

policy, other than apartheid or democracy, both of which he says are 'unacceptable'. On examination the 'alternative' turns out to be nothing but a new variety of apartheid; South Africa to be carved up into racial ghettos for whites and Africans: for the latter purpose Hatch proposes to hand over the High Commission territories and South-West Africa. It's about time everyone realized that there is no alternative or middle path between apartheid and democracy. They are mutually exclusive. It is particularly important that the African and Asian leaders should refuse to be pressured out of their very clear stand which they have hitherto taken on this matter. The imperialists must not be allowed to hide behind some cloudy formula which would enable them to continue the lucrative business of supporting Verwoerd while pretending to be doing something about the acknowledged scandal of apartheid.

## **BRIEF COMMENTS**

### **CHOU EN-LAI'S AFRICAN TOUR**

A number of African countries were glad to welcome a distinguished visitor, Premier Chou En-lai of the Chinese People's Republic, and it is unfortunate indeed that the difficulties referred to earlier in these Notes prevented the planned extension of this historic tour to several East African countries as well. This visit will have done much to improve Chinese-African relations and to create a better understanding on both sides of each other's viewpoint. All reports confirm that the unfortunate divergencies within the socialist commonwealth and the Afro-Asian group were not raised during this successful visit to Africa; this gives ground for firm hopes that the visit will serve a further and most important service in helping to resolve these divergencies. This is certainly the ardent desire of Africans in all parts of our continent.

### **A JOURNALISTS' CONFERENCE**

Journalists from all parts of our continent came to Accra last November to attend the second conference of African journalists. President Nkrumah had some pertinent things to say about the role of journalists in our continent; those 'purposefully and unreservedly devoted to the cause of the African Revolution'—and those who, serving private capital or foreign interests, are not.

For some unexplained reason, however, those responsible omitted completely to invite the fighting anti-apartheid journalists of South Africa. A strange 'South African' delegation made its appearance, consisting of members of the Pan-Africanist Congress like Mr. Matthew Nkoane, whose main journalistic activities appear to have

been to serve as the correspondent of Verwoerd's paper *Elethu* while he was in Bechuanaland, and the dubious personage Mr. Lionel Morrisson, who represents no-one in South Africa (he was expelled years ago from the Coloured People's Congress as a disrupter) but keeps popping up at various international gatherings as a 'South African representative'. This is a great pity, for the real fighting journalists of South Africa who kept the flag flying for many years in the face of Nationalist persecution are in the most grave need of solidarity from their African colleagues. All the main journalists of the *Spark*—which had to cease publication after a quarter of a century through the vicissitudes of *The Guardian*, *The Clarion* and *New Age*—are being atrociously persecuted by the Verwoerd-Vorster dictatorship. The Port Elizabeth editor, Govan Mbeki, is in the Rivonia trial, facing a possible death sentence; M. P. Naicker, Durban editor, has for months been in solitary confinement; Alex la Guma, Cape Town staff writer is under house arrest; Ruth First, Johannesburg editor, after suffering 117 days in solitary confinement, has been banned from journalism altogether; editor-in-chief Brian Bunting has been driven into exile. It is deplorable that not a word was said about these brave colleagues at the journalists' conference at Accra; instead delegates were given the absurd impression that Mr. Robert Sobukwe was the only well-known 'anti-apartheid journalist' in the country. This will come as news to South Africans.

#### **A NOTABLE CENTENARY**

1964 marks the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the First International—the International Workingmen's Association, under the inspiration and with the participation of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. The significance of this notable event for our times, and for Africa in particular, will be the subject of an article in our next issue.