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HIMMAT

WEEKLY 25p.

ASIA'S NEW VOICE

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27 1967



K. KAMARAJ

AICC Jabalpur

**STRONG
SUPPORT
FOR
KAMARAJ**

by
ANTENNA

G. L. NANDA

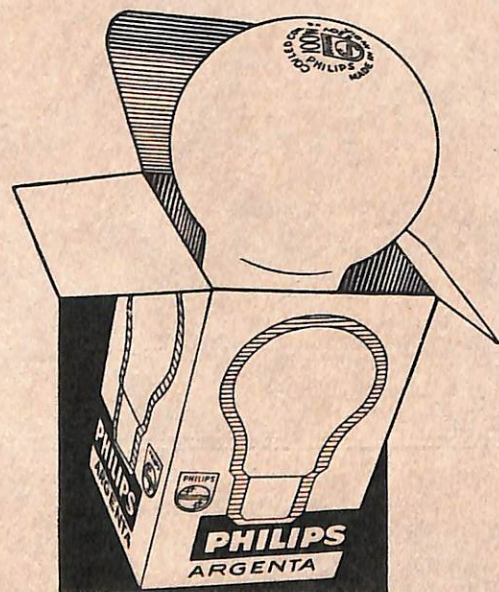


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HIMMAT

Asia's new voice

WEEKLY

BOMBAY FRIDAY OCTOBER 27, 1967

The rains came

PROSPECTS ARE GOOD for a brighter Diwali than we have had for some years. While political stability may elude us, the harvest looks like being a record.

Reports reaching the Food Ministry indicate a grain crop of 100 million tonnes. When one considers that last year's harvest was 76 million tonnes and the year before only 72 million, the gain this represents for the economy becomes clear.

The estimate is based on early reports of the kharif crop, now being harvested, and also of rabi sowing which has commenced. The kharif harvest, which normally represents two-thirds of the annual produce, should reach 65 to 70 million tonnes. Rabi sowing has been good due to late September rains or, where these have not fallen, good moisture content in the soil remaining from the excellent monsoon. As most of the rabi crop depends on irrigation rather than a fickle monsoon, there is less risk of deterioration once the sowing is done.

It is too soon to predict with confidence how much this will save in terms of outlay for grain imports next year, although Government hopes that allocations to deficit States can be reduced from 800,000 tonnes a month to 400,000 or less.

Of course, we can only talk in terms of "estimates" and "hopes". But even hope is a nourishing element and the nation has been starved of it.

If, given a good monsoon, our farmers can grow 100 million tonnes of grain with so little fertiliser, high-yielding seeds and mechanical assistance, then the spectre of a begging India can be banished for ever. The danger will be that one good monsoon may soften the urgency all had begun to feel about tackling the food gap. Complacency now could produce a dozen Bihars later on.

Many may preen themselves as the harvest statistics climb higher. But the real hero is that man behind the plough, whose God brought the rain on time.

Off-key trumpeters

SIMULTANEOUS anti-Vietnam war demonstrations in Washington and other world capitals last weekend underlined:

1 The Communists' hope of winning the war through the 1968 US Presidential elections rather than on the battlefield.

2 That for many months now the world Communist apparatus of pressmen, pacifists and misguided

idealists has been directed towards getting rid of President Johnson as a major obstacle to their aims.

The United States has in fact several times halted bombing of North Vietnam in hopes of bringing Hanoi to the negotiating table. Yet last week the Hanoi Government again rejected US offers of a bombing pause in return for peace talks. It reiterated its demands—obviously unacceptable to the Americans or South Vietnamese—that recognition of the Viet Cong as sole representative of the South Vietnamese people and withdrawal of US troops must precede negotiations.

If there is any one major obstacle to peace anywhere it appears to be in North Vietnam, whose economy and fighting capacity have just been underwritten by the Soviet Union with large new promises of aid.

HIMMAT has opposed and still does some aspects of US policy in Vietnam—particularly the betrayal of Diem and blindness to the fact that an ideological enemy can only be met with a better ideology. But the present fanfare against America is nothing but a hoax—a discord by off-key trumpeters who pipe to a tune called in Moscow or Peking.

American blood and guts does hold a line in Asia, saving the skins of many statesmen who admit this privately.

The hippies, the peace-mongers, the long-haired demonstrators should display their placards and banners on the doorstep of the Kremlin, Mao, or Ho, rather than outside the Pentagon.

Sen backs down?

FOR MONTHS the Union Education Minister has been forcing the pace on establishing regional languages as the medium for higher education. Dr Sen's phobia about English was enough to provoke the resignation of former External Affairs Minister, M. C. Chagla. Now he talks like Mr Chagla himself. The former educator has learnt the politician's art fast.

Discontinuing English, Dr Sen now warns, would mean reverting to the 18th century, because Indian languages do not offer, at present, access to modern knowledge. In a letter to State Education Ministers, he urges English as a compulsory subject at the university stage in any event.

Dr Sen says that he has no patience with those who want to banish English. It will only produce an intellectual vacuum, he feels.

If this does represent the personal and official views of the Education Minister then we ask him to make it doubly clear, so linguistic fury can be stilled.

He should at least find support from the Home Minister. At a speech at Panaji this week, Mr Chavan went so far as to say, "We have reorganised the States on a linguistic basis but it was certainly not for growing and educating the children in one's own State."

Such a prospect, of course, would be the inevitable result of the thoughtless banishment of English.

Briefly speaking...

Hindi version

WRITING RECENTLY in *The Times of India*, Nirad Chaudhuri pointed out that the Hindi version of the Constitution was absolutely unintelligible to anyone who only understood Hindi. Now it appears that it doesn't matter very much anyway.

According to the Chairman of the Official Language (Legislative) Commission, no authorised Hindi version exists of the English text adopted by the Constituent Assembly. In the absence of any resolution stating that a Hindi translation should be deemed to be the authorised version, he doubts whether the Constitution in Hindi has legal validity. Even Dr K. M. Munshi conceded at the time that a transla-

tion would remain a translation until accepted as the authorised version of Parliament.

Footnote: The Law Ministry is well behind on its translation work as the amendments to the Constitution made since it came into force have not yet been incorporated in the Hindi version. So even if the Hindi version was declared valid it could hardly be so until it is brought up to date. Think of those poor over-worked translators!

100 million club

JAPAN has just become the seventh nation whose population exceeds 100 million. The others? In descending order: China, India, USSR, USA, Pakistan and Indonesia. And which is the next likeliest? After you have had your guess look at the foot of this column.

AIR is not free

THE UNION Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr K. K. Shah, has said that clandestine radio users are depriving the Government of Rs 1.5 crores in licence fees. So if, like us, you believe All-India Radio's programmes are worthy of improvement, make sure you have a licence for your radio. AIR could do with that extra fee.

No more doodling

WITHIN SIX MONTHS, or so we are told, 80 per cent of the trunk telephone system in the country will be automatic. Five giant automatic trunk exchanges in Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Kanpur will enable any subscriber connected to

A good listener is not only popular everywhere, but after a while he knows something.

WILSON MIZNER, 1876-1933

these systems to dial any other connected subscriber. A Trivandrum caller will be able to dial a Srinagar number direct.

With nostalgia we contemplate the retirement of all those cheery telephonists who have been so often the objects of our unreasonable cursing just because we had to wait a few hours while they connected us with a number in some far-off place. Most of all we shall miss that tireless soul who repeats, "You are standing in a queue, please wait."

We still remember the helpful lass in Calcutta who, when we complained that she had connected us with a wrong number, blithely replied, "Oh, but the number you asked for was engaged."

It is sad to think of all this tradition being replaced by the cold impersonal precision of an instrument which connects you with your wanted party in a matter of seconds. Like the steam engine and horse and carriage we shall miss the manual exchange. Life will seem that much emptier. What to do now with the four hours we used to spend doodling, waiting for our call to Delhi?

Is he dead?

DOUBTS are already being expressed over the death of "Che" Guevara, the Argentine-born revolutionary and Castro-sidekick who was killed in Bolivia three weeks ago. His brother, Dr Roberto Guevara, who recently visited Bolivia, said the authorities there had staged "a well-organised farce". Others have said that if the guerrilla killed in a clash with Bolivian troops was really "Che" his body would have been proudly displayed for all to identify. Instead it was hurriedly cremated and the ashes buried in a concealed grave.

We shall probably now see an attempt to immortalise this wandering rebel on a scale similar to that given Patrice Lumumba. With "Che's" death Castro must feel his friends and fortunes are leaving him rapidly.

Birbal

Nasser's double dilemma

BY R. M. LALA

ISRAELI-UAR tension is mounting with the sinking of the Israeli destroyer "Eilath" by two UAR rocket launching vessels in the Mediterranean on Sunday. Egypt claims that the prize-ship of the Israeli Navy was within the 12-mile territorial waters of Egypt. Israel denies it. Israeli authorities claim that the Soviet Union has replaced up to 80 per cent of the armoury that Egypt lost in the Sinai engagement in June. And Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan has warned his countrymen to be ready for an offensive by Egypt across the Suez Canal.

Meanwhile discussions continue in the UN for Israeli withdrawal from newly acquired territories in West Asia. I understand that the Egyptian authorities have put forward the following minimum requirements:

- 1 Israel to withdraw to the limit before the June war started.
- 2 That the Suez Canal will be opened but *not* to navigation by Israel. The Egyptians consider that Israel does not need the facilities of the Suez Canal, having one port in the Mediterranean and Eilath with access to the Red Sea. They construe Israel's insistence on use of the Suez Canal as an effort to humiliate Egypt.

3 Israel should take back some Palestine refugees and financial arrangements should be made for the others.

4 While Egypt will not herself recognise the State of Israel, it will not object to the Security Council guaranteeing the existence of Israel. Egypt does not mind this guarantee coming from the Security Council as there are no Arab States who are members of it just now. Egypt does not want the UN General Assembly to guarantee the existence of Israel, as it tends to involve the Arab States in the guarantee.

The dilemma of President Nasser is how far can he compromise his stand without losing the leadership of the Arab world. His headache is not only the State of Israel but the Arab extremists of Algeria and Syria who will create trouble for him if

they find that he has compromised on any of the essentials where Israel is concerned. Algeria has a large and well-trained army that has successfully battled against the French and will not hesitate to take a more militant role.

Egypt's own people, however, from what I could gather from my recent visit, are not eager for war. They are a warm-hearted hospitable people who feel they have been misguided by their leaders. An attempt is being made now to throw the entire blame for the Egyptian debacle on the late Field Marshal Hakim Amer who was the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

In one of his recent articles, Mr Heikal, editor of *Al Ahram*, writes that even after the first blow struck by Israel there was enough retaliatory power in the Egyptian forces to strike back had the military commanders been so directed. Amer, says Heikal,

was on an air reconnaissance when Israel struck, and for 90 minutes he could not land. Even on landing the situation was not properly gripped. The late Field Marshal may have had his limitations but surely he cannot be blamed for being in the air when the Israelis unexpectedly attacked.

Dead men tell no tales. It is hard to believe that Egyptians will be too convinced by these feeble attempts to throw all the blame on a dead man who, till the war started, was No 2 in the nation.

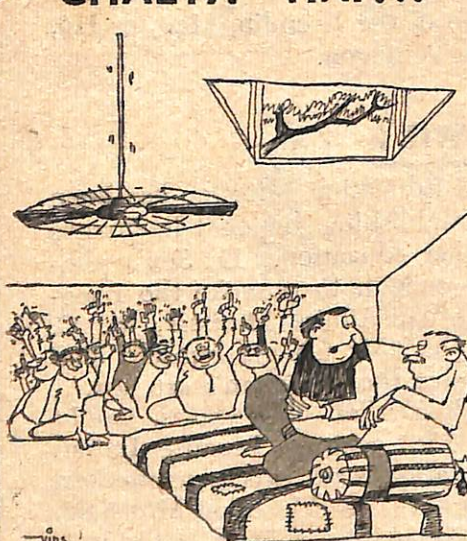
Fearful of Egyptian suspicion

Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi could have been helpful if she had privately told President Nasser on her recent visit a few home-truths. But having lost Indian public support on her Arab policy, she was too concerned about arousing Egyptian suspicions if she expressed firmly the need for a compromise in the area and a re-opening of the Canal. Neutrality of Egypt over Kashmir is still a major factor in India's foreign policy.

As one sits in the *Son et Lumiere* at

continued on next page.

CHALTA HAI...



"All I said was: 'Anyone who wants to go to Delhi to offer dharna raise your hands.'"

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VALENTINE

On your toes

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

THE OTHER DAY a colleague received a post card from the Bombay Municipal Corporation asking for the value, list of contents, invoices, etc. of a foreign parcel delivered to him. This, he was told, was so that octroi duty could be assessed. The parcel contained food sent by a relative two months ago and naturally he was unable to state any accurate value or remember the contents. Certainly he had never seen any invoices. This is one example of the farce to which municipal octroi collection has been reduced.

The Road Taxation Inquiry Committee has now recommended the early abolition of all local levies because they impede the smooth flow of road traffic. Like some feudal state, India is plagued with checkpoints (over 5000 for octroi alone) where local authorities, like robber barons of old, extract their dues.

A conservative estimate by the Committee indicates that if 20 commercial vehicles are held up for only half an hour daily at each checkpoint there is a wastage of 131,000,000

truck-kilometres a year — a loss of Rs 8.2 crores on transit traffic alone.

The Committee points out that not only are octroi, terminal tax and tolls an inconvenience, they are also a fertile ground for corruption. In fact graft at these checkpoints is a highway legend. One particular one in UP on the Bombay-Delhi Road is said to be specially rewarding and for appointment to it officials pay a high "premium".

Octroi is almost impossible to collect efficiently, applying as it does to limited districts in a quite haphazard fashion. Collection cost is very high in relation to its yield. Though past committees have recommended its abolition the practice has grown of late, slowing down commercial development. This is quite the opposite to the trend in advanced nations where octroi was abolished years ago.

Octroi revenue would, of course, not be necessary if municipal authorities were not so notorious for corruption, misuse of public funds and waste of talent and energies on political issues totally irrelevant to the efficient running of their towns and cities.

Freebooter

VERDICT!

This week HIMMAT...

REJECTS as undemocratic Maharashtra Health Minister Zakaria's scheme to freeze the number of parliamentary seats at the present level as a stimulus to states with the greatest success in family planning.

★ **CALLS** on the Union Commerce Minister to remedy where possible the red tape and other obstacles reported by Japanese businessmen as a bar to investment in India.

★ **CONDEMNS** Government inaction over building more grain storage which means part of this year's bumper harvest will be lost to rodents and other pests.

★ **AWARDS** a gilt-edged ration book to Deputy Premier Morarji Desai for the doubtful honour, which he claims himself, of introducing queuing in Bombay.

★ **CONGRATULATES** Soviet scientists on their Venus rocket feat.

★ **WELCOMES** the "domestic peace corps" project launched by the Nehru Foundation in Anand, Gujarat, but **REMINDS** those who think of extending it that voluntary effort, not conscription, was the basis of the peace corps idea.

★ **IS DISMAYED** that the Railways, till recently one of the few profitable nationalised industries, this year expects a record loss of Rs 25 crores.

★ **WONDERS** how many Cabinet colleagues privately agree with Deputy Commerce Minister Qureshi that "it is high time" Sheikh Abdullah is released.

★ **WELCOMES** Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi's decision to visit Burma.

★ **NOTES** with interest that the "fight against egoism" is the next phase of China's cultural revolution, but **REGARDS** it as stillborn in a land where the ego of one man is given god-like status.

NASSER—from page 5

the Pyramids and Sphinx in the cool evening, it is a sobering thought to know that the Israeli air force is within four minutes' striking distance. As darkness descends over the desert, and the face of the Sphinx lights to an orange glow, the commentator's voice makes the Sphinx speak:



from the Capital AICC: Political power game at Jabalpur

by ANTENNA

NEW DELHI This coming session of the AICC opens with a fresh alignment of forces within the Congress. Although Mr Kamaraj on more than one occasion kept the office of Prime Ministership outside the grasp of Morarji

Desai, it is Morarji Desai who is now the strongest backer for his re-election as Congress President.

This change has been brought about by Mr Kamaraj's insistence with Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi that the office of Deputy Prime Minister be given to Morarji Desai. Since then the gulf between Mrs Gandhi and Mr Kamaraj has widened, but Deputy Prime Minister Desai and Mr



Mr Desai

Kamaraj have never been closer. Mr Desai in also the only leading Congressman who could have contested against Mr Kamaraj for the Congress Presidentship but obviously he has no desire to, and Mr Desai may feel that such a contest will further weaken the Congress Party.

Mr Nanda's election as Congress President could have been possible if he carried the unanimous support of the Congress leaders. This not being the case, he has wisely said that he is not interested in contesting for the Presidentship, virtually ensuring Mr Kamaraj's unanimous election.

MORARJI'S real test at Jabalpur will

"I have been here 5000 years. I have seen conquerors come and conquerors go. Alexander the Great came to visit me. Caesar and Cleopatra too. Napoleon came here. All these conquerors have come and gone. But I remain."

The Sphinx now might well tell when the Israeli conquerors will return home.

be the 10-point package programme which includes:

- 1 Abolition of Privy Purses for ex-rulers
- 2 Nationalisation of banks
- 3 Nationalisation of general insurance.

Mr Morarji Desai does not personally agree with any of these but whether he will assert himself is to be seen.

"The extreme political uncertainty in the country," said a Congress MP to *Antenna*, "tempts even the best of politicians to be cautious of how they tread."

POLITICAL CIRCLES in Delhi assert that



Mrs Gandhi

Morarji, Indira and Chavan are now working in greater harmony than they have done in a long time. They have also found a certain healthy respect for each other which was certainly not present when the

new Cabinet started off last March. It may be a result of the realisation that either they float or they will sink together.

KERALA

Rivalries threaten United Front

FROM G. S. KARTHA IN TRIVANDRUM

AFTER eight months of administration by the United Front Kerala today presents a scene of confusion, discontent and lawlessness. The voters who installed the seven-party United Front in office, hoping for an efficient administration, are becoming thoroughly disillusioned. They watch hopelessly as the very members of the United Front accuse each other.

While the Congress Party, reduced to an insignificant minority in the Legislative Assembly, eagerly awaits the disruption of the United Front, the rebel Kerala Congress wages its battle both against the Congress and the Marxist-dominated United Front. The two Congress parties refuse to reach an understanding because of personal rivalries and pride.

The Congress is happy that the pro-Congress Kerala Students Union (KSU) was able to capture the various College Unions in the State, giving a crushing defeat to the Communist-led Kerala Student Federation, which stands divided into Marxist and Right Communist groups. Congress hopes lie with the KSU students who have been on the war-path, braving the police lathis and assaults of Marxist-inspired goondas.

SAY THAT AGAIN...

We will have to concentrate more on putting into practice what we say.

Congress President K. KAMARAJ

The beauty of the American Government these days is that nobody pays any attention to a programme unless it costs a billion dollars or more.

Washington columnist
ART BUCHWALD

I am proud of the young talent in the country, and I hope they will not allow the politicians to tinker with their future.

Ex-Foreign Minister
M. C. CHAGLA

While other partners in the ruling alliance live to enjoy the fruits of power, which some of them had never dreamt of getting, the Marxists are doing everything they want. In matters such as food, industrial policy, and maintenance of law and order, the Right-Communists, Samyukta Socialists and the Muslim League refuse to follow the line of the Marxists. "But," say political observers, "they helplessly allow the Marxists to have their own way in those portfolios held by them."

Marxists thrust programmes

The Marxists are only 54 in the United Front Assembly Party of 117 members. Although in theory the Government's policies are decided by the Co-ordination Committee of the United Front, in which all parties are represented, from the very beginning the Marxists have been virtually dominating. In recent weeks they have begun to implement the decision of their Party's all-India executive, of thrusting the Party's programmes on other partners in Government.

The strength of the Marxists today in the United Front derives from the weakness of other partners, including the Right-Communist Party. Shrewd tacticians of the Party have realised that their partners in Government are afraid of being dubbed stooges of the Congress and vested interests who seek to pull down the United Front Ministry. The desire of every party is to pose as the staunch champion of the people, and to be the bitterest enemy of the Congress. And yet, the SSP, Muslim League, and Right-CPI leaders have been openly criticising some policies of the Government. While every partner in the Front blames somebody else for what is wrong, none seems prepared to fight for what is right.

Recently a Right-Communist who toured Madras reported to his friends that that the DMK Government there was able to provide "an ad-

ministration which was the best the State had since 1947". The ruling party there did not interfere with the routine administration as the ruling party in Kerala did. Rice was available at lower prices, indiscipline was much less, and political corruption considerably reduced.

The people are now sick of corruption; of the neutralisation of the police that makes them undependable in time of danger to life and property; of the failure of the Government to provide more than the present 3-ounce rice ration; and of lawlessness that is being created in the State.

There have been serious allegations of corruption against even some of the Ministers; but nobody is prepared to substantiate them. Even a "chargesheet" presented by the RSP's top leader, Mr Srikantan Nair MP, to the UF Co-ordination Committee, which caused much uproar, has been disowned by the Secretary of the RSP and a Minister belonging to that Party. All that Mr Nair gave at the Committee was, according to them, a mere catalogue of allegations "widely talked about in the public".

Parallel "police force" formed

The latest storm in political circles is the steps taken by the Marxists to form their own volunteer corps, with units in every village, as a parallel police force. There are reports of Marxists joining hands with the police to beat up the striking students.

Although Mr Namboodiripad, the Chief Minister, when questioned about the Marxist Volunteer Corps, said that no volunteer corps of any political party would be allowed to take the law into their own hands, recent incidents where partymen attacked students in the presence of the police have made people think that the Chief Minister was helpless. Some Congress leaders and rebel Congressmen have declared that the people should have their own methods of self-protection.

Strangely enough, while the people are groaning under the problems of rice shortage, price spiral and breakdown of law and order, the partners in the United Front spend their time attacking each other.

continued on page 16

BOOKS

"Taste of Power"

"WIE DIE MACHT SCHMECKT", by Ladislav Mnacko. English edition still to be published.

THE LATEST BOOK of Czech author Ladislav Mnacko produced headlines throughout the European press. The reason for this widespread interest is easy to find: in the personality of the author, the history of the manuscript and the content of the novel.

Ladislav Mnacko has been known in East European circles for many years because of his aggressive writing. Although a Marxist and a member of the Communist Party, Mnacko never hesitated to attack in his short stories and novels whatever he saw in his own country which did not correspond to his picture of a modern, supposedly classless, society. Party bosses and bureaucrats were favourite targets. Often he got into trouble with the cultural authorities in Prague but every time he found a new way to put his truth so that his censors had to pass it.

"Wie die Macht Schmeckt" (Taste of Power), his latest novel, is his most daring manuscript yet. Extracts appeared in a Czech literary review, and without realising what it was doing, the government-run official literary agency sold the rights for the German edition of the book to a Viennese publisher.

Czech clamp on freedom

When the storm broke and the content of the book became generally known, Mnacko found himself conveniently out of the country. The Viennese publisher let it be known that he would withdraw the publication if Mnacko himself asked him to. Mnacko, however, realised that the Czech authorities were clamping down on cultural freedom and would never allow publication inside the country. He decided therefore to take the risk and gave the Viennese publisher the green light.

The cover of Mnacko's book shows

a clenched fist growing out of the neck of a dinner jacket. It is the story of the President of an East European country—obviously post-war Czechoslovakia. The President has just died and his friend, the official government photographer, reviews in his mind during the state funeral the life story of the statesman.

The rise of the "statesman" is relatively simple. He is a born leader and during the war against the Germans he becomes the chief of a partisan group. After the war, through ability, hard work and a talent for intrigue, he becomes head of the government.

Decline of a statesman

What is most interesting in Mnacko's novel is the description of what happens to the statesman after he has enjoyed power for a few years. He gets tired of his wife and son and marries his blonde secretary. He isolates himself more and more and lives in constant fear of his former friends and colleagues, and especially of the head of police, Galovic.

Finally, the statesman makes so many mistakes that Galovic decides to get rid of him, but fortunately for him, a sudden illness conveniently gets him out of the way and still lets him have a grand state funeral.

Mnacko describes with great skill the process of moral disintegration of the statesman. At one point he writes: "It was obvious (for him) that in everything that went wrong somebody else was responsible. So as time went on, the whole nation became in his thoughts a headless, faceless mass of people which was unworthy of trust and which was jealous of him and wanted to undercut him.

"During the last years he did not trust anybody anymore. All had betrayed, left, disappointed and double-crossed him... At the end, he was afraid of taking any decisions at all. And all the more he defended his own personal position and concentrated all available power in his hands. He did not do that in order to govern. He had given that up long before. He did it only to hold his own. He felt more secure that way. But in spite of this he was afraid..."

Mnacko's own views on life and politics shine through some of the secondary persons in his novel. While the leaders—all of them—could not be painted more cynically, some of the ordinary people—the statesman's first wife, the photographer, others—have kept a good dose of common sense and humanity.

The book gives the picture of a people who have lost all hope in the "construction of the new society". It is a people which has suffered a lot in the past and therefore will be satisfied if the future will turn out to be a little bit better.

Two recent events have made Mnacko's book even more relevant. The first has been Mnacko's voluntary exile from his own country as protest against the one-sided position of the Prague Government in the Middle East conflict. The other event has been the publication in London of a manifesto by Czech writers which was secretly smuggled out of the country and which tries to mobilise world public opinion in favour of the suppressed writers and intellectuals of Czechoslovakia.

P. S.

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Oct 21/67

FROM THE WORLD'S CAPITALS

Australia assesses Sato visit

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CANBERRA Observers here now feel that the plain speaking on Australian-Japanese relations which marked the visit to Australia of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Eisaku Sato, should do much to strengthen the links built painstakingly between the two nations over the past decade.

The central theme of Mr Sato's visit emerges as the image of a shared future for Japan and Australia. The hump of hostility between the two countries as an aftermath of the Pacific War was largely dissolved by the visit of Mr Kishi, brother of Mr Sato, when he was Prime Minister and the trust that has been established through the operation of the Japan-Australia Trade Agreement.

Any strains that have emerged can best be dealt with in the spirit of frankness that was evident while Mr Sato was here.

For instance, there is a real concern within the Government and the Labour Opposition that Australia might become "an off-shore quarry" for Japan. Mr Sato was equally direct when asked about this at his press conference.

"I don't think there is that danger," he replied. "I had this suit tailored specially for this visit from a textile manufactured in Australia. You produce finished products, and of course your natural resources of iron ore, copper, tin and coal are abundant. Your situation will not allow it." On trade, Mr Sato pointed out that Japan's exports to Australia were about half the volume of imports from Australia.

Mr Sato hinted that he had pressed Australia to contribute to the agricultural development fund to be set up within the Asian Development Bank, pointing out that Japan had offered \$100 million if other countries gave matching amounts.

He also asked Australia to cooperate with Japan at the Amsterdam conference next month on the rescheduling of Indonesian debts.

In his talks with the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Sato discussed the situation in Vietnam, the problems of the employment of skilled Japanese in Australia, the possibilities of a double taxation agreement and tariffs.

Mr Holt affirmed with Mr Sato that the situation in Vietnam was of deep concern.

Mr Sato emphasised that Hanoi would have to make matching concessions if a pause in the US bombing of North

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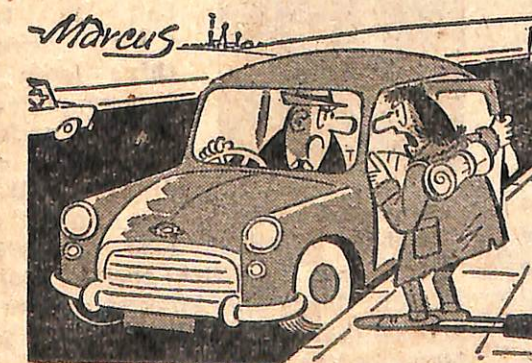


Mr Sato



Mr Holt

Ek-minit!



"No radio? No heater? 'Oppit —
I'll thumb another car!"

The week in ASIA

COLOMBO — Ceylon is seeking experts from India or Italy to help restore the Sigiriya frescoes, found defaced last week. Twenty out of the 22 frescoes had been damaged.

TAIPEH — 20,000 people were marooned in surging floods on Taiwan's east coast. Rescue planes and helicopters were rushed for relief work in the Han country, where 100 houses were submerged.

HONG KONG — Terrorists planted 16 bombs in several parts of the island and abducted four men across the border within a week. The British authorities erected a 17-mile fence along Hong Kong's border with China to halt further raids.

KARACHI — A joint Albanian-Pakistani communique reaffirmed Albania's strong support for self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Premier Mehmet Shehu of Albania and President Ayub agreed to explore possibilities of extending their co-operation.

SYDNEY — 300 university students went about collecting funds to aid Viet Cong guerrillas in South Vietnam. They said they would not register for compulsory military service.

RAWALPINDI — Japan is to extend 30 million dollars credit to Pakistan. Under an agreement, the Export-Import Bank of Japan and other banks will aid in financing purchases of development goods from Japan.

SAIGON — The Australian guided missile destroyer, "Perth," received a direct hit from North Vietnamese gun batteries as she weaved through a 300-shell barrage. Ten guns opened fire on her as she steamed off, 170 miles north of the demilitarised zone.

BANGKOK — Vietnamese refugees stoned police cars in a wild riot in Udorn. The clash was sparked off by heated exchanges between North Vietnamese sympathisers and those supporting the Saigon Government.

Vietnam was to bring peace.

"I do not share the view that a unilateral cessation of the bombing would bring about the desired effect," he said.

Mr Sato rejected a suggestion from the leader of the Japanese Socialist Party that his visit to South Vietnam would make it impossible for Japan to take part in any settlement.

Communalism stunts Ceylon development

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

COLOMBO "The most useful trip I made in my life," was how Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake described his recent visit to Malaysia. Uppermost in his mind must have been the steps taken there to meet the rubber crisis. A permanent association has been set up by eight Afro-Asian rubber producing countries to offset the frightening fall in rubber prices. It envisages joint marketing arrangements and measures to keep prices at a reasonable level.

The Prime Minister was also impressed by Malaysian economic planning. The "Operations Room", a room of charts and maps giving the up-to-date position on all development projects at a glance and with military precision, would be "very useful" here he said. Asked at his Kuala Lumpur press conference why the Malaysian growth rate was faster than Ceylon's, he replied, "Because we have diverted attention to communal and racial issues instead of concentrating on development."

Would Ceylon join ASEAN, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, comprising Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines? "Serious consideration" is being given to it, the Government has stated and no credence is given to Opposition attacks on this body as an undercover form of SEATO.

As far as he knew China would not object, the Prime Minister said in reply to a questioner who was probably thinking of the Rice-Rubber deal with China which is now being renegotiated.

Though the Government may deny

it, China's shadow falls darkly on Ceylon. Opinion, even among Buddhist leaders, is divided, though the majority would probably agree with the statement by the Principal of Vidyaodaya University, a leading Buddhist divine, that the cultural revolution "has brought shame and discredit on the ancient Chinese civilisation".

Some publicity has been given here, too, to the Dalai Lama's attack on Red Guard ravages of holy

places in Tibet, and the destruction of the silver image of "Avalokitesvara", the God of Infinite Mercy, which was enshrined in the Porong Monastery.

Mr Senanayake's reference in Kuala Lumpur to Ceylon's role as a bridge between countries with similar problems to East and West of the Indian Ocean could be, as he pursues it, the key to undue concern with what China does or does not do.

Asian call to Europe's Socialists

FROM PIERRE SPOERRI

ZURICH The General Council of the Socialist International has been meeting for several days in Zurich. In spite of its name, the Socialist International is still very much an organisation of the traditional big Socialist parties of the European continent.

On the official opening, one saw no representatives of African or Arab countries. There were very few Latin Americans and just a sprinkling of Asians. The Japanese were represented by two delegations sitting at opposite sides of the hall—one consisting of the two representatives of the Japanese Socialist Party, the other representing the Japanese Social Democratic Party. The only other Asian nations represented were Singapore and Malaysia.

As a neutral observer, one wondered what this meeting, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, would proclaim. Besides the official welcome speeches by the Swiss Foreign Minister and the Presidents of the Swiss Trade Unions and the Swiss Socialist Party—which all underlined the virtues of Swiss democracy—there were only two speeches which really gripped the attention of the delegates and the public. They were the contribution of the Foreign Minister of the German Federal Republic, Willy Brandt, and the passionate appeal by Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore.

Brandt spoke mainly about German problems and seemed keen first of all to prove the wisdom of the German Socialists in joining the coalition-government under Chancellor Dr Kiesinger. But Lee Kuan Yew's emotion-filled call to Europe to interest itself in the right way in what is happening in Asia may have reminded some of the older Socialists

of the times when European Socialism was still a revolutionary doctrine and when the sheer participation in a Socialist Congress would mean opposition and persecution.

Lee Kuan Yew spoke about the way Asians look at Europe. He also mentioned the war in Vietnam and said that the way that war would be brought to an end would determine the future of millions of non-Communists in Asia. He also spoke about the disparity in the living standards between the industrialised and the developing countries and the task which the Socialist parties all over the world could find in creating a bridge to overcome the gulf.

But then Lee Kuan Yew proceeded to destroy the myth which, he said, had been so widespread in Asia, that to solve the problems of the developing countries you just had to take away everything from the former colonial masters, or from the rich, and distribute it to the poor. He also attacked



German Foreign Minister Brandt

"the new political-social idiom (which) leads the hungry masses to believe that the solution to their problems lies in some magic formula..."

Compared to Lee Kuan Yew, the final resolutions of the Congress seemed rather pale.

Suez and sanctions: UK initiative

FROM GORDON WISE

LONDON It may be a Merry Christmas for Britain after all. Hard on the heels of disappointing overseas trade figures comes news of two diplomatic initiatives from Whitehall which, if successful, would restore the balance sheet.

It is almost as if the President of the Board of Trade and the Foreign Secretary are sitting up at nights pondering how to bridge diplomatic rifts and trade gaps in one fell swoop.

The issues are: Suez and sanctions; Egypt and Rhodesia.

The first move is the mission to Cairo of the former Ambassador to the UAR, Sir Harold Beeley. The most important, immediate, and perhaps most difficult objective of this mission is the reopening of the Suez Canal.

The closure of this waterway is costing Britain plenty as the freight on oil supplies alone costs a good deal more around the Cape of Good Hope than through the Canal. It is hoped that President Nasser needs the resumption of canal shipping revenues as much as Mr Wilson needs to get the ships through.

Israeli patrol boats make dredging operations in the Canal impossible. Before ships could pass, sunken vessels, now blocking the waterway, would have to be raised. So the UK and the UAR would hope to have diplomatic pressure put on Israel by the USA and the USSR, to achieve their common economic objective. This will not be easy.



President Nasser

The influential daily, *Maariv*, of Tel Aviv, has come out in condemnation of Britain's alleged "pro-Arab" policy and declared, "We did not fight to bring the British Ambassador back to Cairo and ensure an orderly Suez Canal operation. Peace will not be acquired by concessions and withdrawal even if the British put pressure on us."

Nevertheless, there is cautious optimism in London. The *Sunday Telegraph* even has the cheerful headline, "Cairo expects Union Jack on Embassy by Christmas."

Brighter hopes are also in evidence over Rhodesia. This rupture is another considerable drain on Britain's resources. For whatever the effect of Britain's economic sanctions on the Rhodesian economy may be, the loss to British traders is very considerable.

So the newly appointed Commonwealth Secretary, Mr George Thompson, is going to visit Mr Ian Smith shortly and have another try at achieving "peace with honour".

Though there is no evidence to prove it, Salisbury rumours have it that there will be a settlement with Britain "by Christmas".

A South African newspaper, *The Sunday Times*, has declared that America is putting renewed pressure on Britain to settle the UDI dispute with Rhodesia.

So if these reports are well-founded, you have Britain asking America to get Israel to help straighten things out with Nasser; and America asking Britain to get things straightened out with Smith.

The deadline of Christmas is a common factor in both of these ploys. The economic by-produce of these diplomatic successes, if such they are, would be a welcome financial gift for Britain from Santa Claus.



Mr Smith

The week in INDIA

JAIPUR — Maharana Bhagwat Singh of Udaipur met the Maharaja of Jaipur after a 350-year break between the two royal houses.

CHANDIGARH — Chief Minister Gurnam Singh asked police officers to give up "hackneyed" methods of torturing suspects to extort confessions. "The investigating officer has to be a psychiatrist, chemist, ballistic expert and sociologist — all packed into one," he said.

PATNA — 31 persons died and 150 were injured in a flash riot at Sursand. Minister of State for Agriculture Rudra Pratap Sarangi alleged that the riots were pre-planned by Communists.

LUCKNOW — Government decided to publish texts of all Government laws, procedures, rules and orders in an Urdu gazette. This is to help people of Urdu-speaking areas to have full knowledge of the laws.

CALCUTTA — After the public exchange of accusations between Chief Minister Ajoy Mukherjee and other United Front leaders, ministerial circles foresaw a four-month truce on the basis of an agreed programme.

NEW DELHI — Tower assistant C. S. Mirchandani of the Safdarjung Airport averted the crash-landing of a US Air Force jet transport plane arriving from Bangkok. The airport can take only Dakotas, and Mirchandani, spotting the huge plane about to touch down, sounded an alert and the plane veered off, landing safely at Palam.

MADURAI — The Director of Agriculture has ordered farm extension officers to wear half pants and enter the fields and not remain as VIPs trying to see that their trousers do not lose their crease.

PITHOGARH — Chinese soldiers opened fire on 50 Tibetans coming to India, killing some and injuring most of them. Nepali traders said that many of the 7000 sheep and cattle which the Tibetans were bringing with them were killed.

The week elsewhere

SOVIET SPY DEFECTS

BONN—Five West Germans were arrested for spying following the defection of a senior Russian intelligence officer. One of those arrested, a secretary in the Foreign Ministry in Bonn, later hanged herself in her cell. The defector, Lieut. Col. Yevgeny Yevgenyevich Runge, a KGB (Soviet Committee for State Security) officer, gave himself up to the Americans in West Germany and is now in the US.

STRIKES HIT UK EXPORTS

LONDON — Prolonged industrial strife is worsening Britain's already grave economic difficulties. 16,000 dockers in London and Liverpool continued their unofficial strike into the fifth week, holding up an estimated £100 million worth of exports. The nationalised railways threatened to lay off train guards

who had been refusing, on union orders, to carry out extra duties. An overtime ban by bus workers affected transport in 90 towns. Police struggled with building workers in the City of London during efforts to resume construction work which had been abandoned for a year owing to labour conflict. Government spokesmen accused Communists of trying to wreck Britain's economy through these disputes.

CRIPPLED DRAGON

TOKYO—China could not launch more than 30 divisions (400,000 men) in an offensive war, states a report by Japanese experts, said to reflect the views of Japan's military intelligence. The report said garrison and border duties, internal unrest and transport problems pinned down or restricted the bulk of China's two-and-a-half million strong army. Poor communications limited

the number of divisions China could maintain in Vietnam to ten, said the report. But the Chinese were unlikely to intervene unless the Americans either marched towards the Chinese border, or withdrew from Vietnam altogether.

ON INDIRA'S HEELS

PARIS—Two soldiers-turned-politician conferred when President Ayub Khan met President de Gaulle during his four-day official visit to France. Paris was first leg of the Pakistan President's two-week tour which includes Rumania and Turkey. President Ayub arrived in Rumania the day after Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi ended her visit.

VENUS OBSERVED

MOSCOW—A Russian space capsule, Venus-4, soft-landed on Venus, 50 million miles from Earth, after a four-month flight. The Russians enlisted UK's Jodrell Bank radio observatory in picking up messages from the 2437 lb. research craft.

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HIMMAT, October 27, 1967

India's "Footpath Parliament" takes up grievances

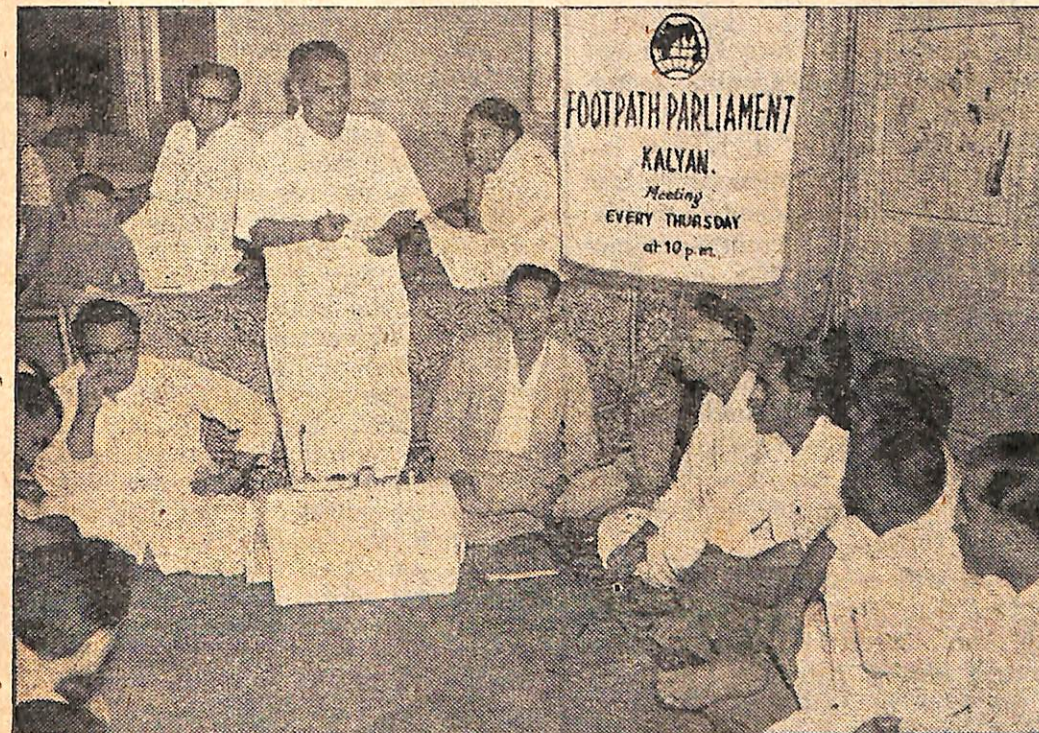
THERE were no liveried men displaying pomp and pageantry, only an occasional speeding lorry and the barking of stray dogs across a rain-swept road, as India's unique "Footpath Parliament" got under way beneath a tin-roofed garage adjoining a restaurant at Kalyan, 45 miles from Bombay.

Exactly at the stroke of 10 one Thursday night, a lone, bright electric light went on and the "Speaker", a middle-aged bespectacled man in simple white shirt and dhoti took his seat, flanked by his "Secretary", the "Vice-Presidents" and other "officials"

Nagarpalika (municipality) must have learnt by now, thanks to the vigilance of one member of the "Footpath Parliament".

He narrated at this session how a businessman had piled up bricks by the thousands at his godown by bringing them in, in collusion with the checkpost men, without paying the regular octroi. When the complaint from the member of this "Parliament" reached the municipal officials, they raided the place.

The "Parliament" cited how the municipality has been able to improve its octroi income by 30 per cent and



"Speaker" P. N. Betawadkar addresses the "House" at Kalyan "Footpath Parliament" Session.

of the "House". In front of him sat, cross-legged and in oval shape, the 34 founding members; around them stood some 100 more citizens.

They were just bankers, teachers, doctors, newspapermen, social workers, transport men, grain merchants and councillors—mostly between the age of 30 and 35. The youngest was 29; the oldest 53. With the permission of "Speaker" P. N. Betawadkar, "Secretary" V. G. Godbole read out the "order" paper and the "Speaker" called one by one to speak.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of duty"—that is, octroi duty. This was the bitter lesson which the Kalyan

more by promptly acting on the information provided by the members of the "parliament". The members of the "Footpath Parliament" themselves keep vigil near the checkpost.

One member pointed out that the clock at the central tower at Shivaji Chowk, the busy intersection of Kalyan town, had not been repaired for months. The "Speaker" promptly assured him that the matter would be taken up.

Kalyan's water supply question also came up for discussion. There were also complaints about the narrow rail overbridge at the station. The "Parliament" also adopted a resolu-

ON THE Spot

HIMMAT meets people

tion demanding prompt and efficient telephone service.

The members plan to assist the rationing authorities to unearth bogus ration cards which are estimated to run into thousands. Recently, in one week alone, the authorities found 600 bogus cards.

Why does the "Parliament" meet on Thursday nights and at 10 p.m.?

"That is the day most businessmen and employees of the town find time," Mr Betawadkar told me. How do you hope to root out corruption and goondaism?

"Of course, these things can't be done overnight. There may be legal difficulties. On the whole, we hope to succeed by the moral sanction that inevitably follows any mass effort. Anti-social elements are enemies of all people. We want to stop such evils as drinking and corruption."

As we talked, some workers going off duty from a plant came and listened with interest. A turbanned villager left his cart on the roadside and stood gaping in wonder.

What prompted you to start this "Parliament"?

"Nowadays the rulers don't see their own true image—the people. They are encircled by their own admirers. In bygone days the real rulers used to go round the towns incognito and try to understand the people's grievances. Now we have to initiate mass action to bring our grievances to their notice."

"Irrksome action of the Government forced us to think in terms of organising ourselves. After all, the legal remedy is a costly, complicated and vexing process. There is now no other alternative except the "Footpath Parliament", which, as an effective forum of public opinion, will force the Government to redress public grievances."

Would you invite party leaders to take part in the proceedings?

"No. We shall be above politics. No outsider can participate in our proceedings. Of course, four of our members are municipal councillors.

continued on page 15

ECONOMIC COMMENTARY

Rubbing in non-alignment

THOUGH the cry has often been raised of less dependence of our country on foreign aid, the tapping of foreign resources for financing national planning has been increasing. This is not the only sphere in which our practice runs flagrantly contrary to our professions.

But of late the climate for foreign aid has been somewhat misty, if not murky. The World Bank report has not greatly helped us and the results of the visits abroad of Mr Morarji Desai and Mrs Indira Gandhi have yet to flow in terms of larger aid.

The World Bank report on India has pinned hopes on our new agricultural strategy. But what about the economy in general? Mr Morarji Desai's pep talk abroad and to Congress MPs in Delhi that our economy is "rallying" has to be accepted with serious reservations.

New loans pay old debts

The Aid-India Club, meeting in Paris in the middle of next month, will determine the contours of the foreign aid picture, now so hazy. Even if the second instalment of \$900 million is forthcoming, India faces Hobson's choice of utilising it for debt repayment and maintenance imports. The amount that will be left for projects will be too paltry for any real economic expansion.

Any larger IDA aid can be ruled out for the moment, and the US is facing its own balance of payments problems. Even so, US aid to India of loans and grants is by far the largest, standing now at \$8000 million (Rs 6000 crores at the post-devaluation figure).

That of the Soviet bloc is the second largest with Rs 1350 crores.

Is there need to rub in the fact all the time that foreign aid is without political strings? And the unedifying spectacle of the nation's two top leaders scurrying to opposite camps in quick succession could have been avoided.

Public sector showpiece

THE VISIT of Mrs Indira Gandhi to Rumania has focussed attention on that country's role in the development of our oil industry. Rumania is our main collaborator.

The first two public-sector refineries at Noonmati, near Gauhati, and Barauni, in Bihar, were set up with Rumanian aid, as also oil prospecting in Gujarat. And now, the signing of the pact with Rumania for participation in the Haldia refinery has synchronised with Mrs Indira Gandhi's visit.

The giant Rs 46 crore Haldia refinery project is India's public sector showpiece *par excellence*. And well might it be so, for it is run by the Indian Oil Corporation which has declared a maiden dividend of six per cent for 1966-67. Profit without taxation for the year has soared to Rs 6.26 crores, as against Rs 1.01 crore during the previous year.

But IOC is the rare exception, for India's public sector undertakings do not yield on an average more than a little over two per cent dividend from an investment of hundreds of crores of rupees.

Haldia will eventually profit from the fact that IOC is an oil concern with the largest business in the country; selling petroleum products to the tune of half a million kilolitres per month, that is, 35 per cent of the total sales in the country. The concern accounts for 40 per cent of the aviation business in the country.

What promotes IOC sales of oil is its highly developed transport system. Haldia forms the nexus of the Haldia-Barauni-Kanpur pipeline system. Distribution of oil in a highly industrialised area has thus been greatly facilitated.

But, in view of the Chinese threat, the entire area is highly vulnerable. One can only hope that our defence dispositions for the oil industry and the industries it feeds will match the needs of an area which is a glittering prize for any aggressor.

ASSESSOR

This India

NO SLEEPLESS NIGHTS

DAILY I HEAR people say, "You cannot be honest in business or industry." This attitude is breaking up our country.

Honesty in business is not an abnormality but a natural necessity in basic economics. Only a man who produces goods of quality that are worth buying, and who sells them honestly, can hope to develop and expand.

An intelligent man doesn't need to be corrupt. For a good businessman, dishonesty is really a hindrance in putting his capabilities to maximum use.

A builder owning a Swiss construction firm which built better houses at 20 per cent lower cost, was recently speaking to a conference of engineers, architects and farmers in Switzerland. He said, "I have experienced that absolute moral standards are the only way to success in economic life."

He continued, "In earlier days I used to decide how much tax I would pay. At that time I spent two months of the year to comb and arrange my accounting so that I could hide the real profit. Today we pay several times more taxes than we did in those days. But I need only half a day for my talks with the accountants before their final balance sheet. In the two months at my disposal I can earn the money to pay these taxes. And I do not have sleepless nights any more. Honesty has released a lot more productive energy for me as an employer. I am free to see my destiny as an employer clearly and I have learned to build faster, cheaper and better."

When a Frenchman decided to pay back taxes to his government, he had to sell two of the three shops he owned. The Finance Minister of France said if everyone in the country paid their taxes honestly taxation would be reduced by one third overnight. Statistics reveal that this Frenchman made more profit honestly on his one shop than he did on three shops with dishonesty.

A similar change in a few businessmen of India would not only have startling results on the economy of the country, but interest the rabid Communists, selfish capitalists and uplift the mood of the masses.

Neerja Chowdhury

HIMMAT, October 27, 1967



Fireman Montag (Oskar Werner, right) and his fire chief (Cyril Cusack) spend their lives burning books.

"Fahrenheit 451"

COMING TO METRO, BOMBAY

HERE is a film which surprises. It is far from what you expect — if you have been naive enough to believe the posters and publicity blurb.

"New wave" director Francois Truffaut has projected Ray Bradbury's best-selling "Fahrenheit 451" on to the screen with an uncanny mixture of disturbing realism and provocative farce. Truffaut calls it, "a fable set in the electronic age".

The time is somewhere in the future and a totalitarian regime has banned the reading and possession of books. The "gestapo" in this society, who knock on doors at night and carry citizens away, are the firemen. Their main task is hunting down "book people", unearthing their secret libraries and burning them.

"Putting out fires?" asks our incredulous fireman hero. "Whoever heard of firemen putting out fires? Our job is to start them."

But in between the orgies of book burning (451 degrees Fahrenheit is the temperature at which paper burns and is reduced to ashes), fireman Montag (Oskar Werner) meets school teacher Clarissa (Julie Christie), a secret book lover, riding to work daily in the overhead monorail. She upsets his ideological equilibrium by asking if he ever reads the books he burns. Why should he? he asks. "It is against the law and it's evil. They just make people unhappy with what they have." The result is a society of illiterate, televiewing zom-

"The Incredible Journey"

METRO, BOMBAY

IT is hard to come up with fresh adjectives to describe Walt Disney's film-making. So we'll stick to the good old ones like "incredible", "fantastic", etc.

Ambitious actors, they say, always steer clear of appearing with animals. This film rather proves their point — the animals steal the show! Disney even gives them top billing in the credits.

Bodger, Luath and Tao — an aging bull terrier, a lively young Labrador retriever and a perky Siamese cat — are boarded out a long way from home when their owners travel abroad. Before long, like a trio of four-legged homing pigeons, they feel the tugs of home. Through snow and flood, collisions with a wild bear, a lynx and a porcupine, hunger and loneliness, they pad their way, ever westward, across 200 miles of north-east Canada's spectacular, rugged forest lands.

Rarely has so much been said by a bunch of dumb actors. The humans could learn a lot.

If you have not taken the kids to see it yet, you should. Watching them will be almost as enjoyable as watching "The Incredible Journey".

Perhaps the greatest genius of Disney was his gift for training others to multiply his art. Because of this we can, perhaps, expect many more such screen delights even though the old master is gone.

FILMS

"The Family Way"

EROS, BOMBAY

THE STAR OF Warner Bros.' "The Family Way" is the Bolton gas works, a fine edifice rising sedately above the dingy tenements of Northern England. Around it take place the events of this Boulting Brothers' production starring Hayley Mills and her father, John, who works there.

It is the story of young love—two newlyweds whose marriage "hasn't taken on". Unfortunately the film doesn't ever really take on either.

Opposite Hayley (trying hard to become another Elizabeth Taylor), is a young Welshman, Hywel Bennett, who manages to live through the small-town episodes without hardily modifying his surly demeanour. For acting, the roses go to the bridegroom's mother (Marjorie Rhodes).

The film suffers from a gaggle of giggling neighbours who are too exaggerated to provide the comedy intended. John Mills and his daughter are worthy of better opportunities than this.

SCREENER

ON THE SPOT—from page 13

They will see to it that our grievances are aired at the municipal meetings."

Mr Betawadkar is an employee of an insurance firm. Born at Betawad, in the then East Khandesh district, he had his early education at Nagpur. In 1948 he started his own sand-dredging business at Mumbra. He "ran into shallow waters" and hence gave it up and joined the insurance company in 1951 as an organiser.

"The Footpath Parliament" of Kalyan is a trail-blazer. Already numerous letters of inquiries and congratulations have poured in. These men are determined to bring about a change in Kalyan—a moral change at all levels.

India needs many more "Footpath Parliaments."

KRISHNAN

HIMMAT, October 27, 1967

15

Hindi drama premiere in Capital

FROM OUR DELHI CORRESPONDENT

"JO BHOOL GAYE HAIN", Hindi version of Alan Thornhill's famous play, "The Forgotten Factor", seen by one million in five continents, had its Indian premiere last week. The play was performed by members of the "India Arise" cast, recently returned from a six-month European journey.

In the audience were MP's, industrialists, trade union leaders and workers and Government officials. In the final scene, when industrialist Gupta and trade union leader Rao unite to defeat the disruptive forces,

they were supported vigorously by the clapping of the audience.

The parts of the rioters were played by fifteen workers from an ordinance factory. Their trade union organiser told the audience: "If management like this change, the workers will give their lives for our country. We are fully behind what Moral Re-Armament is doing. If we and the people of India accept it, we shall not only have a New Delhi but a new India."

A Delhi businessman said: "This

is just what the country needs." The General Manager of one of the largest mill combines said: "It deals with the problems which factories across the country face every day."

A top Army officer said it was "unbeatable, absolutely on the button for the nation".

KERALA—from page 7

Recently, the Marxist Party's all-India newspaper, *People's Democracy*, came out with an editorial accusing the Right-CPI, SSP, and Muslim League of trying to sabotage the United Front Government from within, with the connivance of the Congress. This confirmed the feeling that the Marxists would come down heavily on those partners who refused to toe their line. But to the surprise of all, the State leadership of the Marxist Party has now chosen to exonerate the Muslim League from the allegation. This, it is pointed out, was a clever device by the Marxists as the Muslim League is necessary for the Marxists to entrench themselves firmly in power.

One thing is clear. The Marxists' tactical weapon of the United Front is paying them excellent dividends while making their other partners politically bankrupt.

As a leading politician-priest, Father Vadakkan, recently wrote, if the United Front continued for the full term of five years, "there will not be anything left".

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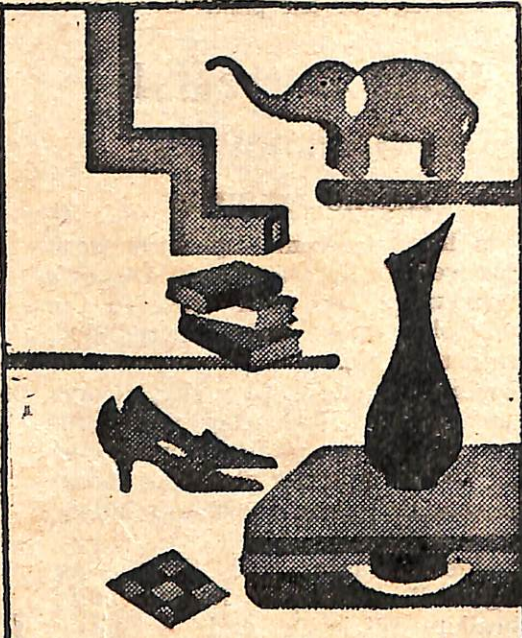
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This was a Life

PANDIT RAMABAI
(1858-1922)

A HUNDRED YEARS ago a young girl of nine was wandering with her parents through the forests and villages of India. They were Brahmins from Maharashtra and Ramabai gained her deep knowledge of the Hindu Scriptures from listening to her father and mother as they recited the Puranas to the people.

She never forgot the sufferings of those early years. Her parents died of starvation during a famine year; and in the heart of Ramabai there burned a passion to save the unwanted and oppressed women of her nation.

Pandita Ramabai associated with the great social reformers at the end of the last century. They were liberal and farsighted men who supported her when she took charge of a home for young widows in Bombay. She had become a Christian, but there was complete religious freedom in her institution.

A terrible famine in 1896 led her to what was then called Central Provinces. There she saw the ghastly suffering of thousands of poor people, and so sickened was she that she nearly turned away. But as she wrote later, "louder and louder spoke the voice of God from within my heart... the sight of the pitiable condition of these poor orphans brought to my memory the state I was in some twenty-two years ago".

She took 300 girls and widows back with her to Kedgaon, near Poona, where she owned a plot of land. With the help of friends in USA she built a home for them, naming it Mukti Sadan. Soon she found herself with over 1900 to care for, but her life was such that many were inspired to come and work with her. An industrial school was started; crafts and trades of all kinds were taught. "The blind, the epileptic, the fallen," so wrote one who knew her well, "such found a door always open for them at Mukti."

Early in 1922, at her work, she died. It is not surprising that Srimati Sarojini Naidu, speaking at a public memorial meeting, called her "the first Christian to be enrolled in the calendar of Hindu Saints".

R.M.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

RAJMOHAN Gandhi's call for India-Pakistan unity calls to mind the well known words of the father of Pakistan, Mr A. Jinnah, on the eve of August 15, 1947. "India and Pakistan are eyes of the same face" and he assured the minorities that happened to be left behind as people he would look upon as forerunners of its glory. He made reference in his speeches implying that Pakistan is not a religious State, geographically apart but only Muslim India. Even Ayub Khan, whose movements in USSR are read cryptically by the Mao group, himself understands that one day he will make his country a Chinese satellite if he droops too much under Mao's lullaby.

His words to a Geographic Magazine correspondent (June 1966) are worth pondering: "India and Pakistan cannot fight to the point of mutual extinction".

C. VASUDEVA RAO, Vijayawada 2

ENGLISH NOT FOREIGN

IS it not unfortunate that all three Professors' opinions on the language policy (HIMMAT, October 6,) supported the ultimate replacement of English by a national language? I would frankly like to place before your readers that Nagaland, one of India's "backward" States, shows how deeply it is committed to English as the "official language of the State". In some ways, the decision is also a tribute to the influence of many Christian missionaries who have given the Nagas an education.

For Nagas, English represents progress. There is a great deal of truth in the reasons advanced by the State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr Jamir, for Nagaland, with its many tribes speaking varied tongues, adopting English as the official language. According to Mr Jamir, not a single local language has been developed enough to be made a regional language.

This introduces a new element in the language controversy. Nagaland's attitude will undoubtedly strengthen the hands of the protagonists of English and make it difficult for the anti-English elements to refer to that language as being foreign to India.

T. S. PRASAD, Bangalore 10

DISAPPOINTED

I HAVE been considering your magazine as one of the best in India but I was shocked to read the prejudicial views of Antenna about the Jan Sangh (HIMMAT, October 6).

This view that Mr Madhok has been propagating for withdrawal from coalitions with Communists is exaggerated. Of course he is not in favour of co-operating with them, because of their anti-national activities. His other views and speculation of a split in the party are far-fetched. He has failed to grasp the spirit of the Jan Sangh.

Letters

Leaders of the Party have admitted that a difference of opinion on certain issues would always be there but the basic unity would never be violated.

A split in the JS is not likely, at least not during the next decade.

I am disappointed.

P. C. ASWANI, Bombay 50

FOOD SPECIAL

I WOULD like to express my gratitude for your FOOD SPECIAL (HIMMAT, September 22). As a farmer's daughter now working as a shorthand typist in the Norwegian Farmers' Union I have found it extremely interesting to read about Indian agriculture's problems and possibilities.

Will you kindly send me 10 copies more of the FOOD SPECIAL by air-mail.

JOHANNE NOVIK, Oslo 2

"THIS INDIA"

FROM the THIS INDIA column I came to know that a small group of Indians trained in Moral Re-Armament had produced a full page headlined "THE WORLD NEEDS INDIA" in "The Statesman".

I am very eager about it. I do feel that such methods will help in rousing the conscience of us Indians. Goodness is inherent in everybody. The problem is of getting it roused. It lies in a dormant state and once it is awakened such persons work wonders.

S. K. SINHA, Darbhanga

STERILISATION: Social & national consequences

WE regret that in the article by Dr Ernest Claxton (HIMMAT, October 6) on Sterilisation, a printer's error resulted in two lines of type being omitted. The paragraph, with omitted text in italics, should have read:

"Moral Re-Armament, the application of absolute moral standards, is what every nation needs. Absolute honesty would cure corruption, absolute purity would control population to its right level, absolute unselfishness will ensure fair distribution of food and wealth, absolute love will answer the emotional and material needs of people."



The whole truth

by Rajmohan Gandhi

I. S. JOHAR is a popular movie actor and director. With words and gestures he raises laughs.

Last week, in Hong Kong, Johar caused resentment, not amusement. Apparently he described India as "filthy, both morally and physically", in an interview over Radio Hong Kong. Later, clarifying his statement, he told a Hong Kong daily that he had referred to "the lethargy and corruption which are rife in the country".

The *Hindustan Times* reports that Indians living in Hong Kong have taken offence at Johar's remarks. Some of them marched to the Indian Commission and demanded some "action".

Now it is plain that Johar's description is not the whole truth about our land. There is a part of India and Indian life that is clean, fresh and attractive, both morally and physically.

Fists and paperweights

The Hong Kong Indians however had their zeal and energetic efforts to uphold India's honour ruined by a drama that was taking place in Delhi at about the same time. News of this performance, alas, leaked out to the world and was suitably displayed everywhere. The actors were distinguished members of the Delhi Corporation. The scene was a regular meeting. Among the features were fist-fighting and paperweight hurling. Microphones were grabbed and smashed, agenda papers were torn and flung, the stenographers' table was jumped upon until it crashed.

When truce was called, the speeches at the peace conference "betrayed a you-hit-me-first attitude", said the *Hindustan Times*. A certain dramatic skill was shown throughout because most of the various missiles missed their targets. This enterprising body has not been entirely inert in the past. But this time, according to *The Statesman*, it exceeded itself.

Had he been present, Johar would have sighted movements and heard lines that would have broadened his repertoire.

Energy and passion are obviously not lacking in members of our race. All that is needed is to encourage and train our people to use them with selectivity. A successful writer's prescription for bored children was to "take a large hoe and a shovel also, and dig till you gently perspire". Somebody else suggests counting until ten when one is about to lose one's temper.

I have not yet heard of Hong Kong Indians marching to New Delhi to tackle the Corporation members. As far as Indians crossing our country's borders is concerned, the preference is for the outward movement.

The *Indian Express* reports the defection of Amarjit Singh, Indian and Services hockey star. Amarjit played for India in the Madrid Hockey Festival earlier this year and stayed behind in London when the team returned home. He has now been officially listed as a deserter. His move follows that of Darshan Singh, India's Olympic left-winger who settled down in England after the Hamburg Hockey Festival last year.

In recent days I have met an Air Force officer leaving to work in Africa as a commercial pilot, learned of a well-known principal of a Delhi school who has migrated to Canada, heard of a veteran pressman quitting the country and of a lecturer staying abroad wanting not to return.

Next of kin—gone West

I have also heard of Cabinet Ministers whose close relatives have made Britain, Canada or America their home. It would be revealing if someone discovered at Parliament's next session the number and names of Government and Opposition leaders whose near kin have given India up.

Immigration officers of every Western country are bombarded with Indian applications. These make a more effective sound than the protests of Hong Kong Indian citizens.

Legislators in States will not let city corporators steal all the lime-light. Their drama of defection

and floor-crossing continues its run. Last week two members of the Gujarat Assembly left the Swatantra Party to join Congress. In Madhya Pradesh five left Congress to join the ruling front. In Patna Mr B. P. Mandal "paraded the first batch of 23 members of his party before the Governor", says the *Hindustan Times*.

In single-minded devotion to money and posts our legislators courageously shed other considerations and move from party to party.

Uttar Pradesh has over 80 million people now, more than any other State. It is ruled by the Samyukta Vidhayak Dal, a front of non-Congress parties ranging from the Communists to the Jan Sangh. For weeks now administration in the State has been at a standstill because of daily possibilities of a break-up of the Front. The State's Ministers have had no time for looking after their departments while they have haggled.

The other side of India

The continuing comedy that is India is, like Johar's statement, not the whole truth. It is the obverse of unrelieved tragedy and callousness. And this truth has another element.

"Will you take me to the Telegraph Office?" I asked a taxi driver after hailing him at 11 pm.

"I have been driving without stopping from 7 in the morning and was on my way home, but if you ask like that I will take you anywhere," he replied. On the way he told me how everyone in the country was dishonest — the sweeper, the taxi driver and the politician.

"But people can change, dishonest men can become honest and learn to change others, if they decide to," I said.

"I will do anything to achieve that," he rejoined.

India has hundreds of millions like this taxi driver. And undiplomatic actors, fevered corporators, border-crossing citizens and floor-crossing politicians all have something in them which can be touched.

FIND THE BALL Competition No 43

WIN
Rs. 50
or more

2nd Prize:
HIRA GIFT BOX
(Razor, shaving brush
and blades)

HOW TO PLAY

The ball in this cricket action picture has been painted out. All you have to do is to **mark a cross** (not circle, arrow, etc) where you think the ball is. Then cut out the picture and coupon and send it to "Find the Ball", c/o HIMMAT, 294 Bazargate Street, Bombay 1 before noon on Monday, November 6.

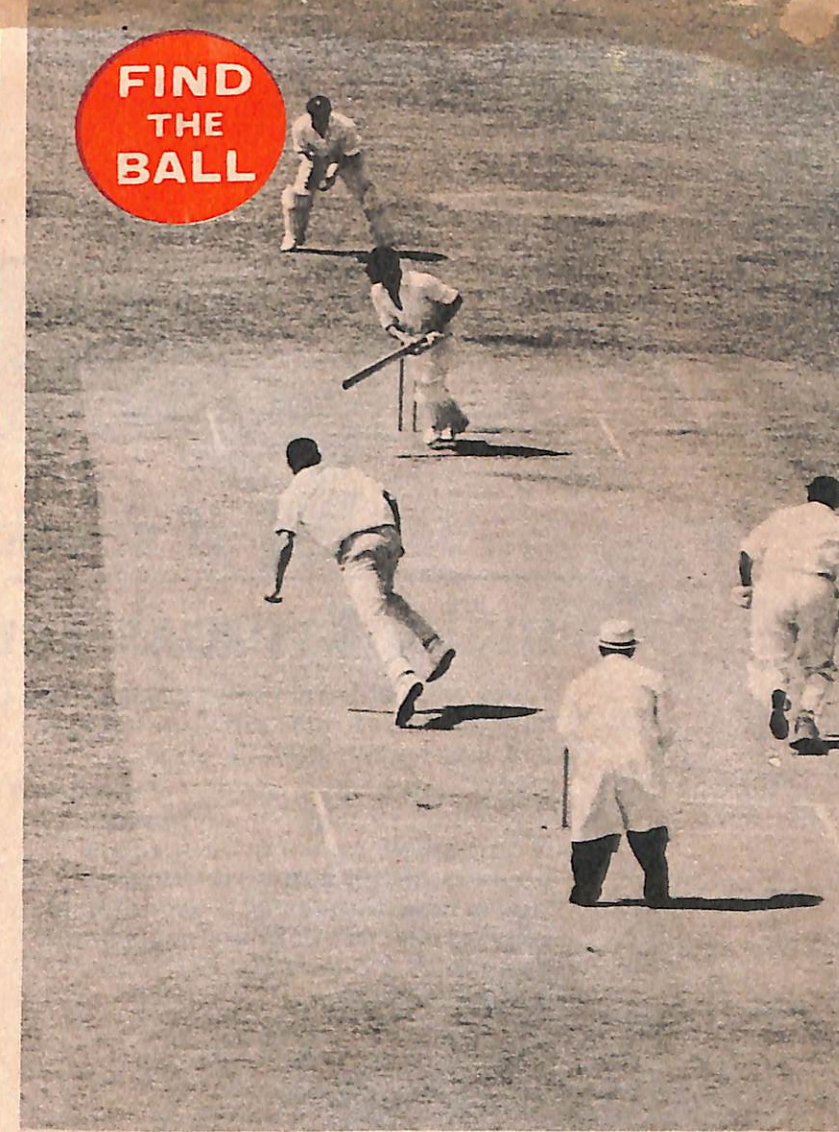
The winner will be announced in the following issue. There is no limit to the number of entries you can make, but only **one cross** may be marked on each picture. The Editor's decision is final.

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

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

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

FIND
THE
BALL



WINNER OF COMPETITION 41

is Issac D. Solomon, K-8,
P. & T. Quarters, Wadala,
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entry (3mm from ball).

2nd Prize (Hira Gift Box) to
T. A. Ranganathan, LIC, Jeevan
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Hyderabad 22. (4mm from ball).

Next week's Jackpot: Rs. 175



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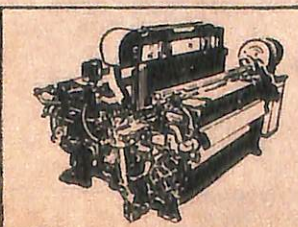
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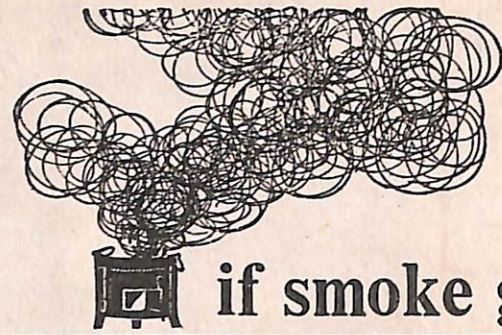
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