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In this issue

Page

French Workers Stage One-Day Strike -- by Pierre Frank	1
45,000 Colombian Teachers on Strike	3
The Rising Sun of Japanese Capitalism	4
Conspicuous Size Is a Problem, Too	7
Cuba's Position on Belgo-American Intervention in the Congo	8
Vietnamese Freedom Fighters Report Successes	9
Dollar Explosion in Philippines	9
Robert Williams, Malcom X Praise China's Test of Bomb	10
Supreme Soviet Rubberstamps Khrushchev's Ouster	11
Kennedy Assassination Still Unsolved Mystery	12
Aid Recommended for Both Wings of Angolan Freedom Movement	15

FRENCH WORKERS STAGE ONE-DAY STRIKE

By Pierre Frank

PARIS -- The one-day strike in the public services and nationalized industries came off as scheduled December 11. For twenty-four hours electric power was cut off and gas pressure lowered. Trains and buses were halted. Schools closed. Sanitary services stopped. Work was suspended in the mines. In Paris the métro [underground, subway] was shut down. Because of the lack of electricity, plants and factories closed and there was a considerable slow down in all activities. Traffic piled up in the streets because the signals were not functioning. Television was dead; elevators motionless. . .

The strike was a success. It was an impressive demonstration in various respects of the power of the working class, its capacity to literally paralyze the whole country.

In comparison with similar actions in previous years, it was the general opinion among observers of all political viewpoints, that it was the most extensive in many years due to the growth of dissatisfaction. The workers in the public services and nationalized industries have become irritated over the way they have fallen behind in comparison to the gains registered in private industry and over the impossibility of engaging in genuine bargaining with the government-boss. In private industry the workers are disturbed over the absence of gains such as were made in recent years when full employment made the labor market more favorable for them.

The discontent can also be measured by the fact that more than 3,000,000 workers showed their willingness, by going out on strike, to lose a day's pay (out of the twenty-one days on which their monthly wages are calculated), although they knew that the action would not change the government's decisions. This loss in wages means something to the lower-paid categories.

What will happen next? The question was raised at many meetings of the workers before December 11 when militants advocated extension of the action. The leadership of the former Christian federation, now the CFDT [Confédération Française et Démocratique du Travail] does not dream of going beyond economic demands although it issues declamations about the dignity of labor, etc. The traditional reformist leadership of Force Ouvrière, which feels threatened by the shift of the former Christian federation yet which does not care to make a united front with the CGT [Communist-dominated Confédération Générale du Travail] has been talking demagogically about a twenty-four hour strike of "all" the workers. The CGT leadership has replied, "We are not against it, but it is necessary to prepare for a strike like that. . . ."

In reality a twenty-four general strike is not the issue; since by itself it could not compel the government and management to concede. Actions of that kind lack meaning unless they are made in the context of appeals aimed at estimating the relationship of forces for a full test of strength in the various industries and companies throughout the country.

But the truth is that the leaderships of the trade-union federations don't have the least intention of engaging in profound struggles, because they don't want a showdown with the government power (which is implied by such struggles). Actions by the workers of the scope of the one on December 11 do have political significance but this cannot be easily grasped without placing them in the context projected for France in 1965.

Next spring the municipal elections will be held. Later in the year, at a time not yet set, an election will be held for the presidency of the republic -- by universal suffrage for the first time since 1848. For these elections, the leaders of the two big traditional parties, the PCF [Parti Communiste Français] and the

SFIO [Parti Socialiste, Section Française Internationale Ouvrière], and the heads of the trade-union federations under their influence, imbued with the most inveterate parliamentary cretinism, hope only to convert the discontent of the masses into votes to beat the Gaullist regime on the electoral plane.

The Socialists would like to find some way of attracting Communist votes wherever possible in the municipal and presidential elections without granting anything in return. The leaders of the PCF talk about a united front, about unity of action among the workers, but their program is a combination of reformism (struggle for "genuine democracy") and nationalism (with some attempt to outbid de Gaulle) lacking any attraction for those not already prepared to vote Communist.

On the level of trade-union struggles and economic demands, the leaderships are engaging in cagey maneuvers and pressure against each other. The result is that even a big action like that of December 11, fails practically to advance the unity of the working class. The policies of the government and management engender the demonstrations but the leaderships of the working-class organizations offer no perspective and no effective objectives for the working class.

Of course, independently of the policies of these organizations, the workers undergo a development of their own. Two years ago the miners engaged in a very tough struggle for a number of weeks to the surprise of everyone, including the trade-union leaders and the government. It is not impossible that the growing discontent will touch off actions in certain companies or industries during 1965. The discontent appears to be particularly high among the railway workers.

The bureaucratism of the organizations prevents a genuine dialogue between the cadres and militants and the broad organized masses -- and still more so with the unorganized workers. This makes accurate forecasts quite difficult. But the mounting dissatisfaction and the political stir which the elections will inevitably arouse make it possible to expect that the situation will become clarified during the coming year.

45,000 COLOMBIAN TEACHERS ON STRIKE

A strike, launched early in November by 13,000 Colombian primary school teachers in five provinces for wage increases and payment of overdue wages, had spread to eleven provinces by the first of December and brought out 45,000 teachers, according to Hsinhua News Agency. The teachers have been holding street demonstrations. They said they would hold out until their demands are met.

THE RISING SUN OF JAPANESE CAPITALISM

In the December 13 Observer, the well-known London weekly, Anthony Bambridge writes about the alarm among British shipbuilders over Japanese competition. The alarm, he declares, is not confined to the British Isles but is apparent throughout Europe. "Europe's shipbuilders have no doubts in their own minds that the Japanese are out to kill them off."

Two factors have given the Japanese the edge, according to Bambridge. One is costs. "It will take 10 years before Japanese costs and prices rise to European levels." The other is obsolescence. "One British shipbuilder thought his industry still had 'the millstone of history round its neck.' He was referring to out-of-date yards, not management."

How stiff Japanese competition is can be judged from the following: "In 1960, orders received by Japan were less than half those of the European yards; three years later Japan was gobbling up more orders than all the Europeans together. The Japanese builders are now adding five new yards to their existing 24. The first clash of steel in those yards may be the death knell for many of Europe's smaller yards. Britain alone has lost 12 of these in two years."

The Japanese are aggressively moving "right into the enemy camp," reports Bambridge. "In the New Year the Japanese Ship Export Association is to open shop in London -- 'to be nearer its markets.' Tenders are going out not just for the Japanese staples, bulk carriers and tankers, but also for the fast cargo liners that until now have been largely a European preserve. The final British humiliation was to discover, three weeks ago, that P. and O. -- that most gilt-edged of our shipowners -- was able to place a tanker order in Britain only because of the saving on three other orders going to Japan."

The Shipbuilding Conference affirms that "It's no longer a question of Britain versus Sweden, but of all Europe against Japan."

"Europe's shipbuilders have reason to be scared," adds Bambridge. "Japanese prices are, on average, a staggering 20 per cent below those quoted by the Europeans, and Mr. Rex Sheppard, the shipbuilders' mouthpiece, maintains that hardly a yard in Europe is making a profit. Many are not even covering overheads. During 1964 ships totalling four million tons will have been built in Japan; British yards will have managed a mere one million tons."

Japan's performance in shipbuilding represents only one facet of the recovery of Japanese capitalism from the devastation of World War II. A succinct summary of the main facts was published in the November 19 issue of the Paris biweekly Analyses et Documents.*

*Analyses et Documents, 29 rue Descartes, Paris 5. Subscription for 20 issues to countries outside France, 36 francs.

"The Japanese economy has just experienced a new leap forward," the article begins. "There are now only 330,000 unemployed. Individual consumption has risen sharply. For example, the consumption of meat in the past ten years has gone up from 3-1/2 pounds annually to 12 pounds (in relation to the Western countries, however, this is still low)."

"In the Japanese steel industry," the article continues, "a genuine miracle has occurred. After passing France in 1959 and the United Kingdom in 1961 and then stagnating in 1962, it has just gained in 1963 third place in the world, ahead of Germany."

Analyses et Documents offers the following instructive table:

STEEL PRODUCTION (in millions of tons)

<u>1929</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
2,294	6,472	564	9,408	27,546	31,500

CAST-IRON PRODUCTION (in millions of tons)

1,112	2,677	212	5,426	18,439	20,436
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"This is all the more remarkable since Japan imports 81% of its iron ore (unquestionably under favorable conditions in view of the deterioration in terms of exchange between manufactured products and raw materials). Thus the United States furnishes coal at a low price (in face of the threat of Chinese competition), while Japan buys iron ore from the underdeveloped countries at a low price: 21,778,000 tons of ore, including 6,360,000 tons from Malaysia, 4,420,000 tons from India, 2,960,000 tons from Chile, 2,450,000 tons from Peru and 1,450,000 tons from Canada.

"Since 1956, Japan has led the world in shipbuilding. Launching 28% of the world's total tonnage in 1963 placed her far ahead of Western Germany and Great Britain. She already possesses, in number of units, the fourth largest fleet. She is second in the world in the production of trucks and is moving ahead ceaselessly in the production of automobiles. In the field of electronics and optics, Japan's present position is quite remarkable. In 1963 she was the world's top producer of television sets, the figure being 5,000,000. The production of 15,000,000 transistors was enough to build millions of transistor radio sets the same year, and she also stood in first place in still cameras (2,000,000) and movie cameras (700,000). Japan stands third in the world in production of cement, and among the first five in fertilizer, paper, and petrochemicals. Her per capita production of synthetic fibers is 13.2 lbs., equal to Germany and ahead of the United States."

The following figures, offered by Analyses et Documents, indicate the rate of growth:

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

<u>1958</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
100	201	219

"In 1963 exports increased 10.8%; including machines, 19%, metals and metal products, 27.4%. Imports increased 19.5%; including food products, 46.9%, due primarily to sugar.

"The reasons for this growth: first of all, Japan, after the second world war, had to begin like Germany from zero; that is renew all the fixed capital. This permitted her to build a modern industry (installations, machines, equipment), focused likewise on the technical level and particularly capable of meeting the international market. At the same time Japanese capitalism had at its disposal an enormous mass of labor, permitting it to bear down on wages and to maintain the rate of profit. In addition, Japanese monopoly capitalism benefited from the destruction of noncapitalist sectors, bringing it considerable income and a surplus of labor. Individual and agricultural enterprises which accounted in 1949 for 49% of the national income, in 1961 accounted for only 27% (as in France).

"Next, it should not be forgotten that Japan, if it has nothing in common with her underdeveloped Asian neighbors, does not have an exceptional standard of living, far from it. The average standard of living in France or even the north half of the Italian peninsula would justly appear luxurious to the Japanese worker. Capitalist expansion has profited from the rise in productivity (9.4% last year), without the labor movement being able to seriously contest capitalist profits. There has even been a tendency to lower the share of wages in the national income.

"Nevertheless the Japanese economic growth can be put in question by the permanent deficit in the balance of trade, by inflation, which is increasing in Japan, and by the dependence of the Japanese economy on American capitalism. In other words, a recession in the United States could have very grave repercussions for Japan.

"However, the Japanese balance of payments is completely positive, the influx of American capital, the association of Japan in the American imperialist sphere and in the exploitation of the underdeveloped countries -- all this works powerfully in favor of Japanese expansion, and it must not be believed that as long as the American boom lasts the good health of Japanese capitalism will be seriously affected."

CONSPICUOUS SIZE IS A PROBLEM, TOO

Writing about the growing invasion of U.S. capital in France, John Urquhart, in the December 10 issue of the New York Herald Tribune [European edition], gives some graphic indications of the size of American big business.

Chrysler, which absorbed Simca last year, "while ranking only third in American automobile production, still turns out more vehicles annually than the entire French automobile industry."

As for General Motors, its "annual business exceeds by 10 per cent the Dutch gross national product."

Some further figures on General Motors are cited in the November 16 issue of The Nation, a liberal weekly published in New York. The figures are taken from a study made by Prof. James Kuhn of Columbia University:

"Professor Kuhn pointed out. . . that General Motors profits (after taxes) in 1963 were \$1.6 billion, up 9 per cent from the year before, and now equal to almost 10 per cent of sales (22 per cent of invested capital). Earlier this year the company announced that the bonuses of its top fifty-six executives had gone up by 5.6 per cent, and now amounted to almost \$9.5 million. Bonuses of 14,028 executives and managers had increased by 6.4 per cent, to \$100 million."

The increases in bonuses, if paid to the 345,000 General Motors workers represented by the United Automobile Workers union would have amounted to \$.145 an hour.

And if the profits for 1963 (after taxes) had been distributed equally among the UAW workers, each would have received \$4,637.

One of the worries of management now is that the huge size of the company (it has hit as high as 56 per cent of the total annual sales of automobiles in the U.S.) is attracting too much attention. It is afraid that pressure will mount to compel it to cut itself into sectors like Standard Oil, which would make some of its monopolistic practices more cumbersome.

In past decades great campaigns were conducted to "bust the trusts." The campaigns obviously ended in total failure. However, a campaign to expropriate such companies as General Motors will sooner or later catch the popular imagination in the United States. Expropriation offers the only practical means of bringing the colossal productive forces held by these imperialistic giants under control of the people.

CUBA'S POSITION ON BELGO-AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN THE CONGO

[The following is a translation of the text of the statement of the position of the Cuban government on the crisis in the Congo precipitated by Belgium, Great Britain and the United States. The statement was issued over the signatures of Premier Fidel Castro Ruz and President Osvaldo Dorticós Torrado.]

* * *

The governments of the United States and Belgium, by arranging the intervention of NATO troops and planes, implementing a paratrooper attack on Stanleyville and supporting the mercenaries, have committed a new repugnant crime against the international laws governing the sovereignty of peoples. The excuse that this military action was motivated by humanitarian aims, the objective being to protect the lives of foreigners, is really cynical. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese, Laotians, Congolese and other nationalities have died and many others will lose their lives as a consequence of the colonial wars that North America is conducting against these peoples.

The ones responsible for the attack on Stanleyville, under cover of humanism, are the same ones who murdered Lumumba and brought chaos and civil war to the Congo.

The only losses among the residents of the Congo have been directly due to the armed attack carried out by the Belgian paratroopers transported by American planes and which occurred when negotiations were being conducted with the aim of evacuating these residents.

This deed is the scandalous culmination of the increasingly aggressive policy and intervention of imperialist forces directed by the North American government. The intervention in the Congo follows the intervention in Vietnam, the violation of the neutrality of Laos, the provocations and aggressions against Cambodia, the bombings of Democratic Vietnam and the violations of the air space of our country. All these actions have been conducted with absolute impunity.

The Revolutionary Government of Cuba, in conformity with its invariable international conduct, makes the following declaration:

- (1) Condemns with indignation the criminal aggression in the Congo and affirms the militant solidarity of its people with the Congolese people.
- (2) Reiterates the declaration formulated at the time of the Conference of the Nonaligned Countries, which proclaimed that peaceful coexistence must not only refer to relations between the big powers but also to relations between the big powers and small nations.
- (3) Close unity among all the anti-imperialist forces, bring-

ing moral and material support to the people of the Congo and to all nations that are victims of aggression, is indispensable.

(4) It is of imperious necessity to firmly stop the criminal acts of oppression of Yankee imperialism in order to prevent it from pursuing with impunity its policy of aggression and intervention against the countries of Asia, Africa, and the Americas who feel these wounds in their own flesh.

VIETNAMESE FREEDOM FIGHTERS REPORT SUCCESSES

In the first nine months of 1963, according to the South Vietnam Liberation Press Agency, the South Vietnam People's Armed Forces put more than 140,000 enemy troops "out of action," twice the number of 1963. They shot down or damaged 661 aircraft and liberated nearly 2,000,000 people.

Casualties among the American "advisers" of the puppet government were listed as 1,625, more than twice the figure for the entire previous year.

Where the Vietnam freedom fighters get their weapons was indicated by the fact that during the nine months they seized 11,770 pieces from the puppet government forces.

They destroyed 273 naval craft, including a 15,000-ton aircraft carrier.

They damaged 84 military trains, more than in 1962 and 1963 put together, and 733 military vehicles.

Enemy troops were compelled to withdraw from 1,256 military strongholds and posts.

The freedom fighters destroyed 3,137 "strategic hamlets," and liberated 196 villages, 505 hamlets and 9 towns.

DOLLAR EXPLOSION IN PHILIPPINES

Writing in the Sunday Times Magazine, a Manila weekly, Rodolfo G. Tupas notes that "from 1950 to 1960, foreign capital invested in the Philippines amounted to only 19.2 million U.S. dollars. For the same period, foreign-owned firms, mostly American, remitted in the form of earnings, profits, and dividends the amazing amount of 215.7 million U.S. dollars -- or eleven times more than their original investment."

ROBERT WILLIAMS, MALCOM X PRAISE CHINA'S TEST OF BOMB

Robert Williams, the militant American Negro leader living in political exile in Cuba, recently praised the People's Republic of China for conducting a successful test of a nuclear weapon. He offered his comments upon reaching Canton November 4 during a trip to China. In the visitor's book at a local museum he wrote:

"I have been greatly inspired by my visit to the Memorial Hall at the old site of the Peasant Movement Institute directed by Comrade Mao Tse-tung. It offers further evidence of the incinvibility of the Chinese People's great march toward complete liberation and human dignity.

"It is a great honor for me, an Afro-American freedom fighter from racist America, to visit a memorial highly indicative of a brutally oppressed people who have made a long march from the Canton Institute to the atomic bomb of liberation."

Another well-known American Negro leader, Malcom X, expressed similar sentiments in an interview granted the Hsinhua News Agency November 5 while visiting Accra.

China's successful explosion of an atomic bomb, he said, was "the greatest thing that has ever happened in the twentieth century to the black people."

He said that it helped not only the cause of the Afro-Americans but the cause of all peoples of the world fighting against the imperialists.

He praised the Chinese government's proposal for a world summit conference to discuss the complete prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons.

Hsinhua reported him as saying that the U.S. imperialists would never loosen their grip on the 22,000,000 American Negroes before the peoples of Asia and Africa cast off the yoke of imperialism and became strong. "Bearing this in mind, we therefore appreciate the great strides that the Chinese people have made towards true independence and the unlimited contribution they are making to help the oppressed peoples in other parts of the world to throw off the chains of imperialism."

He called the U.S. presidential election a "farce," which had hardly any significance for the American Negroes. "Both candidates do not seek the interests of the Afro-Americans."

The only difference between Johnson and Goldwater, he said, is "that while the one uses the method of a wolf, the other employs the approach of a fox. But both of them are trying to eat us up."

Johnson tried to represent himself as "peace-loving," but he ordered direct intervention in the Congo, bore responsibility for the massacre of the South Vietnamese people and for atrocities in other parts of the world.

SUPREME SOVIET RUBBERSTAMPS KHRUSHCHEV'S OUSTER

The deliberations of the Supreme Soviet, which ended its current session in Moscow December 11, were followed with unusual interest by all observers inasmuch as this was its first meeting since the downfall of Khrushchev October 14 and it could offer significant indications of any changes in line that might be projected by the new leadership.

First of all, Khrushchev's absence, although he is still formally a member of the body, and the swift approval without debate of the governmental changes carried out October 14-15, showed that the bureaucratic regime remains intact -- that the most important decisions engineered from above are still unanimously ratified.

This being said, there was nothing to indicate any retreat -- within the frame of the bureaucratic regime -- from the course of "de-Stalinization."

The budget for 1965 indicated a slight decrease in military expenditures, apparently in accordance with a more or less tacit understanding with Washington not to carry the arms race beyond its present break-neck pace.

The budget also signalled more emphasis on production of consumers goods in contrast to heavy industry. Promises were likewise made about stepping up housing construction which has been relatively neglected in the past three years.

Numerous observations and criticisms were also made during the session about the state of agriculture. Most of the criticisms were directed at Khrushchev's policies. However, certain declarations could be interpreted as aiming more generally at the whole past and present policies in this field.

The new leadership openly criticized certain administrative reforms carried out under Khrushchev's leadership. But no proposals were made or decisions taken for extensive changes in the system of Sovnarkhozes.

Indecision was likewise apparent with regard to the proposals formulated by economists like Trapeznikov on the "profitability" of enterprises. It is likely that the top Soviet leaders have not reached firm positions on what to do in attempting to solve the cur-

rent problems affecting the Soviet economy. Like Khrushchev they envisage primarily administrative reforms, never Soviet democracy, real democracy, which has become the No. 1 requisite for a new economic expansion.

The session was not asked to ratify any important changes in posts other than the one involving Khrushchev. This probably means that the new "collective leadership" is made up of heterogeneous elements among whom a solid majority has yet to be put together.

Likewise nothing was said about Sino-Soviet relations. However, the December 12 Pravda announced that the preconference, initially projected for December 15, had been postponed until March 1. The significance of this decision remains open to speculation. It could indicate preparations to resume the conflict with the Chinese. More likely it was a way of getting past December 15 without completely abandoning the idea of a conference, but one devoted to a different objective than the one decided on last July which was simply to finalize the split with the Chinese.

KENNEDY ASSASSINATION STILL UNSOLVED MYSTERY

Hugh Trevor-Roper, Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, utilizing the findings published by the Warren Commission, has come to the considered conclusion that the murder of President Kennedy still remains an unsolved mystery. In a copyrighted article in the December 13 issue of the London Sunday Times, the distinguished historian said of the "summary," the "full report" and the twenty-six volumes of testimony compiled by the Warren Commission:

"It convinces me that the Commission, for whatever reasons, simply has not done its work, or, rather, it has done half its work. It has reassured the American people by its findings but it has not reassured the world by its methods; it has not established the facts; behind a smokescreen of often irrelevant material it has accepted impermissible axioms, constructed invalid arguments, and failed to ask elementary and essential questions."

Trevor-Roper concentrates on a few central facts which in his opinion render the "whole report suspect."

First of all he considers the attempted arrest of Oswald by Patrolman Tippet. "According to the report, the Dallas police issued the order which led to this attempted arrest before any evidence had been found which pointed personally to Oswald."

The question at once arises, "on what evidence did they issue these orders?"

To "fill the gap," the report mentions a witness, Howard Brennan, who claimed to have seen the shots fired from the sixth-floor window and who made a statement to the police "within minutes." "This statement, says the report, was 'most probably' the basis of the police description radioed (among others) to Tippett."

The statement of "most probably" evades a chain of events of "the greatest importance."

Brennan's view of the man in the window could have furnished enough information for only a vague description. But his particular description of the window must have been precise. "Why then, we naturally ask, did the police broadcast the vague description of the man, but make no immediate attempt to search the precisely identified room?"

The room was searched only later during a "general search of the whole building."

On the other hand, if the description which the police broadcast was not based on Brennan's description, "it follows that the police used other evidence which they have not revealed to the Commission."

Either of these consequences raises a whole series of questions of "great importance." By using the comfortable phrase "most probably," the Commission evaded asking these questions.

This strange pattern is repeated after Oswald's arrest. Oswald, according to the report, was warned by Captain Fritz of the Dallas police that any statement he made could be used against him. After that he was interrogated for twelve hours by the FBI and the police, mainly by Captain Fritz. "And yet, we are told Fritz 'kept no notes and there were no stenographic or tape recordings.' This, I do not hesitate to say, cannot possibly be true. How could any statement made by Oswald be used against him if his statements were unrecorded?"

The Oxford historian points out that even in the most trivial cases in the United States such records are carefully kept. "If no record was available to the Commission, there can be only one explanation. The record was destroyed by the F.B.I. or the police, and the Commission, with culpable indifference, has not troubled to ask why."

Analyzing the evidence further, Trevor-Roper notes the "same pattern of suppression" in relation to the medical evidence:

"On medical evidence alone, the doctor who examined the President concluded that he had been shot from the front, and all police investigations were at first based on that assumption. This meant that the President -- if indeed he was shot from the back

depository -- must have been shot either as his car approached the building or, if the building had been passed, at a moment when he had turned his head towards it. When both these conditions were ruled out by photographs, the police concluded that the shots must have come from behind, and the doctor was persuaded to adjust his medical report to this external police evidence."

When the Commission came to reassess the evidence, it found an unexpected difficulty: "Unfortunately it could not do so: the purely medical evidence was no longer available. The chief pathologist concerned, Dr. Humes, signed an affidavit that he had burned all his original notes and had kept no copy."

The Commission did not ask "why, or on whose authority, the original notes were destroyed. Police evidence withheld, police evidence destroyed, medical evidence destroyed, and no questions asked. This is an odd record in so important a case, but it is not the end."

A specially constructed paper bag was said to have been found in the room from which Oswald allegedly fired the shots. In the opinion of the Commission, Oswald carried the fatal weapon into the building in this bag. Trevor-Roper then observes, "it seems strange that the police should have to admit that the bag, too, has since been destroyed. It was, we are told, 'discolored during various laboratory examinations' and so 'a replica bag' was manufactured under police orders 'for valid identification by witnesses.' In other words, the police destroyed the real evidence and substituted their own fabrication."

As a final point "to complete this record of suppression and destruction, there is the destruction of the most important living witness, Oswald himself."

On Ruby's entrance into police headquarters on his allegedly personally assigned mission to kill Oswald, Trevor-Roper notes a strange discrepancy. The details are of the "greatest importance -- but the police are unable or unwilling to say, and the Commission is unwilling to press them. All that we are told is that, after his arrest, Ruby refused to discuss his means of entry: he was interrogated in vain. But then, suddenly three policemen came forward and said that, within half an hour of his arrest, Ruby had admitted to them that he had entered by the main street ramp just before shooting Oswald -- after which Ruby himself adopted this explanation of his entry. These three policeman, we are told, did not report this important piece of evidence to their superiors, who had been vainly interrogating Ruby on precisely this point, 'until some days later.'" What were the circumstances under which Ruby made this admission? The Commission is not interested. . .

Much more could be said, in Trevor-Roper's opinion, but the above is sufficient to prove that the "vast and slovenly report has

no more authority than the tendentious and defective police reports out of which it is compiled."

"Where then does the Warren Report leave the problem of President Kennedy's assassination?" asks the historian. "My own belief is that the problem remains a mystery. Nothing in the Warren Report can be taken on trust. There is no evidence that Oswald took the gun into the book depository, nor that he fired it. He may have done so, but it still to be proved. The evidence laboriously presented by the F.B.I. and the Dallas police against Oswald is no stronger than the evidence incidentally admitted against themselves by their suppression and destruction of vital testimony. The best that can be said of the Warren Commission is that it has given publicity to the prosecutor's case. The case for the defence has not been heard -- and until it is heard, no valid judgment can be given."

AID RECOMMENDED FOR BOTH WINGS OF ANGOLAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT

The December 5 issue of the Algerian weekly Révolution Africaine reports that a commission composed of the United Arab Republic, Ghana and Congo-Brazzaville, which was appointed last July 21 by the Conference of heads of African states to make an inquiry into the current situation in the Angolan freedom struggle, has reported that the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] is "at present conducting a struggle against the Portuguese occupation and the organization has opened a new front in the Cabinda region."

In a previous inquiry in 1963, it was reported that the claims of the MPLA were exaggerated and that the organization was suffering disintegration.

As a result of the new findings, the Committee of Nine adopted some of the recommendations made by the commission of inquiry and will submit them to the next Conference of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity to be held in Nairobi in February.

"In addition to the aid granted to the Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile [GRAE]," reports Révolution Africaine, "the Committee decided to grant material and technical aid to the fighters of the MPLA."

The Angolan nationalist movement has been split in two wings, the one organized around the MPLA, the other around the FNLA [Angolan National Liberation Front] which organized the GRAE, the principal figure of which is Holden Roberto.

About a year ago, a unification effort was made in which some of the main figures of the MPLA joined the FNLA.

In its next issue [December 12], Révolution Africaine published an extensive interview with Johnny Eduardo, Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs and head of the GRAE mission in Algeria. Eduardo submitted evidence concerning guerrilla activities in Angola under the leadership of the FNLA. Among points of special interest, he said the following:

"Contacts are increasing between the Revolutionary Government of Angola in Exile and certain friendly countries, with the objective of increasing the aid from these countries to the Angolan revolution. Besides increased aid, assurances have been given of early recognition of the GRAE by certain friendly countries, among others, a big country of the Third World. You know, in our struggle, we have learned to depend, in addition to our African brothers, on our socialist friends, because they are struggling like us and with us against imperialism. The struggle of the Cuban, Vietnamese and Chinese peoples, for example, are a great inspiration to us.

"In addition, conferences are underway between the FNLA and several very well-known figures of Angola. Our wish, the wish of the Angolan fighters is that these conferences -- which began several months ago in Cairo, in a very cordial atmosphere which is continuing -- should bring about a rapprochement, a unification of all the worthwhile elements of the nation."