

SOMBER FACTS At a recent luncheon in Syracuse, Barbara Ward, English commentator on foreign affairs, stated that if the western world expects to continue to control 70% of the earth's wealth and resources with only 16% of the population, we are in for disillusionment. She urged that the Communists are getting roots down on the world scene. "Whoever heard of a Communist isolationist? They know what they want while we wonder if we can afford to spend a certain sum for defense or for economic aid."

SOUTH AFRICA 50 Africans, 15 Europeans, 13 Indians, and 5 Coloureds after more than a year away from jobs and families, are to be brought before a special court on charges of "hampering or hindering" certain laws passed by the government to insure white supremacy.

Among those who face a possible death sentence if found guilty is Z. K. Matthews, who was Visiting Professor of World Christianity at Union Theological Seminary in New York, 1952-53. "It is difficult," writes Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike, "to believe that death can be passed upon a man because of his belief in the equality of men. This is precisely what can happen in the coming trial."

PERSPECTIVE ON ALGIERS "In perspective the French crisis may be illuminated if seen as one episode in the broader world crisis of integration which affects our own South, South Africa, and North Africa, all the lands in which the dominant whites have exploited submerged colored peoples. For months the Algerian struggle has corrupted French liberty; its best papers have been seized by the police; its noblest spirits have protested in vain. France demonstrates that where whites insist on denying their rights to the colored peoples the effect is to destroy their own liberties..... The colon of Algeria and the planter of Georgia play similar roles in a similar drama, a drama which will develop new intensity here when colored children, thanks to the latest Supreme Court ruling, knock next Fall on Virginia's school doors and that State must either knuckle under or implement massive resistance....

"In France, as elsewhere, the price of white supremacy turns out to be the liberty of whites and blacks." -- I. F. Stone

A TALE OF TWO WORLDS is the title of an article by Maurice J. Goldbloom in the June issue of Progressive. From it we lift the following sentences:

"On November 1, 1956, Soviet tanks surrounded Budapest; a few days later they thundered through its streets, drowning the Hungarian revolution in blood. Western spokesmen ascended the U.N. rostrum one after another to hurl anathemas at Soviet cruelty and perfidy, and to denounce the use of armed force to deny a people its right to freedom and self-government. None surpassed France's representatives in vehemence.

"On that same day, November 1, 1956, the Algerian revolution was two years old. It did not go unmentioned in the United Nations; the Russians saw to that. And it shared with Suez responsibility for the failure of many Asians and Africans to feel the same horror as we did at the Hungarian events. This led to the refusal of several Asian and African nations to join in the repeated resolutions condemning Russia and demanding her withdrawal from Hungary

".... the number of Algerians killed by the French is twenty times the number of Hungarians killed by the Russians, and French military losses are four to six times Russia's probable losses in Hungary." (Algeria and Hungary are nearly equal in population. In Algeria there are nearly 10 million Moslems, and around 1 million "Europeans", the latter, of course, dominant.)

"Imprisonment without trial is an essential part of the Communist system of government; it is just as important an aspect of French rule in Algeria... Soviet troops in Budapest shelled buildings from which shots had been fired, or where revolutionaries might be hiding. But no town in Hungary was subjected to aerial attack or indiscriminate artillery bombardment. The total destruction of villages has become a normal mode of warfare for the French... (Some 200,000 refugees fled Hungary; at one point there were that many Algerian fugitives in little Tunisia alone, and an almost equal number in Morocco). Even there, however, they are not safe; the Sakiet bombing of refugee camps and Red Cross and Red Crescent relief trucks was only the worst of a number of French violations of Tunisian territory. (Austria feared that the Russians would commit similar outrages during the Hungarian revolution; with the exception of a few very minor incidents, they did not.)

"The torture of prisoners in Hungary and other Communist countries is well known. Torture has long since become standard operating procedure in Algeria, publicly denied and privately defended by responsible French officials... The Geneva Conventions, to which France is a party, specifically provide that in civil wars and revolutions persons not actively engaged in fighting... shall be treated humanely... There is not one item in the Geneva Conventions which the French authorities in Algeria have not systematically violated

"The Russians claimed that their intervention in Hungary was help to an allied nation which had requested it. With equal accuracy, the French claim that Algeria is an integral part of metropolitan France, and its inhabitants French citizens. The Arab majority were not even nominal citizens prior to 1945. Since then they have been citizens in name but not in fact, because of discrimination in applying the laws... and to administrative and electoral systems rigged to deny them any effective part in their own government....

"Those who make it possible for France to continue to crucify Algeria cannot wash their hands of the consequences. The weapons France uses in Algeria, the money and diplomatic support she depends on to continue the war, come from the United States. Can we escape responsibility for what she does with our help? Is it enough that we protest repeatedly - as we have done - against French violation of specific agreements banning the use in Algeria of the arms we send her, and then send her more arms to misuse in the same way?.....

"Americans have been ready enough to condemn the hypocrisy of Asians and Africans who fail to condemn Soviet imperialism as vigorously as they do that of the West. But why is it worse for India to abstain from condemning Russian crimes in Hungary than for the United States to abet France in Algeria? For individuals and nations alike, there can be only one standard; evil is not a matter of geography, and murder and torture remain murder and torture even when the victims are Arabs and Moslems and the perpetrators are our allies."

FROM JAPAN A fifteen year old school girl writes the following:

"The only people to know the true horror of the Atomic bomb are the Japanese. We have experienced it through Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Fukuryu Maru [The Fishing Boat]. In Hiroshima over 370,000 people were affected. And there are still many, many more suffering. In Nagasaki it is the same.... Being the first to experience this atomic bomb, we do not want our horrible experience to go to waste, we want to tell the whole world never to repeat this again. We are convinced that we are the only people who are able to shout this out. The victims of the atomic rays have too big a suffering to protest or to rage. We must shout for them. We must make the atomic bomb droppers listen." (Emphasis supplied, ed.)

"EXPLOSIVE" STATISTICS "The world's present population is in excess of 2.7 billion (a century ago it was less than half that). At the present rate of growth, it will be 6 billion by the end of the century and 13 billion by 2050. (At current rates, population doubles every forty years.)

"The poorer and less developed areas are growing faster than the others. Eastern Asians, for example, are multiplying three times faster than the people of northern Europe. The rate of population increase is 3.1% for Central America, 2.6% for southeast Asia, and 2.1% for northern Africa.

"The population of the United States, now at 173 million, is increasing at almost 1.8% annually (a slightly faster rate of growth than the world average - 1.7%). By 1975 the U. S. population is expected to be 217 million and by the end of the century probably 282 million. With about 6% of the world population, the United States is already consuming some 50% of the world's raw materials." (Emphasis added, ed.)

-- Robert Sheehan, Fortune, April, 1958

SCHWEITZER'S SECOND STATEMENT On April 28, 29, and 30, the Oslo Norway radio broadcast three sections of a second statement by Dr. Albert Schweitzer on nuclear testing. A few excerpts:

"We are constantly being told about 'a permissible amount of radiation.' Who permitted it? Who has any right to permit it?....

"The necessity for a round-the-clock alert against attack carries with it the extreme danger of an error in interpreting what appears on a radar screen, when immediate action is imperative, resulting in the outbreak of an atomic war..."

The entire statement may be obtained from NYSPC, 5¢ per copy plus 3¢ postage, payable in stamps if you wish.

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