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UNION NEWS

No. 189

Leeds University—Friday, April 28th, 1961

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Last Term We Reported Two Major Episodes in the Union's History

AND NOW IT HAPPENS

by the News Staff

Comment

CONSTITUTION

REACTION among Union members indicates that the majority are not in favour of the changes to the Constitution proposed by the Constitution sub-committee. However this is a matter that has aroused so much controversy that it would be regrettable if Union Committee prevent it from going before a General Meeting.

Committee members who disagree with the sub-committee recommendations should abstain when the matter comes before them, and let the Union decide by which system it wants to be governed.

CONDITIONS

THE committee set up by the University to enquire into the present situation with regard to student accommodation is to carry out a full survey of conditions in lodgings, flats and halls. An assurance has been given that information gained by the committee's questionnaire will not be used in disciplinary action against students.

The whole purpose of the questionnaire would be lost unless the questions are answered honestly and conscientiously.

COMPREHENSIVE

NEXT session Union News will be published weekly. This decision was taken five months ago when it was felt that the increasing advertising revenue, common to all student newspapers, would cover the increased cost.

Weekly publication will enable Union News to provide a more up-to-date and comprehensive news service than it can at present. In the past Union News has not covered many events because they happened in the wrong week.

The object of the change is to make Union News a proper Union newspaper instead of a fortnightly magazine with a synopsis of recent events. The advantages of a full news service should compensate for the smaller amount of copy space available each week.

ROOM FOR SOME MORE

BY Wednesday lunchtime the following Union members had taken out forms for the Union Committee elections: M. Badii, S. Le Barrs, P. A. Ebert, G. Fletcher, D. Harmer, Miss P. Turton-Hart, Miss Milak Khozai, Miss E. Stirrup, and Miss H. L. Thornton.

Nominations close Saturday. Watch the Stop Press for further details.

LATE NEWS

TEL 23961 & 26392

BULL PLANS REVOLUTION

New Look Government

From Union News, January 27th

1. Bull's plan goes forward

ON Tuesday, 24th January this year, J.V.P. Roy Bull presented the Union Executive committee with his proposals for the drastic revision of the Union Constitution.

Union Committee, to whom the proposals were passed formed a sub-committee to go into these proposals. The Constitutional sub-committee has now made its report. It too is revolutionary. It embodies the fundamental principle proposed by Bull that the Union membership should take over most of the duties of the present Union Committee.

Through Union general meetings the body of Union membership should, it is recommended, be the ultimate authority for all Union matters.

Union Committee would remain in name, but its duties and powers would be largely those of Executive Committee at present, with officials elected for specific tasks.

Similarly the Union News Editor would be elected as an officer of the Union and his paper would effectively come under the direct control of the majority of Union membership as expressed at Union general meetings, the quorum for which would be 5% of the current Union membership.

There seems to be some doubt from many Union officials whether this

constitution would be acceptable to the University authorities. There is no appeal against suspension, for example, against the majority decision of a general meeting to suspend a member of the Union. At present such matters can go to the Vice-Chancellor, who is an Honorary Vice-President of the Union.

Although last term's A.G.M. empowered Union Committee to call a special general meeting to discuss the eventual recommendations of the Constitutional sub-committee, it appears that this may not be done if Union Committee do not approve the recommendations. There is no defined obligation for the Union Committee to take the proposals to the body of the Union.

SGM DEMANDS ACTION

Regulations Under Fire

From Union News, February 25th

2. University to make probe

THE Union's wholesale condemnation of the lodgings regulations, expressed at an SGM last term, has led to the setting up of a full-scale enquiry into students' living conditions by the University.

First part of the enquiry will take the form of a detailed questionnaire on matters of both fact and opinion, to be distributed this term to a random, one-in-ten sample of students.

All students will be asked whether their relations with their landlady are friendly or strained, whether such restrictions as are imposed are reasonable, whether meals are adequate in quantity and quality, and whether facilities for study, heating, lighting, bathing and laundry facilities are adequate.

Women students in Hall will also be asked their opinions of the "curfew" rule, and will be asked to list other hall rules which they find inconvenient or irksome.

Chairman of the Committee of Enquiry, Professor Grebenik, said he was aware that a large number of students aged under 21 were living illegally in flats.

"Nothing that will be divulged in the questionnaire will be given to the University disciplinary authorities" he promised. "Students can reply quite freely."

Help needed

He said his committee were hoping for full co-operation from those students who received questionnaires, since without such co-operation the enquiry, which was of great importance to all students, could not succeed.

"The Committee will have no power to make recommendations, but will draw the attention of the Lodgings Committee and the Halls Committee to the facts" he added.

Other matters for future enquiry include questions concerning overseas students, most important of which is an enquiry into the extent to which the colour bar is operated by landladies. This later enquiry will also explore how over-

seas students spend their vacations, alleged overcharging, and problems of diet and religion.

President-elect Brian MacArthur, a member of the Committee, told UN "I think the University is to be recommended for the seriousness with which it is treating the problem of accommodation.

"The results of the Committee's work may well mark a landmark in the lives of students at this University, which is what Alan Andrews, the inspiration of this move, wanted. I hope, therefore, that everyone who receives a questionnaire will answer it carefully."

"ISRAEL IS AN IMPERIALIST BASE"

MAY 15 is being held as a day of solidarity with 'Palestine' students and refugees.

The organising body, I.U.S., (which has its headquarters in Prague) decided to take this course of action at its 6th Congress recently.

Israel is described as 'an imperialist base threatening peace in the Middle East and the whole world.' A recently circulated brochure adds: '... Before the termination of the mandate over Palestine the Imperialist forces, headed by U.S. Imperialism, worked out a design ensuring their interests in the Arab East area in face of the threatening Arab Liberation movement. It adds: 'Since its establishment,



The presentation of the Gestetner Cup to 'Scope' editor, Alan Dawe. On the right is Mr. Derek Ashworth, Publicity Manager, Gestetner Ltd.

A Scoop for Scope

AT the Student Journalist Conference held in the University of London Union over the vac. Leeds film Magazine 'Scope' won the Gestetner cup.

This was the first year of the presentation, the conference previously dealing exclusively with student newspapers. The Daily Mirror Newspapers Ltd., was won, for the second time in succession by Varsity, newspaper of Cambridge University.

Part of Scope Editor Alan Dawe's prize is a weekend in London at a first-rate hotel, at the expense of Gestetner Duplicitors.

Of his success, the editor said, 'Perhaps this will encourage Union Committee to spend more money on proper facilities for magazines generally. After all, if N.U.S. recognise student writing as a central activity why shouldn't Union Committee?'

Emphasising the contribution made by his staff he added: 'Scope has the best magazine staff and writers in the Union. It's usual to say this kind of thing on these occasions—but in this case I'm not just saying it. He shrugged his shoulders. 'It's true.'

The judges were not without some criticism, however. The small reviews 'sometimes missed' and they regretted the lack of colour and illustration which, it was pointed out, was now possible even with duplicated magazines.

In the section for student newspapers, Union News received a favourable mention, but captions and headlines were 'unimaginative, needing more attention.' The indiscriminate use of bold type was also criticised, but on the whole the judges thought it "busy, bright and thoughtful."

COUNCIL DEFENDS STUDENT LIBERTY

ONCE again at the Easter Council of the National Union of Students, which was held in Belfast, Grants and Welfare sections' motions took second place to more international resolutions.

The motion which created the greatest furore was a motion which 'expressed grave concern at the statement issued by the three African students who recently left Moscow University as a result of the restrictions placed on their movements there.'

In the first place, it was claimed that the students had been dismissed because of their academic shortcomings, but this contention was rejected and the motion carried on a call vote.

N.U.S. also pledged its support to the S.Y.L. of Finland in its attitude towards the proposed organisation of the next World Festival of Youth and Students. It demanded the organisers of the Festival, particularly the I.U.S., the eastern bloc student organisation, and the W.F.D.Y., to take into account the wishes of the Finnish students not to have the next Festival in Helsinki.

Improve Entrance

In the sphere of grants and welfare, motions were carried attacking colour prejudice in lodgings, supporting a national clearing house system for University entrants, urging the immediate abolition of the Means Test, calling for students' exemption from National Insurance contributions, calling for higher post-graduate awards, and calling for student representation on University bodies, and more tutorials.

Mr. David Pollard who, as Union News readers will remember from last issue, was relegated to Observer status by Union Committee, was congratulated by N.U.S. for extending the International Correspondence Exchange service on behalf of the National Union.

Medics. Plan A Grimm Night Out

THE theme for this year's Medical Ball is 'Fairy Tales.' However the tickets for the ball, to be held on May 5th, indicate that all will not be as charming as might be thought at first.

On the cover of the ticket is emblazoned a skull and crossbones, bearing the legend 'Grimm Tales.'

WHO'S FEELING BLUE?

BALLAD and Blues Soc. whose first concert last term attracted about 160 people, are holding two more concerts, tomorrow (Sat.) at the Peel Hotel, Boar Lane, and on Tuesday at the Trades Hall, Upper Fountainside Street.

Some of the new anti-Paloris songs will be in the repertoire of Scottish recording star Josh MacRae, who recently had a record in the Top Twenty, and of Jackie O'Connor, President of the Glasgow Folk Song Club, who are to sing at Saturday's ceilidh.

On Tuesday a new discovery, 15-year old Sue Roche, will be featured, singing alone and with BBC "Easy Beat" star Steve Benbow. Sue was discovered by the Society last Saturday at the CND party for the Holy Loch marchers.

The Union's Israeli Folk Song group, and other Ballad and Blues Soc. members will be on both programmes, and members of the Bradford Topic Song Group.



OPERATION 'Bierhaus' is the teutonic title of a venture which Rag Committee have dreamed up. Messrs. Guinness have presented Rag with the handsome total of 30,000 beer mats. All Rag needs now are volunteer car-owners to help with their distribution to every pub in Leeds.

THIS year's Weetwood hall formal is intended to be a departure from previous years. A marquee will be set up in the grounds and the Hall will be flooded, if all goes according to plan. All proceeds from the function are to be given to charity.

H.R.H. the Princess Royal has consented to be the patron.

PRIZES for Rag events are pouring in. Among the latest donors are Capstan cigarettes who have promised no less than 500 cigarettes. Rumour also has it that one or two fibreglass Capstans, as seen on tops of cars on television, may find their way to Leeds.

THE RAG CHAIRMAN WANTS YOUR BLOOD. At least this is what he told Union News. A challenge has been issued by Sheffield University Rag Committee to prove that they can donate more blood than we can in the week prior to our Rag week. However Clive Phillips believes that with 1,000 Leeds volunteers, Leeds could stand a chance of gaining a decisive victory.

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 Publicity Mgr.: STANLEY HOOPER
 Subscriptions: PETE ROBERTS

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

Manuel Carballo, Margaret Leiper, Pete Brown, David A. Gorbitt, Elsa Hendry, Keith Austin, John Fryer, Ronnie Griffith, Judith Laurence, Marjorie Histed, Ron Griffiths, Rod Hibberd.

Graduates to Finance New Hall

A NEW hall of Residence is the primary object of the University's Alumni Appeal.

A committee of former students proposed the fund which received official recognition when Lord Netherthorpe accepted the office of Chairman and Sir Bracewell Smith the office of treasurer.

At the meeting which officially inaugurated the appeal on April 14th it was announced that 51 foundation donors had given or promised under deed of covenant a total of over £16,000.

No target total has been fixed because it is intended to keep the fund alive as a means of attracting donations from present and future students after they have left the University and are established in their careers.

In his foreword to a brochure which is now being circulated to former students, Sir Charles Morris says "If we in Leeds now increase our numbers in classrooms and laboratories, as we are going to do, without at the same time offering our students facilities for a social life in the fullest sense—then the traditions of University life as we have known them would be seriously in jeopardy."

Planning Complete

The brochure emphasises that out of 4,716 students registered at the University in 1960, 3,228 were living in lodgings and only 726 in halls of residence.

By 1964, there will be 697 more places in halls now being built, but, by the same year, students numbers are expected to have increased to 6,300 and there will thus be more students in lodgings than there are now.

Lord Netherthorpe and his committee share these views which are the basis of their appeal to all former students to express their regard for and confidence in the University by subscribing to a fund for building a new hall of residence on the University site.

Planning is complete, and the hall will be built to fit in with the Chamberlin plan for the expansion of the University.

Miles Short

LAST term's appeal to aid students suffering from tuberculosis fell pathetically short of its £400 target. No single Hall collection exceeded £1 and the total from all Halls amounted to only £2 0s. 5 1/2d.

Most successful venture was the public collection which realised £34 5s. 11d, just over half of the total amount collected.

One of the organisers said he was 'bitterly disappointed by the lack of support'. In all collections only amounted to £60.

The mile of pennies was not successful either. The actual length of copper was sixty-nine yards, one foot, six inches.

Quotes of the Week

"A group of boy scouts will spend a weekend on an uninhabited island."
—Daily Express.

"Hand stitching by the latest A.M.F. machine."
—Notice at Leeds tailoring firm.

"Twin beds for sale—one hardly used."
—Miscellaneous sales column of newspaper.

"Why cannot our policemen be issued with uniforms impregnated with luminous paint so that they are easier to see in the dark."
—Letter in the Daily Express.

"Sierra Leone has a very small population. Our Prime Minister wants us to increase it."
—Victor Johnson.

"When would I sleep if I never went to lectures."
—Third year engineer.

"Your ideas are wrong. If you come to Moscow we will change them."
—Moscow, Uni. Prof. of Political Economics.

"From now on teachers' pay will not depend on sex."
—The Guardian.

"In the underdeveloped countries people live in grass huts with rough mating on the floor."
—Essay by twelve year old.

CECIL PEACE PRIZE

PRIZES totalling £175 are offered this year for the best essays on some subject connected with the maintenance of International Peace and having some bearing on the principles of the International Organisations existing for that purpose.

The competition is open to all graduates, undergraduates and students without distinction of sex or nationality, of any University or University College in Great Britain or Northern Ireland.

The subject for the 1961 essay is "British Public Opinion towards the United Nations".

Closing date for entries is November 1st, 1961, and essays should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, David Davies Memorial Institute of International Studies, Thorney House, 34

Essays must give no indication of the candidates identity, but must state the University or College of which he is or was a member.

STANDING ROOM ONLY



This is where your beer is stored. As you can see there is precious little room. Fred is complaining because the bitter does not have enough time to stand due to the great demand and the inadequate storage space. House Committee suggest an upper gantry, but Fred wants to make a take-over for the adjoining Caf. Servery.

Leeds culture acclaimed

IN the first contribution to a series of articles on University writing, the Times Literary Supplement speaks of the standard of writing by students, graduates and Staff at Leeds University.

'... Things are happening at Leeds' the author observes. '... there seems to be an enormous amount of activity on all fronts—far more than the relatively large university population (around 5,000) would go to explain.'

The author also remarks on the 'unusual amount of encouragement (which) exists at Leeds' although he expresses some reservations which the staff have about the possibly uncritical standard of some of the many new poems.

All the small magazines receive a mention in this comprehensive survey, and considerable space is devoted to Miss Vivienne Welburn in her capacity as a playwright. Undergraduate dramatists at Leeds are described as being of interesting promise, and Miss Welburn as a 'natural dramatist' who has the 'astounding ability to criticise her own work.'

The article also deals with University writing at Hull and Sheffield.

EDITOR PRAISES CASTRO

REPORTS of the execution of political prisoners and of mass imprisonments are often exaggerated, if not invented by the reporters themselves.

So said Mr. J. Campbell, ex-editor of the Daily Worker when questioned after his address to the Communist Society earlier this week.

Although his talk was on Cubo Mr. Campbell began by commenting on the crisis in Algeria and went on to compare President De Gaulle's predicament with that of Kennedy.

On Cuba itself he pointed out the commendable work done by Premier Castro's Government in augmenting reform and improving education and health facilities throughout the island.

At the end of question time Roy Bull, who was in the chair then called for a vote following three resolutions.

1. We call on the U.S. to end aggressive preparation and war threats against Cuba.
2. We declare our support for the Cuban Peoples Government and for the Cuban peoples right to determine their own future.
3. We deplore President Kennedy's bellicose statement that U.S. restraint from intervention in Cuba is not inexhaustible.

Voting figures were taken for those voting against the message, and for those abstaining, a rough count of the remainder being taken to represent the number of those in favour, despite a protest from the floor. Mr. Bull's reason for so doing was to 'save time'. He declared the resolution passed by a majority of 120 (approximately).

The march which followed the meeting was, however, poorly attended and supported by only 19 students.

What have we done to Africa?

"AFRICA: Two Continents advancing." This is the theme of the 10th Ecumenical Youth Congress to be held near Leyden, Holland this July.

A full study and social programme will include discussion on whether Europeans have left their mark on the African continent, and if so what advantages or disadvantages Africans can expect as a result.

The organiser, J. M. Hoekstra hopes for enquiries from students in this country. The age limit is from 18 to 30.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Director, Oud-Poelgeest Castle, Oostgeest, Netherlands.

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UNIVERSITY WRITING

THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT has carried out a special investigation into student writing at British Universities. The results may be read in a series of eight articles appearing in THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT weekly from April 14 onwards.

The articles examine the background influences of undergraduate creative writing and deal regionally with Oxford, Cambridge, London, the Midlands, Wales, the North of England and Scotland.

What encouragement is there for the student writer? How do dons view students' creative writing? What student magazines are there? What is their standard? How are they financed? How big is their circulation?

Is there any literary relationship between 'town and gown'? How do the newer universities compare with the older ones? What are the chances of success in recent attempts to found inter-university magazines? What are likely to be the future tastes, talents and interests of today's undergraduates?

For the answers to these and many other questions, ask your newsagent for THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT from April 14 onwards.

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TRAINING COURSES are provided at a number of universities, including general courses in social casework and special courses in child care. Candidates for the one year courses beginning in October each year must have university qualifications in social science. There are also somewhat longer courses specially designed for graduates in subjects other than social science. More applications from men would be welcomed.

GRANTS are available during training.

SALARY on appointment by a local authority after training rises to £975 per annum. There are opportunities for promotion to more senior posts.

WRITE TO: The Central Training Council in Child Care (15A), Home Office, Horseferry House, Thorney Street, London, S.W.1.

Revolution and Non-violence

by P. M. Abell

THE ideological conflict between Social Revolutionaries and Social Democrats appears insoluble, since neither system is based upon a priori principles. This rarely deters the avid supporters of each system from claiming a degree of the absolute, viz. the Comintern and L.S.I. in the early '20s.

Socialism in its broadest interpretation is an emotive reaction to particular circumstances. Even such obvious criteria as "Justice for All and Equality of Opportunity" have to be regarded in this context. The root of all Socialism is commitment. A philosophy of non-violence is intrinsically interwoven with the initial conception of this and its furtherance. A philosophy of non-violent positive action is, therefore, an alternative approach to the problem of violent, as against gradual revolution which seems to have bedevilled Socialist thought since the Second International.

The primary problem to be overcome by Socialists is that of the removal of the present bourgeoisie establishment and its acolytes. Parliamentary Democracy appears to be the most suitable and humanitarian method of achieving this end. Proponents of this form of social revolution underestimate the tenacity of the ruling hierarchy. Furthermore they fail to appreciate the deep-rooted conditioning of the prevalent methods of educating and informing.

Capitalism-Imperialism devours and converts. It plays upon the incoherence of Leftist philosophy, and the tenets the tendency for Social Democracy to fragment. Capitalism preaches a pseudo-philosophy of human dignity based upon freedom of expression and opportunity which, in essence, conceals the naked economic and sociological aspects of maintaining class power. The concept of human dignity always appeals to a semi-affluent populus far more than a plea for class or proletarian unity, as a means of liquidating the present hegemony.

Thus although Social Democracy will appeal to the contemporary mood of society to a far greater extent than a revolutionary creed, it is unlikely that simultaneous economic, moral and political emancipation of the proletariat can be obtained by it.

In this country it is almost inconceivable that sufficient enthusiasm for violent revolution could be evoked, but it cannot be ignored as an instrument of social change. The moral commitments of a revolutionary system are extremely dubious. The very nature of the revolution invites extreme retaliation and results in a vast over-centralisation of a new bureaucracy. Revolutionary Socialism has become almost completely associated with the Communist bloc, and this with a World Revolutionary Movement.

National Socialism

The creed of Social Democracy involves a campaign for Socialism on a national plane, its basis being the independence of each national Socialist Party, thus giving each the freedom to adapt itself to the electoral exigencies of its own State structure. This view is more acceptable to the present world in which chauvinism is still a predominant emotion. We may generously accept that both forms of revolution have in view the same ideal social structure.

The gradualism of the Social Democrats is open to distortion or annihilation if it becomes a really radical threat; the revolutionary philosophy is morally and practically unacceptable.

The Revolution should be seen, not as an orthodox Marxist sees it, — i.e. in the overthrow of Capitalism at the time of an economic slump or social upheaval — but as a continuous moral, theoretical and practical process directed against capital interests. In times of economic distress the working class, led forcibly and coherently, must not be afraid to take matters into their own hands by non-violent methods.

Revolutionary procedure usually results in violence, because the reactionary conditioned police and Armed Forces are used against their own class. The importance of disseminating propaganda in these forces is not usually understood by revolutionaries. In times of social calm the power of the Capitalists is represented by their economic stranglehold and a subservient Government. This emphasis shifts when conditions are in upheaval, when the power is represented by the Militia.

The Capitalist class has no power to overthrow a progressive, non-violent revolution as it cannot rely on the support of the State police and militia.

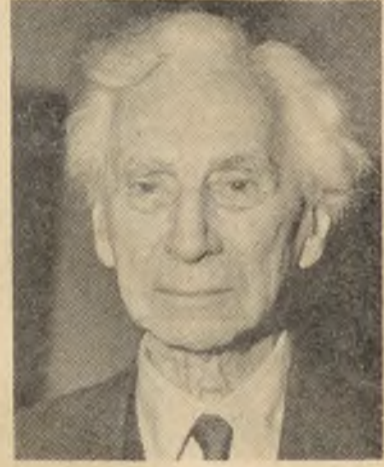
Thus, although a pacifist finds it difficult to accept a revolutionary doctrine, even when it is obviously required, a revolution based on a non-violent premise is an acceptable possibility.

LORD RUSSELL-AN INTERVIEW

BERTRAND Arthur William Russell is probably the last of the intellectual aristocracy. He has always been a strange combination of aristocrat and humanist. A brilliant mathematical scholar, early in his career, at Cambridge, he specialised in the philosophical problems of both mathematics and ethics.

PERHAPS his greatest work, produced in collaboration with A. N. Whitehead, was the "Principia Mathematica" which, since its publication in 1910, has become the corner-stone of mathematical philosophy.

BERTRAND Russell has been somewhat variable in his views on pacifism. In 1914 he led the youth of the country against war, but strongly supported the war against Hitler in the thirties. He has always maintained that the circumstances warranted his behaviour.



Lord Russell as he is today.

WITH the advent of nuclear warfare he again donned the habit of a near pacifist. His 'Common Sense and Nuclear Warfare' (1958) states clearly the case for nuclear disarmament. A prominent member of

C.N.D., he became impatient with its results, in particular the lack of interest in high places. Typically, he formed a splinter group — the "Committee of a Hundred" — to continue the unilateralist campaign by methods of non-violence. Although he is now 88, he manages to pursue his beliefs actively. He regards nuclear strategy as the greatest folly mankind has ever evolved, and probably its last.

LORD Russell was recently in Birmingham, where he was trying to persuade members of the Midland Youth Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament to join him in his non-violent civil disobedience protests against nuclear war. Alan White, who is a member of the Committee of a Hundred, interviewed him in Birmingham. He describes him as "A great man, perhaps the greatest Englishman of the century, whose personality and character seem to grow stronger with the years.

Only his hearing seems to be affected by his age; though perhaps his fingers are in danger, as he is for ever lighting his pipe as he talks."

Lord Russell gave his replies to a number of questions which were put to him:

Lord Russell, we know you were imprisoned for not thinking the right, British thoughts about World War I. What are your reflections on this now, looking back?

"I supported the war against Hitler and I still do. Anyone who says he ought to support all wars or none is very foolish. I am not afraid to go to prison for speaking the truth."

What about future wars?

"Any future war must sooner or later be fought with nuclear weapons. Unless we find some method other than warfare for settling international disputes. Mankind is doomed."

What is your reaction to the label "The Passionate Sceptic," which has been given to you by one of your biographers?

"I think it is very fair. I have always had an empirical mind, which has often led me out of the narrow paths of conventional thought and action."

How big a decision was it for you as an English aristocrat and the grandson of a Prime Minister, to declare yourself not to be a Christian?

"It was quite a natural step. Logical Christians have been misled by faulty reasoning. Emotional Christians are rather to be despised; they are too weak to live their own lives with nothing to fall back on."

What do you think, then, is the meaning of life?

"The question itself is quite meaningless. Life has a meaning only if you have a God. If you don't deceive yourself by looking for something which you don't really believe in, then obviously life can mean nothing in itself. It is the individual who must have a meaning. Damn it all, I've got a meaning, haven't I?"

Where do you stand in Party Politics?

"I suppose by politics you mean the Labour Party. My father was an M.P. for one session, but he was defeated in the next General Election for advocating birth control. I have stood occasionally for the Party, but only for impossible seats, of course. The Labour Party can only win the next election by pursuing a unilateralist policy. They have to convince the electorate that it is to their benefit for Britain to lead the way to peace. We must do this if Mankind is to survive more than another ten years. Mr. Gaitskell is sincere but misguided — which is exactly his opinion of me."

Do you intend to write another book?

"I shall only write on Nuclear Disarmament. There is no point in writing Philosophy, since there probably won't be anyone alive to read it soon."

Another Sun Rises

A Look at the New Independent Sierra Leone

by Victor Johnson

LESS than 48 hours ago Sierra Leone attained the status of a fully independent Sovereign state within the British Commonwealth. This brings to an historic end one hundred and fifty years of colonial relationship which has survived hazards and abuses of history.

It is difficult to assess without prejudice or passion the value of a system such as the one through which Sierra Leone has been nurtured to nationhood especially when one considers the staggering facts that Sierra Leone is still economically and technologically underdeveloped, even though millions of pounds leave the country every year in the form of mineral wealth: Diamond, Gold, Iron Ore, Bauxite etc. Whatever the verdict of history, the views of Ronald Segal must hold: "that Independence is not a destination but a departure; not an accomplishment, but a method."

The problems of newly independent States are many and varied; but they can only be accurately judged if one has a clear picture of the true meaning of Independence. Very often freedom is mistakenly associated with independence; it is possible, as the Congo situation has so clearly shown, for a people to be increasingly independent without being necessarily free. In fact Independence can only be truly meaningful if it is accompanied by or measured in terms of freedom and economic justice. Since small countries are not in a position to preserve their sphere of influence in the face of the expanding powers of the great, it is imperative that the fight for national freedom and the attainment of it must be accompanied by equally massive effort to preserve it. In fact the achievement of independence must not be regarded as a reward but as a challenge.

The new nation will soon, if admitted into the United Nations, find itself in the crossroads of political destiny, her ideological alignment will be closely watched, together with her economic interests and associated problems. No doubt the great majority of Sierra Leoneans with their characteristic Anglo-Saxon Education and background must feel a sense of attachment to Great Britain made practical by Commonwealth membership, besides, the great heritage of Parliamentary Democracy through

fully. Present day politics is of this calibre and new nations must find the path that would be relevant to their own situation.

It is therefore essential that the New Nation must adopt the right sense of proportion between finding an effective solution for her problems in creating a sense of national unity. Sierra Leone must develop a Democratic Identification in which all its peoples will play their part in the smooth running of a small, but potentially rich country. Since no nation can afford to remain in isolation from the current of history, one would hope that Sierra Leone will identify herself with the continental problems: — the cancer worms eating away the souls of men in South Africa and Portuguese Angola as well as the problems of other strife-trodden African countries. Not only in the realm of Pan-Africanist Philosophy can Sierra Leone play her part effectively, but also in the world at large, her size notwithstanding, she can yet become the instrument of peace and goodwill whereby the strains and stresses of our times can find effective solution.



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