Around the World

Comments and news from world socialist press, supplied by Henry Zimmerman.

Sham desegregation in US schools

Two recent studies verify that the Nixon administration's "desegregation" policies in the South have resulted in mass firings and demotions of black teachers and principals, increased discrimination against black students within Southern schools systems and the closing of many black schools.

In a six-state survey by the civil rights branch of the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Atlanta, the RRIC reported it was found that in the last two years the total number of teachers rose by 615, while the number of black teachers fell by 923. At the same time 77 per cent of the total of teachers leaving their jobs were white and 14 per cent were black.

According to the study of the six organisations publishing the report on the "Status of School Desegregation in the South 1970", many black teachers are also being forced to teach classes for which they have no training. It cited examples of gym teachers being forced to teach biology and of English teachers being forced to teach gym. These teachers were often soon fired for "incompetency". The study also revealed that the first teachers to be fired have often been active in the civil rights struggle.


Yugoslav inflation

"The 12 per cent rise of the cost of living in January-September 1970 testifies to a serious inflationary trend and that it is therefore imperative to do away with all sources of inflation without delay..."

"The government programme of stabilisation measures immediately began preparing the Law on the Freezing of Personal Incomes as they considered that personal incomes are increasing faster than productivity, or in other words that a share of accumulation is being drained off into personal incomes.

"This view was opposed by the trade unions which argued that real personal incomes are closely following the growth of productivity... If anyone can be said to have acted incorrectly, then it is the (governments) who still have a very large say in the domain of budget and investment spending."

—Yugoslav Trade Unions No. 68, Jan-Feb. 1971.
No monolithic unity

"The world has changed also because of the tremendous development of the means of production, a consequence of the scientific-technical revolution, which changes definite social structures and throws up new problems inside the revolutionary movement of developed countries, which must aim to carry the revolution through to the end...

"There are no recipes, no magic formulae for solving these problems. The generalisations of the new experience, Marxist-Leninist theoretical research demand an open debate, free enquiry. But there can be no open debate, free enquiry, where the battle of ideas is annulled, where anathema are proclaimed, where every divergence is presented as heresy.

"Today there can be only one kind of unity, which recognises differentiation, which accepts principled criticism as part of this unity, a unity which gives every party the right to decide its own line without outside interference."

—Santiago Carrillo, General Secretary of the CP of Spain, at a meeting in Rumania, Neuer Weg (Bucharest), 5/9/71.

Political Pluralism in Chile

"There can be a plurality of Parties, but not conciliation between classes, as there was and is in the Christian Democratic Party, for Socialism, in liberating society from the exploitation of man by man, creates the conditions for the separation of political and ideological pluralism from the plurality of classes; the different parties will no longer represent antagonistic classes, but the continuation of an historical tradition and the political transformation of classes and social strata which will continue to exist for the whole long period of construction of socialism in Chile... That is, if four parties and two movements yesterday gave birth to Popular Unity and today form the six parties of the People's Government, tomorrow they will be the six parties of the Socialist Government of Chile; it could, moreover, be that their number will increase on the basis of broader support for the People's Power, or it could be that some will merge on the basis of specific autonomous and internal agreements and decisions."


Preparing for self-management

"If the worker does not start to control his trade unions now, he will never control industry. If he does not start to control his political leaders now, he will never control the state."

Upholder of International law in theory

Commenting on the 25th Assembly of the UN, Professor Bernhard Graefrath, of the Humboldt University, writes:

“In close relationship with the ban on the use of force is the ban on intervention. In present-day international law this is a necessary result of the universal recognition of the principle of sovereign equality of states. The right to sovereignty in the universal system of present-day international law demands non-intervention, preventing of any interference in the sovereign area of another state. This ban on intervention . . . is not expressly formulated in the UN Charter, but that it is part of its fundamental principles was laid down expressly in resolution 1815 (XVI)”.

—Deutsche Aussenpolitik (Berlin GDR), No. 3/1971.

On the death of Khrushchov

“His life was really not that of a bureaucrat and his work had an original stamp and a decisive weight at a moment important for his country and the whole labour movement, so that it has left a trace behind it, which has not been eradicated even today . . .

“Remembering Khrushchov does not mean forgetting his mistakes and limitations. He was human, he was a real man, not an ordinary comrade. . . .”

—l'Unita (Rome) 12/9/71.

“For us, the name of Nikita Khrushchov is linked with the initiatives taken by the CPSU, particularly at the 20th Congress, to overcome the cult of Stalin’s personality and its consequences, which started a new stage for the international communist movement in the struggle for socialism and peace.”

—l'Humanite (Paris), 13/9/71.

Portugal’s heroic fighters

The British Communist Fortnightly Review, Comment (22/5/71) praises the heroic press of Portugal whose printers and distributors risk death to produce the clandestine press.

“The leading Portuguese anti-fascist clandestine newspaper is Avante (Forward). Avante has been regularly published clandestinely in Portugal for the last 40 years. It must be the longest regular publication ever known for a clandestinely printed political paper, probably in the whole world. . . . From time to time clandestine print works fall into the hands of the secret police, who then proclaim that Avante is finished! But the next issue of Avante always comes out.”