20 people were injured.

JABALPUR — The Army was alerted and police opened fire, killing two and wounding ten. Defiant crowds were responding to a call by opposition parties for a "Jabalpur Bundh" against the Madhya Pradesh Government's food policy.

no mass support for the leftist demonstrators even although they have organised demonstrations of several thousand chanting, singing Maoists.

In this morning's *South China Morning Post* there is an interesting report from Taiwan which suggests that the present troubles in Hong Kong result from internal struggles in Communist China. It said that Marshal Chen Yi, the Chinese Foreign Minister, has been attacked recently for his failure to strengthen the organisation of Chinese residents in Hong Kong, and that a public trial has been set for him in the near future. The report continues: "The riots in Hong Kong which were meant to show Communist control over the local population and Peking's stout diplomacy were made by Marshal Chen Yi in an attempt to enable him to avoid trial."

Opinion in Hong Kong is divided as to whether the present demonstrations and unrest originated in orders from Peking. But whether or not, Peking had to support its demonstrators here by tough words and actions.

The week elsewhere

KOREANS BACK PARK

SEOUL—President Chung Hee Park, who won a landslide majority of over one million in South Korea's recent presidential election, is expected to continue his pro-American policy and strengthening of ties with Japan. Park's re-election for a second four-year term indicates the overwhelming support of Korea's 20 million people for his government, which has given the country political stability and economic progress and brought about a historic reconciliation with neighbouring Japan. Park's popularity will again be tested in parliamentary elections on June 8.

NO A—GUARANTEES

WASHINGTON—US Secretary of State Dean Rusk ruled out firm guarantees to non-nuclear countries which may be threatened by Communist China. Rusk told the Senate

Unfortunately for them the masses have not risen in revolution against the Hong Kong Government. This must be very disappointing and, as

somebody commented, the local Communists must be suffering agonies sitting on the horns of their own dilemma.

President Mobutu stabilises Congo

FROM VERE JAMES

NAIROBI The name "Congo", since the independence of that ill-fated country, has become synonymous with chaos, bloodshed and failure. Often quoted as an example of Africa's inability to order and develop its own affairs it has also given a "raison d'être" for those who want to maintain vested interests and continue unequal racial policies.

But it is time to take a second look at this country and its remarkable young leader, General Joseph Mobutu. His Military High Command took power on November 24, 1965 to end the conflicts between the then President, Kasavubu, and former Minister Tshombe. During the unprecedented take-over, not one person was arrested, killed or wounded.

He has since maintained the freedom of the press. Trade unionists continue to function—but without the right to strike. Civil servants are protected from wrongful dismissal by independent commissions. Only two positions in a Cabinet of fifteen are

held by soldiers. His only enemies are corrupt and power-seeking politicians.

A remarkable achievement in his first months was the reduction of the number of provinces from 28 to 8 and the resultant reduction of local governments, officials and petty politics.

His priority has been to crush finally the rebellion (after which he promises the politicians will once more assume power), and "economic decolonisation"—to end the 80 per cent foreign control of Congo's economy. "A Congo sold out to imperialism is as inconceivable as a Congo made into a Chinese satellite", he declared in an interview with the magazine *Drum*.

A recent UN report claims that political stability and calm prevails throughout the Congo except for a few limited rebel pockets and that the fundamental condition for economic recovery has thus been achieved.

The UN technical assistance programme, carried out by 586 experts and administrators from 46 countries, is the largest ever undertaken by the world organisation. Among its problems are 500,000 refugees now in the Congo from Angola, Rwanda and Sudan.

Of the rebel leaders, only Peking-trained Pierre Mulele appears to still be at large in the south. Gbenye and Soumaliot are soon to go on trial *in absentia*. Gizenga is in exile.

The question mark hanging over the Congo is the future of Tshombe. At present in Europe, rumour and speculation surrounds the former Katanga leader. If Mobutu handles this problem with the same spirit and wisdom in which he has laboured during his Presidency, he will save the country.

"We need a rising standard of character as well as education"

TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND PUPILS in a hundred schools: in Lebanon a Muslim society, the Makassed Association, shoulders this responsibility, along with a large hospital and many other services which help the needy and the clever to make their progress through life from the pre-natal clinic to the coffin. In a small country—population under two million—this represents a sizeable contribution to education and welfare.

Why and how do ordinary citizens come to tackle the needs of their community in this way?

Miss Ihsan Mahmassani, Principal of the Association's 1400-strong boarding school and high school for girls, told me the story. The Association was founded in 1877 by the leading Muslim families of Beirut, her own among them. The sons and grandsons of the original founders carry it on. Two golden "lira" subscribed by the founding President were the beginning of Trust funds that have since raised and spent millions. Lebanon was then under the Ottoman Turks. They suspected such societies of nationalistic aims, and during the first World War work was stopped. In 1918 it began again, but schools were opened for girls as well as boys.

The social revolution of the past fifty years has been largely accomplished through the education of women and the breakdown of prejudice involved. When Miss Mahmassani was a girl, it was still a bold and unusual step for her father to send her and her sister to college. His action encouraged many others. Her sister is an historian, and her own contribution has been the founding and development of the school she has led for the past thirteen years.

Relevant to 20th century

When she came to the "Beit al Atfal", (House of Children), it had five elementary classes, 30 boarders and 200 pupils. Now it has 1400, 200 of them boarders from all over the Arab world. It has pioneered co-education in the primary classes, and the girls go on to university standard in the secondary school Miss Mahmassani started.

The school aims to give a modern education, rooted in the traditional values and teaching of Islam. "How do you make this relevant to the questions the girls face in this twentieth century world?" I asked.

"The Koran is carefully taught throughout the school," she said. "I myself use the morning assemblies to make one verse at a time live in terms of actual problems the children face. In personal talks I help them to reason out themselves the rights and wrongs of things, not just take what I say. Sometimes they need strong

discipline, and I give it, but usually they work out what is right themselves.

"One thing that helps us is that they are with us right through their school lives. They enter the kindergarten classes, and I do not accept them after that. Parents and staff thus work together in understanding and training the children from the start."

While politicians talk about Arab unity, a school like this quietly builds it. Miss Mahmassani showed me a sheaf of pictures—birthday parties, plays on the occasion of Muslim feasts, gatherings in the mosque that is part of the school, laboratories and art classes which produce a high level of creative work, boys as well as girls—a little Saudi prince, a young Negro, a group of scouts. Her own enthusiasm lit up the pictures.

It is up to the women

When I asked her what she considers most important for her girls, her reply was emphatic. "It is their attitude to training their own children, and their ability to do it. Many of their own parents are not well educated, and Lebanon will have a higher standard in the next generation if our girls do their work responsibly with their own families.

"We need to have a rising standard of character as well as education. They do not necessarily go together, and it is up to the women to secure both."

C.W.

Below: Students of "Khalid ibn Waleed" school perform a traditional Lebanese "debke".

Bottom right: Miss Ihsan Mahmassani, Principal of the school.



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BOOKS

China and the West

"Prelude to Hong Kong", by Austin Coates. Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1966, 224 pp. 40s.

This is an excellent account of the relations between China and the West in the two hundred years before Hong Kong became a British possession. Written by a Britisher, it is a reasonably impartial judgment of the causes behind the reluctance of China to open its doors to Western civilisation and the determination of the Western nations, spearheaded by the British, to force open those doors to sea trade.

The Portuguese were the first of the Europeans to sail to China and their initial voyage was in 1513. By 1557 they had an agreement with the Chinese to do limited trading via Canton from the tiny peninsula of Macao on the south coast and to erect buildings there. But the Chinese were self-sufficient. They did not need anything from Europe.

Centre of the World

The Portuguese and those who followed them—the Dutch, the British, the French and later the Americans—had great difficulties in trading and especially in getting trade on to a satisfactory basis for the West. This book gives a lively description of those difficulties.

The Chinese knew practically nothing about the world beyond China and regarded China as the centre of the world and all others who might exist beyond her boundaries as tributary and barbarian tribes. The westerners knew a little more about China but did not trouble to study the way in which the Chinese mind worked. The British in particular refused to be regarded as a subject tribe and their aggressiveness in trade broke all Chinese conceptions of correct procedure.

Both the Chinese and western merchants broke the laws of China in their trading activities and the Chinese officials probably made as much money out of the smuggled opium

as the foreigners. When opium became the biggest money-maker for the western merchants—and all of them were in it including the Americans—the Emperor himself, although indirectly, was greatly enriched from the proceeds.

Eventually in China some of the top officials awoke to their responsibility for protecting the health and morals of their people. They blamed the smokers and told the Emperor that the barbarian traders would continue bringing opium to China until the disgraceful habit of smoking it was stopped. At the same time they mentioned the heavy drain of silver away from China in payment.

By the time the Emperor decided that the opium trade must be smashed the British had decided that the time had come to fight to force China

to behave like a western nation and regularise trade. The Chinese, who had always in the past won disputes by cutting off food supplies to the foreign merchants and withdrawing all trade facilities, were totally unaware of the military and naval power of the West. So when the British sent warships and troops to back their demands the Chinese were forced to give in for the first time.

On 29 August, 1842, the Treaty of Nanking was signed and the barren, rocky island of Hong Kong was ceded to Britain as a permanent possession. At the same time five ports were opened to foreign trade.

This book could well be a textbook from which both the West and the East can learn the necessity for understanding each other.

H.P.B.

Future ships will shed their holds

BY REGINALD HOLME

"INSTANT UNLOADING" will be a feature of future freighters. These ships will come apart, drop their cargo-carrying sections and re-load with new ones, then sail off at once.

Already Britain's Ministry of Public Building and Works has called for tenders to construct dredging barges 75 yards long which could be detached from the engine and control section and unloaded while other sections are clipped on to the engine section and go to work. The Ministry have had enquiries from India, Iraq and France. They hope to start building one in September. This prototype is expected to lead on to larger vessels.

The larger sea-going version of the "sectional ship" is still under wraps of secrecy, but this much is known:

It is the invention of a Liverpool marine engineer and architect, Mr Geoffrey Stockdale. Three years ago he saw that costly time

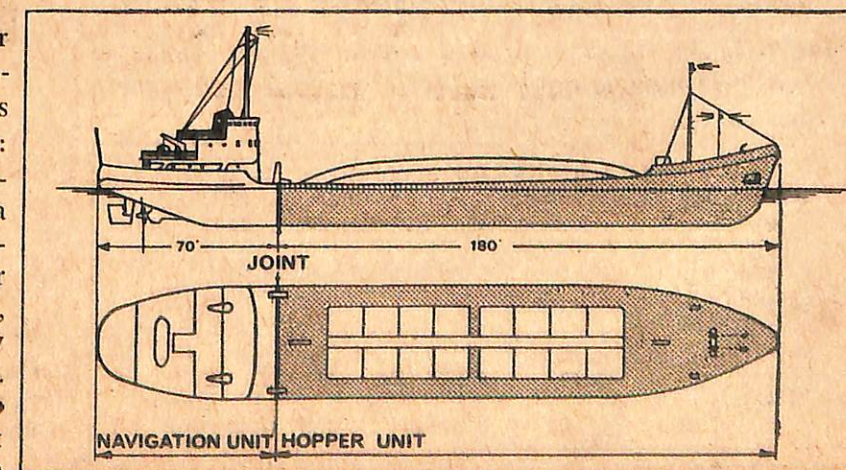
FRONTIERS OF science

spent by ships lying in port caused economic loss to cargo companies.

Tests in a water tank show that sectional or "multi-packet" ships of 5000 tons can be built to stand wave-stresses by an ingenious method of hinging the sections at deck level. The National Research Development Corporation is financing this design for the Ministry of Works.

Multi-section ships would be possible by a design of bulkheads that enables each unit to float by itself, as can be done on some existing ships. The many-sectioned ship of the future would automatically uncouple.

Below: Proposed self-propelled hopper for the M.P.B.W.



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viewpoint Are coalition governments better than Congress?

Coalitions breed political instability

First prize to Subash N. Thadani, Bangalore 7.

POLITICIANS seek power and realise, more than anyone else, that political fulfilment comes only with government office. The necessity for political fulfilment breeds strange bedfellows, and coalition governments are an illustration of this. Experience teaches that strange bedfellows never put the house in order.

Even a cursory look at contemporary political history will illustrate this point. In Travancore-Cochin, the coalition formed between the Congress and the Travancore-Tamilnad Congress in 1952 collapsed in 1953. Elections were held in 1954, and the PSP-Congress coalition fell in 1954 itself, and later again the Congress-Travancore-Tamilnad Congress coalition fell, leading to President's rule. After the 1957 elections in Kerala, the Communist-dominated coalition collapsed in 1959. In PEPSU (Patiala and East Punjab States Union) the coalition of the Akalis and some Rightist parties formed in 1952 was dismissed by the Central Government and mid-term elections held. In Orissa, the coalition of the Congress and the Ganatantra Parishad formed in 1957 collapsed in 1959.

Even today coalition governments all over the country are fumbling. A case in point is West Bengal. The Government's encouragement of *gheraos* has made heavy the hearts

of all Indians who value sanity and balance in labour-management relations, who hold as sacrosanct the rule of law and the fundamental rights of all citizens, and who cherish all that the industrial revolution in India has symbolised. At the time of writing, several responsible members of the West Bengal cabinet, and most of the Central leaders have publicly protested against the *gheraos*. But nothing has been done about it, because the Government, dressed in a multi-coloured political costume, is like the joker, unable to make a policy decision. In the

meanwhile, production in West Bengal has fallen by 20 per cent; the forces of law and order all over the country have been undermined, and the entrepreneur has been frightened away. Here then is the Indian edition of the tragedy of "Nero fiddling while Rome burns".

Unless coalition governments are prepared to place the interests of the country above their own myopic, political interests; unless they are prepared to abide by Dr Radhakrishnan's dictum, that politicians must seek to "serve at any price, rather than power at any cost", the annals of Indian history will record 1967—the year when coalition governments galore came into office—as a tragedy of Indian democracy.

Where is the choice?

Second prize to D. R. Mohan Raj, Hyderabad 1.

IN the existing situation, the question is, the devil or the deep sea? The answer is, neither.

The Fourth General Elections, in shattering the Congress monolith and its monopoly of power, promised to restore sanity and sobriety to the party and raised hopes of more responsibility, serious rational thinking and sincere effort on the part of the parties comprising the opposition. Both have proved delusions.

The situation steadily deteriorates. Neither Congress nor the non-Congress parties inspire.

One thing is clear. A Government is not necessarily bad because it is Congress or necessarily good because it is non-Congress.

The non-Congress Coalition Governments, instead of trying to undo the evils they proclaim with vigour and fervour, merely aim at popularity. The national perspective is sorely lacking, possibly willfully so.

In Bihar, the Government is faced with relieving the pangs of acute famine. Instead, the Ministers merely point fingers at the Centre or else incite people to "gherao" public officials. The Bengal Government, of course, specialises in championing *gheraos*, thereby encouraging class

conflict and threatening peace and order.

Kerala again faces food shortage. Again the Centre is held responsible. The Food Minister threatens to *gherao* the Governor to force the Centre to speed food supplies. The Madras Government drastically—and commendably—reduces the price of rice, but asks the Centre to bear the costs. As Mirzapur writhes in the agony of starvation, the UP Cabinet, divided on food procurement, finds itself conveniently paralysed. While this is so, Punjab and Haryana are unstable as ever.

Economic breakdown, mass privation, even starvation and the consequent discontent and unrest fail to attract attention of these Governments.

Not that the Congress is any more promising. In spite of the general elections, it isn't shorn of its arrogance.

The Congress Chief Ministers join in the demand for more power for the states to ensure their continuity in power. The Centre is again the scapegoat.

With all our accent on the federal structure, seeds of discord are being sown. Where is the choice?

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Kennedy Round liberalises trade

BY M. S. DABKE

MOVING away swiftly from the prospect of a dismal failure, the Kennedy Round of talks has dramatically culminated into a romping success after four years of negotiation. This is glowing tribute to the perseverance of the 54 countries participating in the talks and a fitting memorial to the late President John F. Kennedy.

The Treaty of Rome signed by the "Six" in 1958, was the beginning of tariff cuts and reciprocal trade concessions between the countries in Europe. Though this was a welcome development, President Kennedy took no time to realise that Europe was becoming insular. England was keen to join the European Economic Community (Common Market). There was a distinct prospect of the United States being shut out of the tariff wall raised by the EEC. By the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, therefore, the US President equipped himself to initiate a dialogue between the developed and the developing nations to erase trade barriers. This dialogue came to be

known as the Kennedy Round. India was one of the participants.

Nobody ever expected the negotiations to be smooth and swift. It was an unending battle of wits—both the developing and the developed countries constantly trying to score over one another. The agreement on cereals and on chemicals posed big obstacles. By the end of April, the negotiations had almost broken down. But destiny had ordained otherwise and an accord was reached in Geneva on May 17.

Grand achievement

Kennedy Round is a grand achievement. The negotiations represented around 80 per cent of the world trade. Mainly, industrial products are covered. The volume of trade on which tariff concessions have been agreed upon is about \$40,000 million. The reduction in tariff varies between 5 and 100 per cent. On the average, it is 30 per cent. This will undoubtedly give a big boost to the international trade. First, the capacity of the EEC to dictate trade

terms to the countries outside will be severely restricted. This would improve vastly the position of the developing countries as against the EEC. Secondly, the reduced tariffs would give a pep to the exports of the developing countries and their development may be faster. All these factors would contribute to the considerable increase in the volume of world trade.

India's immediate and potential gains from the Kennedy Round are immense. Coming close on the heels of the British move to join the EEC, the Kennedy Round should offer great relief to India. At present, our exports to the Western industrial nations are around Rs 400 crores. Nearly 70 per cent of these are expected to be benefited by the Kennedy Round.

It is rather difficult at this stage to work out precisely India's gains. It could, however, be a safe guess to assume that about 30 per cent of our exports would be covered as a result of the accord reached at Geneva. Moreover, what we might lose as a result of Britain's joining the EEC may be made good by a handsome increase in our trade with the United

continued on page 21

West Asia—crisis background

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"THE BATTLE will not be limited to Syria or UAR, and our fundamental objective will be the destruction of Israel."

Thus said President Nasser, speaking last Saturday about the current confrontation between Israel and the Arab nations.

The Arab countries which surround Israel have never accepted its existence. 1.3 million refugees who left their homes when Israel came into being 19 years ago, still live in camps around Israel's borders determined to return to their homeland.

Question of survival

Twice, in 1948 and 1956, full scale war has erupted between Israel and her neighbours; sabotage and skirmishes have never ceased. The UAR, which now bans Israeli ships from the Gulf of Aqaba, has all along barred them from the Suez Canal. The present crisis, in Arab eyes, is but the latest development in a war that has never really stopped.

For Israel, the struggle is a question of survival. Their aim is to preserve the status quo. Nevertheless, they have shown themselves ready to strike hard, as in 1956, when their interests demanded it. The blockade of Aqaba is not disastrous to Israel, as only 11 per cent of their trade passes through it, but the Arabs will follow up success there with further moves.

Israel has always been a protege of the US, where Jewish interests are a factor few politicians can afford to ignore. The US will not stand by and left Israel be destroyed. This, and the Arab's determination to destroy Israel, are two firm factors in the West Asian situation.

The immediate cause of the present crisis was an Israeli threat to attack Syria in retaliation for a series of sabotage raids.

The principal cause, however, is the increased Arab military might, thanks to Soviet aid. In his speech last Saturday, President Nasser made it clear that the removal of the UN forces and blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba had been planned for some time; the need to help Syria provided the occasion.

Between them, the USA, Russia, France and Britain have distributed more than a £1000 million pounds worth of "hardware" among their friends in West Asia, Arab and Israeli.

Western aims in West Asia may be summarised as:

1. To preserve Israel.
2. To keep open the international waterways. (If Nasser can close the Tiran Straits, why should he not also close the Suez Canal?)
3. To maintain oil supplies. Two-thirds of Europe's oil comes from West Asia.

The Western powers will make considerable efforts to achieve these goals without fighting, for war will inevitably mean the disruption of the oil supplies and waterways.

Russia's aim is to divide the Western powers from even their Arab allies, and increase her own influence among them. She may see in West Asia a strategic bridgehead to three continents, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Commenting on the Soviet arms supplies in the region, a French commentator, General Bethouart, writes in *Le Figaro*: "Penetration of the Mediterranean has always been one of the aims of Russian policy. The Tsars failed to attain it. The Soviets are in process of achieving it."

Russia is unlikely to risk getting involved in fighting herself but she

ESTIMATED STRENGTH OF ARAB AND ISRAELI FORCES

	Troops	Tanks	Planes
UAR	190,000*	1000	320
Syria	48,000	350	90
Jordan	40,000	130	56
Iraq	80,000	300	120
Total**	358,000	1780	586***
Israel	250,000	800	220

US Sixth Fleet:

45 Ships including 3 Aircraft Carriers, 250 aircraft and 2000 US Marines

* 50,000 of UAR troops are in the Yemen

** Excludes North African countries, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Lebanon

*** UAR has 6 destroyers, 10 submarines compared to Israel's 3 destroyers and 4 submarines.

will encourage her Arab allies to create trouble for the West.

India will be one of the worst sufferers should war close the Suez Canal. According to one estimate, our Five Year Plan expenses will go up 40 per cent if supplies have to be routed round South Africa. Much of our oil comes from West Asia too.

The West Asian crisis is not a local issue. It is a great power confrontation complicated by Arab rivalries and sparked by Arab hatred of Israel. It is the responsibility of the world community, which has allowed this crisis to simmer for 19 years, to find a permanent solution.

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This was a Life

DR KWEGGYR AGGREY
1875—1928

IN 1875, in a humble village in Ghana, was born a boy destined to be one of the greatest men of this century. Dr Kweggyr Aggrey, a nationalist and academician, may be called the earliest modern African.

He got involved in educational work at an early age. Always a quick and industrious student, he graduated from the local missionary school at 15 and went to start another. He became so popular as a local teacher that later he commented, "If I ever wore my hat on my right brow all the young men did the same."

He went to America to further his education. He created a sensation when he delivered an oration in Greek and challenged the cream of American intellect. He collected a BA with honours in record time.

It was in America that he came face to face with racial segregation, to which he was to devote so much of his lectures in later life. But he refused to take sides right from the start and he was proud of it. "You can play a tune of sorts on the white keys of a piano," he would say, "and similarly on the black, but for harmony you must use both black and white."

Back in Africa he took to his old job of trying to educate the Africans: "I want my people to be educated in the larger sense, in heart, hand and head, and thus render Africa indispensable to the world in spiritual, intellectual and commercial products."

He travelled across the continent, trying to awaken the Africans from their traditional sleep and condemning racial feeling. "I want to end the hatred of the whites and the suspicion of the blacks," he always said. He was appointed chairman of an educational commission on Africa by the British government, and the fruits of his labour are visible in African education today.

He died in 1928, worn out by sheer hard work. Africa and the world will always remember this great African Christian educationalist as a pioneer of friendship with a message for the entire world.

D. G.

FOX AND HOUNDS

THE wisdom of your editorial "The Fox and the Hounds" (May 5, 1967) is resounding. It is not surprising that the Congress Working Committee has rejected out of hand the blatantly undemocratic suggestions for a "National Government" at the Centre. The Congress is voted into office for a five-year term with an absolute majority so that the Committee sees in the clamour of such Opposition parties as the Jan Sangh and Swatantra for a national government, a move to undermine the Constitution. Those who urge this argue that the Congress Party, despite — or because of — its uninterrupted rule over two decades, has failed to solve the national problems and in fact is leading the country from one crisis to another and that in the recent general elections the people had given their verdict against the Congress.

The fallacy of their argument may be seen in States where the Congress has become an Opposition Party. In these States the functioning of governments composed of disparate elements betrays lack of cohesive thinking and evolution of common policies and programmes. Actually, what the Swatantra wants is a government of what it calls like-minded parties including that section of Congress which is in sympathy with its Rightist philosophy.

The people found fault not with Socialist programmes and pledges offered, but with the ways in which they seemed to be worked out. In the circumstances, the Swatantra manoeuvre seems to be to scuttle the Socialist aims and objectives of the Congress, and impose its minority philosophy on the people by making use of the Congress majority. This will mean the negation of democracy and will lead to the rise of a clique-rule which is not what we people have voted for.

T. S. PRASAD, Mysore

POPULATION EXPLOSION

THE April 14 issue of HIMMAT lay on my table unread as I was on a fortnight's tour of South Kerala. The sight of untilled acres of the fertile Kerala and my calculation that there are in the other States thousands more waiting for irrigation and tillage made me sympathise with some of our short-sighted politicians, who, while professing to be the followers of Gandhiji, do not scruple about getting the conscience of our people deadened by way of advocating contraceptive practices. To such of my thoughts your lines under the caption "Population Solution" gave a torch-light of clarity and conviction.

Letters

Thank you. I hope that the said issue of HIMMAT has already gone to our helpless politicians who may mean well, but go astray from right norms of economics and morality.

J. PULIKODAN, S.J., Payangadi,
Kerala

CRACKS IN OPPOSITION

YOUR article on Opposition unity (HIMMAT, May 19) was interesting. Yet the friction between the various parties with varying targets was anticipated from the very beginning. The Opposition parties had joined hands in the election only to defeat the Congress Party and now they are in power they remember their diametrically opposite policies. Yet since the Opposition have been given a chance in UP, Bihar, Kerala, etc., they should fight for the country rather than for their respective parties. If these Opposition coalitions (United Fronts) fail, that may lead to chaos.

ARTHUR PAIS, Mangalore 2

FIND THE BALL

I RECEIVED the (Find the Ball) second prize on Saturday and through this letter I express my compliments to you. Soon after my receiving the prize nearly a dozen of my friends started taking your magazine from the shop. However I am trying to knock off your coveted first prize.

PRITHVIRAJ N. R., Bangalore 3

KENNEDY ROUND —from page 18

States and Britain's partner in the EEC.

India's cotton piecegoods have suffered a setback in the US market during the first four months of the current year. They have receded to 165 lakh square metres from 171 lakh square metres in the corresponding period last year. The Kennedy Round enables us to increase our exports of textiles to the US.

Like all other pacts, the accord may be absolutely fine on paper but not quite so in its actual working. For instance, a transitional period of five years to bring down the tariffs to the targets has been proposed. What better service could developed countries do to the developing ones other than skipping the transitional period?



America's failure

by Rajmohan Gandhi

Glasgow

A LONDON NEWSPAPER writes of President Johnson's visit to the American pavilion in Montreal's Expo '67. Apparently he climbed twenty floors on an up escalator. Back in Washington, Johnson was again on an up escalator, the Vietnam one. Some say that Johnson wants to get off it but doesn't see how.

Vietnam's tragedy is pain, terror, disillusionment and death for Americans, hate, death and suffering for Vietnamese. In one recent week 337 American boys died. Vietnamese killed were probably ten times as many.

I feel for both—for the wives, fathers, mothers and other loved ones. I pray for a stronger unceasing and ever-deepening feeling. When will the killing end? In Vietnam they have been used to it for twenty-five relentless years. Ho Chi Minh's men are prepared to fight it out or hold out for a long time to come, it seems. The American mood is less predictable. Many there would prefer much swifter and higher escalation bringing with it direct confrontation with China or a withdrawal to a dragging out over a much longer period of the present unavailing war.

Something wrong

There is irony in Vietnam. A minority of the people in a tiny strip of a nation in South-East Asia have successfully defied and frustrated the world's mightiest power and this earth's number one country sees no way out.

Something is seriously wrong. And in my honest belief the explanation is that America is attempting to counter the materialism of Communism in Vietnam with her own materialism, not with an answer to materialism.

I want no misunderstanding here. I am not opposed, as such, to wars. They seem inevitable and are often necessary. And I believe that in the face of Communist subversion, sabotage and aggression in Vietnam it was necessary and right for America to take a mili-

tary stand. Where America is overwhelmingly wrong, and weak as a result, is not having a revolutionary and unselfish goal for the war.

America is clear that she is against Communism in South-East Asia, but not clear what she is for.

The people of Vietnam and of Asia, the Middle East and South America, want an answer for poverty, hate, callousness and despair. Communism tempts, deceives, enthalls and captures many of them. America condemns Communism, saying that it is against freedom but she seems to love the materialism which is the breeding ground of Communism and she offers no promise of a transformation in human condition of the masses of the world.

Not alternatives

"Democracy" is not an alternative to Communism. In any case South Vietnam has not had democracy for years. "Freedom" is no alternative to Communism either. What is freedom? If it means licence to cheat, indulge, whore or hate, how does it offer hope of deliverance to Asia's millions? If in freedom men and women choose discipline, service and care, then men and nations including Vietnamese people can be wooed and won. America's failure lies in her inability to proclaim and practise this counter fascination.

I reject Communism because it aims to replace conscience in man with dictates of State. Is America for this conscience or against it?

Human conscience is really Divine. It is God's hook into man. It prods man towards honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. It speaks against cheating, indulgence, whoring and hating. Is America for the freedom to defy and deaden conscience? Or is she for an all-out struggle for the triumph of conscience, for man's self-discipline and concern for others?

Long decades ago the great American William Penn wrote, "Men must choose to be governed by God or they condemn themselves to be ruled by tyrants." He

might have added, "they condemn themselves to failure in dealing with tyrants," or "They condemn other millions to live in tyranny".

I am not a pacifist. I believe throughout history there have been evil forces that have required and necessitated the launching of war.

If America were to stand for love among men instead of hate, for kindness instead of cruelty, for purity instead of capitulation to lust, for care instead of callousness and if as a people and as a Government she were to declare these qualities as her objective for men and nations, she would win the friendship of millions and she would also win her wars.

If the playing fields of Eton School were responsible for England's victory at Waterloo it is the way American life is lived, or not lived, in homes, colleges, factories, offices and farms of America that deprive America of victory in Vietnam—not the swamps, jungles or paddyfields of Vietnam.

Force of Lincolns

America is at a decisive moment. She urgently needs for her own sake and for the world's sake the answer to frustration. And that answer is fully and freely available to her. It lies in her heritage. Her faith neither condones evil nor condemns those who fall into it. It draws sharp lines between right and wrong but it also offers the secret of change and a new life to all who see it.

The world longs to see an Abraham Lincoln rise in America again or a whole force of Lincolns. Lincoln who said of his country, "We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown but we have forgotten God."

America has shown sacrifice and generosity in cash and blood on a scale unexampled in history. She has welcomed men of all peoples and backgrounds and given them the opportunity to speak freely. If ever there was a nation that could have pioneered a global renaissance it was America. She still could. But her leaders and her led must choose.

FIND THE BALL Competition No:22



Send no money

HOW TO PLAY

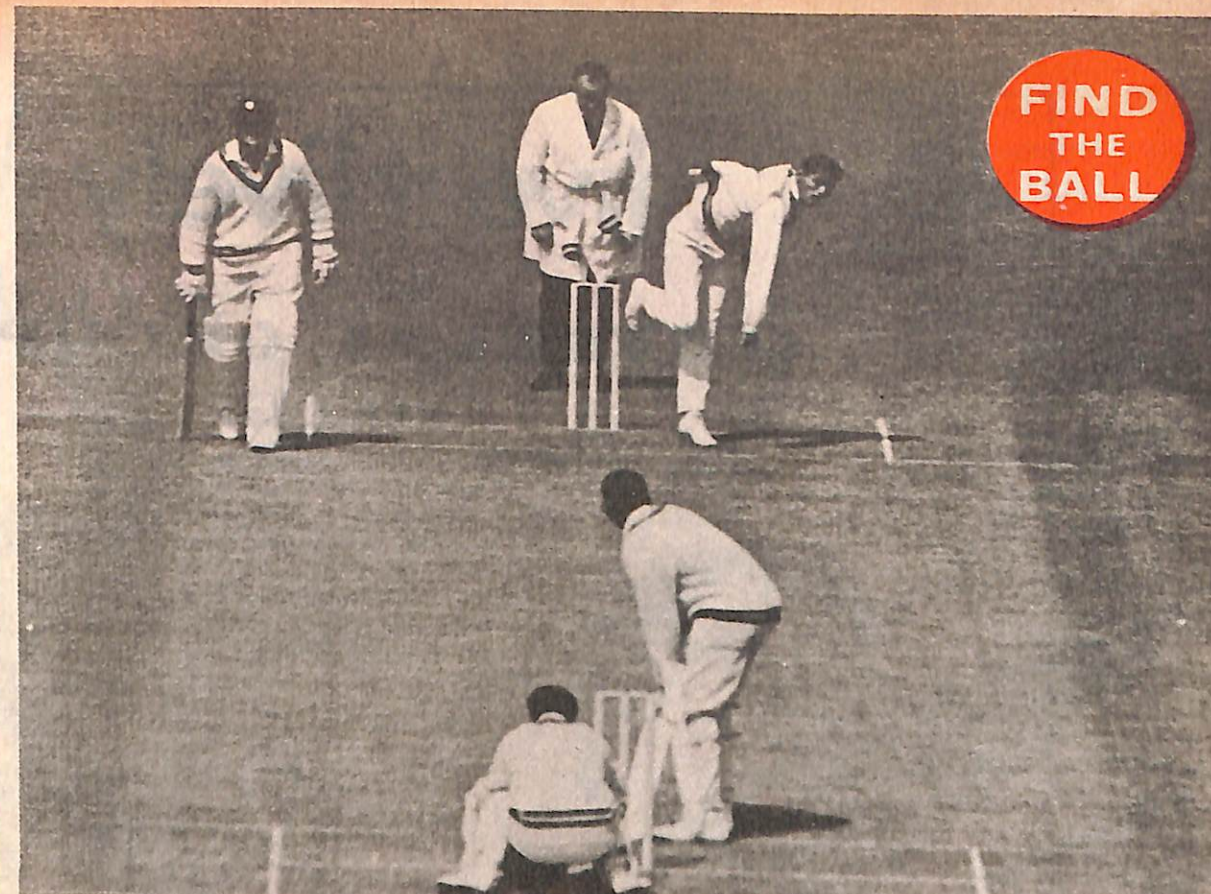
The ball in this cricket action picture has been painted out. All you have to do is mark a cross where you think the ball is. Then cut out the picture and send it to "Find the Ball", c/o HIMMAT, 294 Bazargate Street, Bombay 1, by noon Monday June 12. The winner will be published in June 16 issue.

There is no limit to the number of entries you can make, but only one cross may be marked on any one picture. The Editor's decision is final.

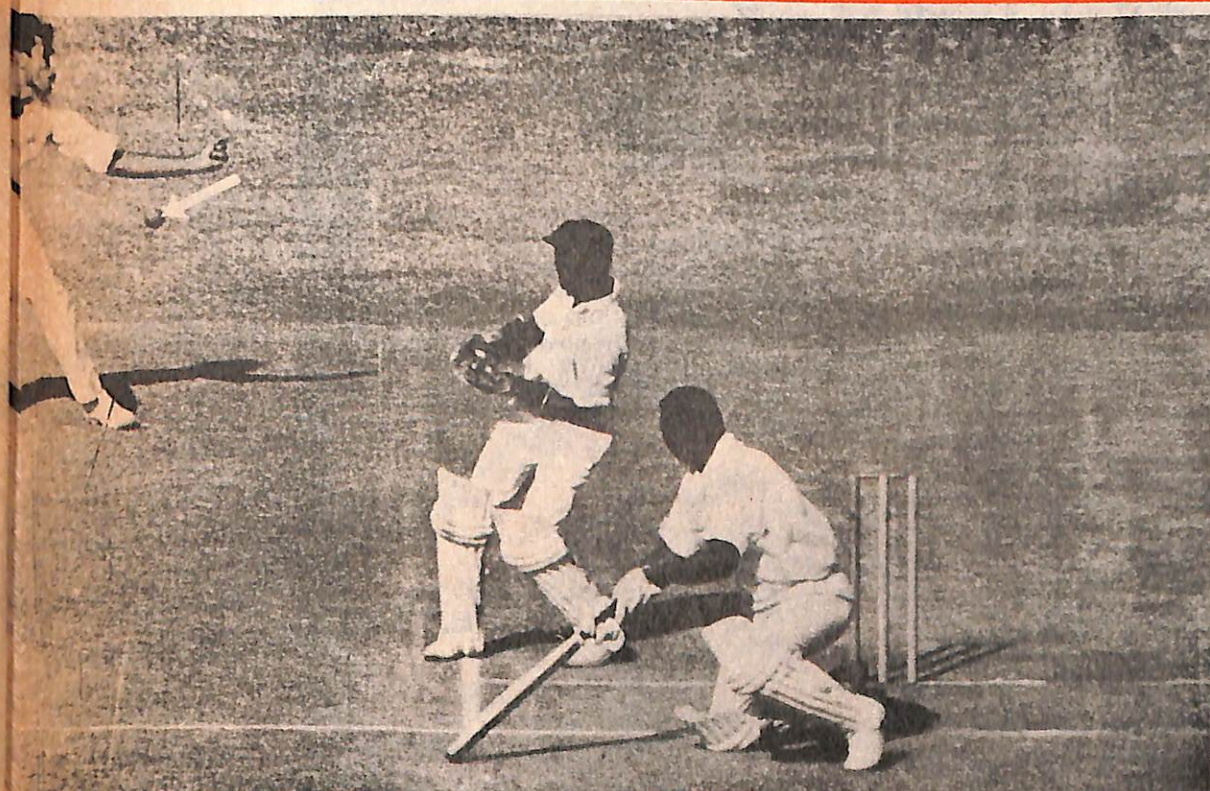
**Nearest entry wins Rs. 25
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*Starting with Competition No. 22 half the prize of Rs. 50 will be awarded to the nearest entry. The other half will be carried forward each week to a "Jackpot" to be won by the first competitor who marks the ball EXACTLY. This Jackpot will accumulate by Rs. 25 per week until it is won.

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



FIND THE BALL



WINNER OF COMPETITION 20 is D. M. Merchant, G-4 Fanaswadi, Bombay 2. (3.5mm from ball)
2nd Prize goes to S. G. Kabre, New Haji Kasam Chawl, No. 368B, 2nd floor, Room No. 47, Parel, Bombay 12. (5mm from ball)

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HIMMAT

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Asia's new voice

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