

# THE INTERNATIONALIST

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## AID FOR ALGERIA

Delegates from various European countries met in Brussels May 4 to consider further plans for developing international aid for Algeria. The specific project is to help organize a broad conference in Algiers June 15-19 which will make a survey of the most acute requirements. Especially needed are technicians and health teams. Help for Algeria's orphans is also high on the agenda.

Reports were heard at the Brussels conference from trade unionists, members of the Socialist, Social-Democratic and Communist parties, and liberals, who have been active in the preliminary work.

In Algiers, reports Alger Républicain, a group of European militants, who are keenly interested in making the projected conference as big a success as possible, issued an appeal May 7 "to all manual and intellectual European workers who are conscious of the necessities of proletarian solidarity and the anti-imperialist struggle in Algeria and their own country to enlarge the group of local participants in the preparations and work of the conference."

Inquiries about participating in the June conference in Algiers or in going to Algeria as a technician should be sent to Gilles Viali, 102 Blvd. du Félemy, Algiers, Algeria.

## MASS DEMONSTRATION IN ALGIERS

PARIS -- Any efforts of would-be capitalists to form a rallying center against the moves toward socialism taken by the Algerian government appear certain to meet with stiff resistance from the people. This was proved April 29 when merchants in Algiers shut down their establishments during the afternoon to attend ceremonies inaugurating the new headquarters of the UGCA (Union Générale des Commerçants).

Distinguished figures were among the audience, including ambassadors of the Soviet bloc countries, heads of Algerian trade unions, the chairman of the Red Crescent / Algeria's Red Cross / and the Attorney General.

At about 2:50 a crowd began to form in the street outside the building, which is near the Casbah. As Boy Scouts sang patriotic songs, the crowd swelled until it reached 20,000, according to the estimate of Le Peuple.

Banners started appearing here and there: "Against any neocolonialism." "Maintain the unity of the Algerian people." "For the Tripoli program to the end."

Apparently waiting for the noise outside to die down, the businessmen didn't get started with their speeches for the occasion until five o'clock. The speakers still could not be heard over the roar of the crowd chanting, "The bourgeoisie to the steam bath!" "Yahia, Ben Bella!"

Omar Aïchoun, chairman of the UGCA, cited the "immense sacrifices" made by Algerian businessmen in fighting the French colonialists. He stressed the fact that the UGCA was "the first" to support the FLN [National Liberation Front].

The dense crowd outside became more vociferous: "The bourgeoisie to the stake [poteau]!" "Vive Ben Bella!" "Vive the Political Bureau!"

Aïchoun came to the balcony and the crowd quieted down. He invited them to shout, "Vive l'UGCA!"

A unanimous roar came back, "Vive Ben Bella!"

Part of the crowd surged forward, breaking through the police lines. Scuffles occurred. The crowd began tearing up banners, setting fire to the cloth and throwing the sticks at the police. Le Peuple said, however, that the demonstration did not take an ugly turn at any time.

Aïchoun apologized to those present at the ceremonies for "this mishap," saying that it was due to "a handful of provocateurs."

The report given by Alger Républicain indicates that the crowd grew more boisterous:

"All at once the barriers, although solid, were overturned and broken and the forces of order overwhelmed. The door of the UGCA was hastily shut.

"Missiles, originating for the most part from the broken barriers, were thrown in the direction of the balcony where the Venetian shutters had now been drawn. For more than an hour, the crowd in this way manifested its support for the policy of Ben Bella. Each time the police lines were formed, they were as quickly broken. . . . The windows of the 'Tatonville' cafe flew to pieces."

Mustapha Lassel, former national secretary of the UGTA [trade unions], borne aloft on the shoulders of a demonstrator, made a fiery speech. Other union leaders in the midst of the crowd followed up with more speeches.

When Ben Bella heard about the demonstration, according to Le Monde, he hurriedly went there in an automobile. Appearing on the balcony, he gestured for silence. The roars of greetings to him died down and he made a short speech.

"My brothers and sisters, I ask you in these days when the Algerian people are united as nowhere else in the world, I ask you to be calm so as not to dig with ill-suited words a moat.

"I want to tell you," he said, "that the Algerian Revolution is not for the merchants, and to be frank, plain, precise, it's the revolution of the fellahs [peasants] and the shoeshiners.

"The small merchants and artisans are not a problem. I think they have a place in Algerian society, on condition that they understand well that. . . [they] must not live. . . from the sweat of the Algerians; we don't want new colonialists. It is necessary that the merchants and artisans understand that the co-operatives are not a danger to the small merchants and that they must share with the poor. We have taken the lands of the Borgeaud's, we will take the properties of the profiteers. I swear before God and the Algerian people, that the Algerian Revolution will be socialist."

[According to Le Monde? Ben Bella also said, "Algeria will be socialist. It will have socialism à la Castro. No force in the world can stop the advance of our country along this road."]

The head of the Algerian government took up a number of other points and finally said that he had to leave to meet representatives of President Nasser who were arriving. He asked the demonstrators to return to their homes peacefully.

When Ben Bella left the balcony, the assemblage dispersed. They had made their point.

ELECTION OF ALGERIAN WORKERS COUNCILS

PARIS -- The Algerian government has announced a campaign to reorganize the Management Committees which in many cases were appointed when they first began to form. The campaign will begin May 10 in meetings throughout the country with the participation of the Party of the National Liberation Front, national organizations, local government officials, the trade unions, commissioners of the National Office of Agrarian Reform, and representatives of the Bureau of Socialist Enterprise and the National Popular Army.

The text of a circular issued by the Government, specifying how Workers Councils and Management Committees are to be elected in accordance with the reorganization campaign is as follows:

In view of the establishment of the first Councils and Management Committees provided for in decrees 63-95 of March 22, 1963, concerning the organization and management of industrial and mining enterprises

"At this moment when the Algerian workers are expressing their determination to work out their own destiny, declaring that they are taking the road to socialism, the hundred and fifty participants who came from ten countries to the European Conference for Nongovernmental Aid to Algeria, held June 15-19, 1963, make an urgent appeal to international opinion to rally in support of the New Algeria.

"We especially appeal to workers organizations, trade unions, co-operatives, youth movements, civic bodies, farmers associations, and intellectual groups to undertake rapid and effective action.

"The heroic struggle of the Algerian people for independence has won the admiration of the entire world.

"Long live friendship and solidarity with the New Algeria!"

### BOUDIAP'S ARREST IN ALGERIA

One year after independence, the Algerian government has announced for the first time the arrest of its political opponents, Boudiaf and three others. In a short statement in the National Assembly, Ben Bella spoke of a conspiracy against the State.

Boudiaf was one of the leaders of the Algerian Revolution, arrested by the French authorities and detained together with Ben Bella seven years ago. When the crisis broke out last year, Boudiaf opposed Ben Bella, refused to enter the Political Bureau, and rejected a seat in the National Assembly although elected. He was generally considered as the main spirit behind the so-called Party of Socialist Revolution, although he disclaimed responsibility for the activities of that clandestine organization. After his arrest the French paper Le Monde published a statement he had made a couple of days before in which Boudiaf condemns the measures taken by Ben Bella as "demagogic," and also alludes to the popular discontent in Algeria that could be exploited by the bourgeois right wing. He has, however, denied that he himself was engaged in any serious political activity.

These arrests took place a few days after there had been unrest in the army in the eastern towns of Constantine and Philippeville. Detailed information on these events is not available.

All those who support the measures taken by the Algerian government to put Algeria on the road to socialism must recognize the right of this government to defend itself. It has been admitted by all impartial observers that the Algerian government up to this point has taken no coercive measures against political opponents, and this has been publicly stated by Ben Bella and his colleagues on various occasions. If Boudiaf has confined himself to political opposition only, his arrest would be a political mistake. If he is accused of participation in a conspiracy, he should be tried by a court, with all facilities of a fair legal defense.

FREE HUGO BLANCO!

June 12, 1963 -- The "immediate release" of Hugo Blanco was demanded today by the Fourth International in a cable to the Peruvian government protesting the arrest of the world famous leader of the peasants of Peru whose actions have been an inspiration to the peasantry throughout Latin America. The cable also protested the continued detainment of Ismael Frias, Peruvian Trotskyist leader,

Hugo Blanco, the cable declared, "is guilty of no crime but that of a heroic effort to liberate the peasants in the Peruvian Andes from their age-old servitude and feudal-capitalist exploitation."

In a circular sent to labor organizations, the Fourth International said there was grave danger that the dictatorial Peruvian government would kill Hugo Blanco after a drumhead trial.

The Fourth International urged the sending of telegrams, letters of protest and petitions to the Peruvian authorities. It asked that picket lines be organized before Peruvian consulates wherever possible.

CAMPAIGN TO FREE HUGO BLANCO

A campaign for the immediate release of Hugo Blanco, the revolutionary peasant leader of Peru, has already been launched in various countries.

In London two demonstrations were organized in front of the Peruvian Embassy, the first by a newly created "Release Hugo Blanco Committee." The demonstrators spent two hours marching outside the Embassy building with posters demanding "Release Hugo Blanco" and "Land for Peru's Landless."

The other demonstration was organized by the Socialist Labour League, also outside the Peruvian Embassy in London.

A joint demonstration is scheduled to be held in London in the near future.

In Brussels a similar demonstration was organized by the Socialist youth and students.

In Rome a campaign has been launched under the auspices of the University Students' Association (ORUR). The Communist, Socialist and other youth organizations are participating. A signature campaign will be started for an appeal urging the release of Hugo Blanco. A demand for a public trial with all facilities for an international team of lawyers to appear in his defense has also been made.

"Peace News," a periodical published by supporters of the "Committee of 100" in London, carries a front-page article June 28,

"He could not be released except on the order of the governor of the state, Mr. Nelson Rockefeller, one of those who have criticized Mr. Kennedy's Cuban policy with the greatest vigor, the one who may confront him in the big competition of 1964. Mr. Rockefeller granted clemency to the prisoner, at the request of Washington, he said, but no one is ignorant of the fact that the federal government has no power that could make it compel a state governor to grant clemency to a prisoner. Without doubt there were very imperious reasons that led Mr. Rockefeller to make a gesture that can be held against him in the election campaign, and which in any case weakens the effectiveness of his criticisms of Kennedy since in this situation he came to his assistance."

Kennedy has not at all changed his fundamental aim of overthrowing the Castro regime, Julien points out. "But the style and the means of a policy define it as well as the aims." It makes a difference to Cuba if the counterrevolutionary commandoes are restrained, if the tiny bands of gunmen in the hills find it more difficult to get supplies, if the popular militia sees its task eased. On the other hand "it is certain that Washington will not renounce its struggle against 'subversion' in Latin America."

What has led Washington to make this shift in policy? Julien cites a recent editorial in the "well-informed" New York Times [April 23, International Edition] which may "shed some light on what the intentions of the government in Washington may be." The gist of this editorial is an attack on the "ultras" who are shouting for invasion of Cuba. They act as if the Cuban Revolution did not exist and as if the main danger were Soviet troops, says the Times. They act as if the Cuban nation consisted of the 250,000 emigres instead of the 96 percent who are carrying out a social revolution. The editorial then cites a recent book entitled On Revolution in which the author, Hannah Arendt, declares that "the most important political factor in the world today is not war but revolution." To this, The New York Times adds: "Cuba is going through the agonizing process of a social revolution which, like all similar revolutions in modern history, is making a permanent imprint."

Claude Julien then outlines his own conclusions about Washington's calculations. This is perhaps the most interesting part of his article:

"It is this permanent, irreversible character of the Cuban Revolution, which poses problems for Washington. That Mr. Miro Cardona abandoned the leadership of the counterrevolutionary committee and left the United States for refuge in Costa Rica is minor. The important, decisive fact is that the land can never be taken away from the peasants and returned to the former owners who left enormous areas uncultivated. The dominant fact is that, for the first time in their history, the Cuban people are forging their own destiny themselves -- even if this destiny displeases Washington, the Cuban people are not going to let it slip from their hands. In the same way no one will dare destroy the achievements of the revolutionary government: schools, roads, hospitals, homes, etc., which its predecessors never knew how or wished to construct:

"This is what Washington, it seems, is now taking into consideration. And that could be sufficient to justify a new policy. Just

eighteen months before the renewal of his presidential mandate, this cannot fail to multiply the obstacles in Mr. Kennedy's road. But it is difficult to see what other road he could choose, at least without undertaking the military destruction of Cuba, a destruction of which his adversaries can talk about when they hold no post of responsibility but which they could not undertake if they themselves were in the White House."

While Claude Julien's speculations deserve the most serious attention, they should not lead any partisan of revolutionary Cuba to lower his guard. If the Cubans have won a breathing spell it is only because of their vigilance and because they were able to strengthen their Revolution despite the ferocious efforts of the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations to strangle it.

GERMAN METAL WORKERS STRIKE

The following article was written by our German correspondent before future chancellor Erhard intervened in the strike to bring it to an end, halting it from spreading to the Ruhr and developing into a major test of strength. We have not yet received the views of our correspondent on this settlement, but it appears that the German government, through Erhard, exerted heavy pressure on both sides in order through a compromise to avert a situation which would have paralyzed a considerable sector of the German economy.

In taking this action, the government in reality expressed its fear of the power of the German working class, which, had it gone ahead in the struggle, would have experienced its biggest combat since 1928-29!

As for the leadership of the IG Metall trade union, although it is today the last bastion of the left in the German labor movement, it was probably fearful of the perspective of the combat and of losing the enormous financial resources which the union has accumulated. It accepted a compromise which permitted it to save face before the workers

In any case, the strike of the metal workers of Baden-Württemberg marks the first stage in the revival of the German labor movement, which will experience wider and tougher struggles in the days to come.

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For some months now, it has been clear in the German metal industry that the reduction in the rate of growth, increasing international competition and the high level of wages (relative to metal prices and not to buying power) could engender the greatest aggressiveness of the West German bosses and new class struggles as a result. What could not be foreseen was the time and the degree of sharpness of the struggle

The strike of the metal workers in the north of Baden-Württemberg, the lock-out among all enterprises employing more than 100 persons (at the time this is being written), the possibility of a strike in Nordrhein-Westfalen are not accidental, but the expression of the aggravation of class relations in the Federal Republic which will likewise have consequences in the political field.

The German bosses have shown what they are like. Some people have held that its desire to integrate the German working class into its system would still prove stronger for a time than its desire for a test of strength with the unions. Suddenly the bosses destroyed many illusions about social co-operation, about the unions as a factor of "order" and about "Social capitalism." Not only in the eyes of the workers about to go into action, that is those belonging to IG Metall, but also in the eyes of the mass of trade unionists and a part of the unorganized, the nebulous conceptions about economic citizenship have been dissipated. No matter how it ends -- and we have no doubt it will be victorious -- the mask of the "economic miracle" has been torn off, the faces which were hidden are again seen clearly with their real features.

One could sense this in the May Day demonstrations. Not only was the participation much more extensive, but there was less of the atmosphere of a popular holiday. They showed that May Day, despite all the oratory, has not lost its meaning as a day of struggle for working-class demands. The big test over wage demands was the main theme of the discussions and speeches during the demonstrations. Even the trade-union leaders who sought to practice social co-operation and friendship between the unions and the employers and the state had to insert phrases about the class struggle when they made defensive moral criticisms of the bosses. In areas of the Federal Republic which were not drawn into the strike, the spirit of the demonstrators was likewise influenced by the strike and lock-out.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to say that the workers hoped for more from these demonstrations than they actually received.

What kind of spirit have the workers on strike displayed?

It must be underlined that they entered the strike with minds clear. The number of strikebreakers was extremely low. In the largest area not more than about three percent scabbed.

In general the strikers have confined themselves solely to trade-union demands. Only in the Mannheim district was a stronger political note observable. (At Daimler-Benz the strikers hoisted a red flag over their headquarters; while everywhere else the black-red-gold flag of the Federal Republic was visible.) Typical slogans are: "The strike will stop the state of emergency." "To be polite today means a gag tomorrow." "They use the lock-out today; tomorrow the prison."

A simple deduction shows that the bosses wanted this test of strength. In the last negotiations, the leadership of the metal-workers union not only lowered wage demands to six percent, they also offered a longer contract. The bosses offered three and a half percent now and three and a half percent next year, the contract to extend to the end of 1964. At the end of the negotiations it was not so much the differences between the offer of the bosses and the demand of the IG Metall which was at stake as the calculated determination of the bosses to win capitulation from IG Metall. And since this did not succeed -- despite the hesitation in the leadership of IG Metall, which all the world could see, they were not prepared to give in beyond a certain point -- the bosses provoked the strike. It became at once clear that they were going to reply by a lock-out in order to force a test of strength.



The human, trade-union consciousness of the working class of today is not paralyzed despite all claims to the contrary. The German working class has not undergone any great defeat since 1945 when fresh struggles began. The defeats (organization of the enterprise; co-management; remilitarization, etc.) were not defeats in combat but resulted from the fact that the working class was prevented from struggling by its leadership.

The youth who find themselves in today's combat have no consciousness of history, but they do have in return a stronger spirit of combativeness and a keener consciousness of democracy, and they have no illusions about the leadership.

Industrialization has swept the smallest corners of the Federal Republic and caught up everyone in the social movements. Hence the disappearance of the opposition between town and country, visibly so between the workers of the advanced cities and the workers of the backward countryside.

Prosperity has created a relatively high standard of living which the workers want to maintain at all costs. The need for new things, created by a society of consumption, has become a real need, engendering a new economic consciousness on the base of a highly industrialized society.

Because of the default in political leadership, the German working class has not reached a high political level. But one learns quickly in a struggle. The working class, held politically passive, will enter through the school of trade-union struggles onto the political road. The working class which appears as a political infant today will show itself to be a union giant. It will acquire political consciousness.

#### "BACK TO AFRICA" MOVEMENT SUPPRESSED

KINGSTON, JAMAICA -- The Ras Tafari Brothers Repatriation Front, a "back to Africa" movement, has been singled out by the Bustamante government for savage repressive measures.

The government drive began after six alleged members of the organization conducted a guerrilla raid April 11 in the tourist area of Montego Bay. They burned a gasoline station. In the fighting, two white civilians were killed. Followed by the police into the hills, they fought resolutely, killing three officers and suffering the loss of half their band.

The government seized this local incident as a pretext for a nationwide drive against the Ras Tafarians. We quote from a leaflet put out by the organization:

"Right now in this country -- Jamaica -- along the North Coast from Montego Bay to St. Ann's Bay, many hundreds of Ras Tafarians are being imprisoned, beaten and tortured -- some brethren are being tied by hands and feet in the jail yards, in the sun and cold, molasses is thrown over their skin attracting insects to bite them -- this inhuman treatment has caused the death of three Ras Tafarians in jail

at the time of making this report, and more are subjected to die with-  
in the next few days." of an... in the...  
The guerrilla incident mentioned above "was an isolated event,"  
declares the leaflet, which stemmed out of previous violence inflicted  
on those involved.

Bustamente ordered a round up. "This started the brutal campaign  
of the police and soldiers -- police operating in the towns and soldiers  
in the hills -- beating with gun butts and jailing almost everyone with  
beards and who have been freshly trimmed and shaven: and anyone who  
opposed this ruthless action of the police are also beaten and carried  
off to jail. The breaking of human bones with rifle butts is a common  
occurrence, and no medical treatment given.

"Meanwhile, many areas in the hills are sealed off by soldiers,  
and no one is able to tell the gruesome happenings."

The Ras Tafarians charge the Bustamente government with attempt-  
ing to commit genocide. "We declare that if the Jamaican Government  
does not want us here then send us back home to Africa where we want  
to go -- it is the Government which is keeping us here against our will

The movement demands that an impartial body "of just citizens and  
Ras Tafarians be allowed to go into the areas of unrest to investigate  
the truth."

The leaflet charges that the radio and the press have been muted  
to prevent the facts from becoming known.

"We Ras Tafarians charge the Jamaican Government with attempting  
to use Ras Tafarians as a scapegoat to distract attention from its  
incompetence of not being able to give the masses of this country food,  
clothing and shelter and to resolve the country's economic problems.  
Today it is the Ras Tafarians -- tomorrow it will be everyone."

POLICE-STATE LAW IN SOUTH AFRICA

One of the most vicious measures of modern times became law in  
South Africa May 2 within ten days after it was introduced in the  
legislature.

The "antisabotage" law gives Justice Minister Balthazar Johannes  
Vorster, who was interned for more than a year during World War II  
because of his pro-Nazi views, extraordinary powers. He can:

+ Detain up to 90 days at a time anyone suspected of having in-  
formation about offenses threatening the state's security. Neither  
charges nor a trial are required.

Repeat the 90-day detention indefinitely. The courts cannot  
interfere.

These powers are to be reviewed in a year, but the President can  
extend them a year at a time or put them in force at any time if they  
have lapsed.

In addition, Vorster can:

- + Detain indefinitely members of banned organizations and advocates of "Communism" even after they have completed their sentences.
- + Impose from a minimum of five years up to the death penalty on South Africans who have advocated forcible intervention in South Africa's affairs at any time since 1950, including in the United Nations.
- + Order summary trials without any preparatory examination.
- + Seize suspected letters, telegrams or parcels sent by mail.
- + Declare a state of emergency and issue emergency decrees which have the force of law.
- + Prohibit assemblies and gatherings and ban people from attending public meetings.
- + Designate anyone a "Communist" under the "suppression of Communism" law.

#### HUGE MAY DAY RALLY IN CEYLON

The May Day rally in Colombo exceeded all expectations. Galle Face green was almost completely filled. It may have been the largest rally ever held in Ceylon. Even conservative estimates put the crowd at one hundred thousand.

The huge turn out was attributed to enthusiasm among the masses at the prospect of a united front between the LSSP (Trotskyists), the Communist party and the NEP (a smaller grouping led by Philip Gunawardene), the organizations which jointly sponsored the rally.

Separate rallies were staged by the SLFP (left-bourgeois party now holding government power) and the UNP (right-wing bourgeois party). The UNP meeting drew a crowd of five or six thousand. The turnout at the SLFP rally was around two thousand.

PLEASE NOTE: Our new address is      The Internationalist  
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Paris 2, France

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