

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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Vol. 7. No. 23. June 8th, 1967

*Israel's
"Pearl
Harbour"
attack*

LABOUR and WORKERS' CONTROL

71, Onslow Gardens, London, N.10.

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Vol. 1, No. 25, June 20th, 1961

LABOUR and WORKERS, CONTROL

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LABOUR AND WORKERS' CONTROL

The Week sends greetings to the 4th Workers' Control Conference which is to be held in Coventry this week-end. It is quite certain to be the most successful, both in terms of attendance and the composition of the delegations. No longer can anyone say that workers' control is an abstract theory of interest to a few socialist academics. This charge, which was never true anyway, falls to the ground in face of the mounting number of shop stewards' committees and trade union organisations sending delegates.

The conference will take place at an extremely appropriate time: the second stage of Wilson's incomes policy legislation is going through Parliament next week and there is no sign of any fight from the traditional left in this country. On the contrary, many of those who voted against entry into the Common Market will not even be abstaining. This shows the immense confusion that Wilson's tactics and policies are still causing. The defeat that Labour suffered at the municipal election hustings shows that the traditional electioneering road to socialism has virtually exhausted its possibilities. If we are to go forward at all on the road to socialism a decisive break-through is needed. Before this can be achieved, a thorough ideological analysis of the problems of modern capitalism must become the property of the left.

This conference is the most practical and broadest aspect of the fight to achieve this goal. Unless the transitional slogans of workers' control and opening the books become the mass popular slogans, and are deeply understood, there is no prospect of advance for socialism in this country. You can play your part by going to the conference and by distributing the conference material to the widest sections on the left. There is little else as important that readers of The Week can do.

ISRAEL'S "PEARL HARBOUR" ATTACK

Propaganda is a very powerful weapon, otherwise we would not have the fantastic situation in which well-meaning people, many of them supporters of good left wing causes, sign such misinformed statements as appeared in today's Daily Express and Daily Mirror. It is perfectly clear that what we have seen this week has been a well-prepared preventive attack by Israel. This fact alone would justify the stand that The Week has taken on the Middle East crisis, namely, that Israel is, in essence, both an imperialist creation and an instrument for imperialist pressure on the Arab liberation movement. Politicians are now calling for a permanent Western presence in the Middle East, to protect Israel and safeguard supplies of oil and the Suez Canal. This is nothing more than old style imperialism: the use of military force to protect imperialist interests. All socialist must oppose these moves no matter what the outcome of the immediate fighting.

DISAFFILIATION & DESMOND DONNELLY'S IMAGE OF THE LABOUR PARTY by Geoff Coggan

Desmond Donnelly, writing in the New Statesman, says that Wilson's strategy is clear enough . . . "even if half the Parliamentary Labour Party has not yet grasped it. Mr. Wilson is bent upon transforming the Labour Party totally. He wants a British version of the American Democrats. He is no longer concerned with public ownership as an end in itself, or any similar nonsense. He is right. He wants to keep the traditional Labour vote naturally, but in the last analysis he is prepared to risk losing some of it, provided he carries the modern, middle-of-the-road voter."

The rate at which he is, in fact, already losing the Party its traditional support was emphasised by Frank Cousins last week, when he spoke of: "the grave feelings about the Government within the Transport & General Workers' Union and in other unions." He warned that there were a number of motions this year at the T&GWU's Annual Conference calling for disaffiliation from the Labour Party. He would oppose them, but there was no doubt that many of his branches felt that they would be better fighting as lone wolves.

Added Cousins: "Any Government can resolve its economic problems if it is prepared to create unemployment. When the Tories did it we denied their right to do so. I deny the right of the Labour Government to do it."

The disillusionment with the Labour Government is understandable, but those who advocate disaffiliation should consider whether they really wish to see the Party transformed to fit Desmond Donnelly's image of a British version of the American Democrats. That would be the inevitable result of giving Donnelly and his "modern, middle-of-the-road" friends a clear run inside the Party. That the Party is already a more natural and comfortable haven for such thinking than for socialist, trade union militants, is no argument for moving out. It is a further argument for meeting Donnelly's persistent militancy with equal persistence from within the Party, and it is good to see that Cousins intends to oppose any moves to disaffiliate.

"MINISTERS AND WHIPS WELL PLEASED WITH GEORGE WOODCOCK" by Geoff Coggan

The quotation above is from an article in Wednesday's Financial Times commenting upon Mr. Woodcock's speech, the previous night, to the Trade Union Group of the Parliamentary Labour Party. The Ministers' and Whips' pleasure seems to have been well matched by the infuriation of some of the members of the Trade Union Group. They were appalled, particularly, that Mr. Woodcock could describe as "innocuous" the new Prices & Incomes Bill which would enable the Government to delay wage increases for up to seven months.

He used the ingenious argument that the TUC had agreed, in 1965, to support Part II of the existing Bill, which gives power of delay up to four months, and could therefore not oppose the new legislation! If such logic is to win the day, then we are in for a regular, annual escalation in restrictions on trade union powers, all of which Woodcock will be prepared to argue were agreed to, in principle, in 1965.

WORKERS' CONTROL CONFERENCE

Over 200 delegates have already registered for the conference to be held in Coventry on June 10th-11th. Of these more than 80, including Ken Coates and Tony Topham (Joint Conference Convenors), will be staying at the industrial hostel booked by Coventry C.S.E. This is a very good opportunity for delegates to contact each other, there will also be an excellent social on the Saturday evening with a folk group and even more important a licence extension.

Papers submitted include a short paper from Walter Kendall in Detroit stating that a call for workers' control from workers in the British car industry will find a ready response from the United States. Richard Fletcher has a paper putting forward precise demands before workers should accept participation in management: 1. Open the books, 2. Abolition of equity capital, 3. Bargaining about the total surplus, 4. Overall democratic control. A paper from Eric Sherratt, Nottingham miner, calls for direct action to get the books opened when pit closures are threatened. All of these, and others on aircraft, steel, docks, the student movement, etc., will be available to delegates. There will also be a bookstall with a large quantity of literature on workers' control.

This meeting, the fifth of a series which have pioneered the new movement for workers' control, will be the most stimulating and informative gathering of its kind for many years.

If you have not already registered then please turn up on the Saturday morning when there will be facilities for registering delegates.

The conference opens at 10.45am on Saturday June 10th at Transport House, (T&GWU Hall), Much Park St., LONDON ROAD, (Inner Ring Rd.), COVENTRY.

THE INCOMPATIBLES by a special correspondent.

Reviews of the new Penguin book, The Incompatibles, have ranged from the "rave" notice in Tribune to the extremely hostile survey in New Statesman. This book, which was published in association with the New Left Review, has therefore already made its mark: one can hate or love it but not ignore it. The incompatibles are trade union militancy and the consensus politics of Wilson. The editors, Robin Blackburn and Claude Cockburn, have assembled a series of articles which argue out, in an exhaustive and thorough manner, all the aspects of this contradiction. Of special note in these articles are Robin Blackburn's examination of the "Unequal Society" and Ken Coate's devastating analysis around the theme of "Wage Slaves". But don't get me wrong; all the articles in this book, each in their different way (show extremely well thought-out editorial planning) are important and must be studied by serious socialists.

I have to say, quite frankly, that I belong to "rave" camp in the controversy about this book. Moreover, I believe it to be of such importance that its contents should be discussed in a systematic and organised manner. I would recommend those on the left who want to give an ideological underpinning to their opposition of Wilson's policies, to organise schools and conferences around The Incompatibles.

The Incompatibles is available at most bookshops, but if you have difficulty in obtaining it, Pioneer Book Service, 8 Toynbee St., London E.1 will supply you with one for 6/6d. (post paid).

HARINGEY STRUGGLE AGAINST RENT INCREASES by Ian Birchall. (Wood Green C.L.P.)

In April, shortly before the G.L.C. elections, the Labour-controlled London Borough of Haringey announced rent increases, to come into effect on July 3rd, amounting in some cases to as much as 12s.6d. per week. This was probably one of the factors that led to this predominantly working-class borough falling to the Tories.

Not that rent increases are anything new in Haringey. Some tenants who have been in Council property for four years have seen their rents doubled over that period. But this time, in the context of the wage-freeze and the crisis in the Labour Party, there has been an unprecedented wave of opposition to the proposed increases.

The first shot was fired by a group of twenty-nine members of the three Labour Parties in the borough - most of them G.M.C. delegates, and many officers of words who issued a public statement to the three local papers, dissociating themselves from the rent increases.

Then, in early May, a meeting was called by some of these twenty-nine members, inviting other interested people. The result was the formation of the Haringey Action Committee of Tenants - an ad hoc, informal committee for the time being. Its activities have been: (a) to canvass council tenants with a petition demanding the rescinding of the increases (b) to coordinate the work of existing tenants' associations (c) to encourage the formation of new associations.

The local Labour Parties, accustomed to regard Council tenants as safe voting-fodder while middle-class ratepayers need wooing, have been aghast at the open discussion of the issues. The Wood Green Party is holding a series of teach-ins on the problems of Council rents, though the value of these is diminished by the fact that they are confined to Labour Party members.

So far, the Action Committee has had considerable success. Over 80% of tenants approached with the petition have signed. In April, there were only two tenants' associations in existence among Haringey's 11,000 council tenants, but several more have been formed.

It is too early to make a definite judgment on the achievements of the Committee, but the following conclusions can be drawn from the work so far:

- 1) While it is unlikely that the present increases will be rescinded, the Council will have to think very hard about the further increases planned for January 1968.
- 2) This activity has provided a potential for practical cooperation between Labour Party left-wingers, Communist Party members, and other groups which may lay down the foundations for more extensive political discussion.

- 3) There has been a clear differentiation in the Labour Parties between genuine left-wingers and those who verbally express left opinions, but confine themselves to manoeuvring behind closed doors.
- 4) There is a vast potential for working-class militancy on such local issues if a few people are prepared to do the hard work of encouraging, coordinating and organising at grass-roots level.

The following is the text of the Haringey Action Committee of Tenants' leaflet:

RENTS UP - On July 3rd, Haringey Council tenants face rent increases of up to 12/6 a week.

Tenants will pay another £117,000 to the Council.

Further increases will follow (one in January) to increase the basic rent by 2/6 in the £.

A few tenants can get rent decreases if they don't mind a **MEANS TEST!!**

Some tenants are already paying more than the so called "economic" rent.

WAGES FROZEN - Under the Government's wage freeze, tenants have no extra income to pay these increases.

Many face reduced overtime, short time or redundancy and, like everybody else, constantly rising prices.

This means a **LOWER STANDARD OF LIVING** for tenants.

THE COUNCIL SAYS - These increases are necessary to pay for the higher costs of building urgently needed new council dwellings.

The rising costs are due to high interest rates and the high price of land. (This means that well over $\frac{1}{2}$ a tenant's rent, or more than 10/- in the £ goes to the money lenders).

WE SAY - The Council has over £1,000,000 in reserve which can be used **NOW** to prevent the July increase.

The cost of building new dwellings, which benefits all the community, should not be borne by existing council tenants.

The Council should fight the Government to make them end the high interest rackets and land sharks whose profits are not frozen. No further rent increases while the Government refuses to tackle the housing problem.

The system of Housing Finance needs altering.

The Government spends £2,000,000,000 a year on **ARMS** and less than a very small part of this on **HOUSES**.

Court Decision Disregarded by Michael Stewart

At the Recorder Court in Belfast in April, two of the employees of Harland and Wolff, supported by ASSET, won their claim for payment of an increase of between £1 and £2 a week agreed on July 11 last year. Despite a plea from ASSET to abide by the court ruling Michael Stewart has confirmed that the wages of the 630 ASSET members employed by Harland and Wolff must be frozen to prevent them receiving more than they were before July 20 last year. This blatant disregard for a decision reached in a court of law was made to "ensure that the employees concerned are not more favourably treated as a result of the court action than the great majority who have voluntarily accepted the standstill." This makes it obvious that workers must take direct action to ensure that they receive the fruits of their labour.

Redundancies Follow Fawcett Takeover

Nearly all the 320 people employed by the rubber plastics extrusion machinery business of Fawcett Preston and Company of Bromborough, Cheshire - a Metal Industries subsidiary - will become redundant within the next three months. The redundancies will follow the acquisition of Fawcett by Tube Investments, the £260m. engineering group.

Orders in hand will be completed at Bromborough - this should take about three months - and then production will be transferred to the Bournemouth works of Lowey Robertson. It will provide additional work for this company which, like the rest of the heavy machinery industry, has been hit by the cut-back in orders since the freeze. Some of Fawcett's staff will move to Bournemouth but a spokesman for MI said it was estimated that about 300 employees would be declared redundant. The factory and land at Bromborough will be sold off separately and, when this is done, MI should net about £1 m. in cash for the complete deal.

Mass Protest to Follow Enquiry.

A mass meeting to protest at disciplinary action taken by the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers against militants connected with Myton's £5¹/₂m. Barbican contract has been called by ASW members working on the Laing and Turriff Barbican sites. It is timed to follow the end of the public hearings of the Ministry of Labour court of inquiry into the long-drawn-out disputes on the Barbican and on Bernard Sunley's £5m. Government offices project in Horseferry Road. Picketing is still continuing on the sites to prevent work proceeding. A leaflet announcing the mass meeting accuses the ASW general secretary, George Smith, and the union's executive committee of "witch-hunting and discriminatory actions" and says the disciplinary action "helps the employers and is calculated to bias" the court.

Myton, which is part of the Taylor Woodrow group, negotiated a special agreement with the building unions earlier this year to reopen. A detailed bonus system was laid down but Myton would have the right not to re-engage its old six-man works committee. The old committee continued to picket the site (its two leaders are among those being expelled from the ASW) and with the support of other workers on the Barbican it has successfully stopped work starting.

PIT CLOSURES - by Joe Kenyon

Raymond Challiner (The Week,) raises a crucial issue when writing about the threatened closure of Mosley Common, Lancashire's largest Colliery. And it is doubly exasperating to try and understand the attitude of the N.U.M. leaders in acting as 'Time Beaters' for the N.C.B.

In a market that is being deliberately run down by a Labour Government on behalf of the oil moguls, it should become self evident to the union that any increases in productivity are bound to mean more pit closures. Oddly enough, the pleas of the union leaders for the men to work harder and achieve greater output targets can only serve to accelerate pit closures, and will not keep them open.

Dodworth Colliery, another large so-called longlife pit near Barnsley, is now being threatened with closure unless.....? Whose turn next? Dodworth is a fully mechanised Colliery and like other mechanised Collieries, it is extracting its toll by greatly increasing the numbers of men contracting that dreaded disease Pneumoconiosis.

What is not generally known however - because the union is not screaming loud enough, is that the numbers (the rate is fantastic in view of manpower reductions) of men contracting Pneumoconiosis and the DEATHS caused by Pneumoconiosis has doubled during the past four or five years, and the numbers are still on the increase.

800 men, yes EIGHT HUNDRED MEN, 800 poor souls died last year, and their deaths were caused by Pneumoconiosis. THEY WERE KILLED by millions of pieces of coal and stone dust infesting their lungs.

Now if this 800 had suffered a quick painless death by being clobbered with 'one' big stone, or by their bodies being splattered all over the floor there would be an outcry, men would become alarmed, the union would become concerned, something would have to be done. But yet 800 men, because they crawl away to endure unemployment and poverty for the rest of their miserable unnatural lives, can be SLOWLY AND MISERABLY AND PAINFULLY CHOKED TO DEATH and nobody seems to care, least of all the Coal Board and the Union. WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THESE PEOPLE? WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO BE 'MOVED'? HOW MANY MUST DIE BEFORE THEY CARE? Regardless of this terrible toll, the price of mechanisation - the Coal Board, backed by its Industrial Relations Department: the N.U.M., is demanding by threat and blackmail an even greater effort and sacrifice, or else.

If the choice therefore (it seems to me it is) is able bodied unemployment now, or disabled unemployment later and an earlier more painful death; then I would say SHUT THE BASTARD FITS and this is what the N.U.M. leaders should say, RIGHT OUT AND LOUD, shut the bastard pits, then see what happens.

Robens, who has more than qualified to become a 'Lord', has said "pneumoconiosis is not a scourge, we can control it". How many must die before it becomes a scourge? I only hope that one day, he will 'choke' that's about the kindest thing I could wish a man that puts 'economic viability' before concern for human life.

VICIOUS SENTENCE ON YOUNG IRISH ACTIVIST from Irish Militant

On May 5th Joe Dillon, 22, a republican and a member of the Dublin No.2 Branch of the ITGWU, was sentenced to five years in gaol. He had been charged with the attempted armed robbery of a Dublin Corporation rent office at Harmonstown Estate in December 1965. This was vicious miscarriage of justice by the Fianna Fail regime. The police force did not arrest Joe Dillon until six months after the incident. Then, on the night of 6th/7th June 1966, he was taken from his home by members of the Special Detective Unit of Dublin Castle (who specialize in political cases), taken to Bridewell police prison and put on an identification parade with two other Republicans from the Raheny, Harmonstown area. Witnesses were produced - the rent collector, the owner of a car taken on the night before the attempted robbery and a number of local people who were in the rent office at the time. None of the witnesses identified any of the people on the parade.

All the arrested men were released within a few hours - except Joe Dillon. Before his arrest he had been offered bribes by the Special Branch to inform on the IRA and other bodies. When he refused he was told that the Special Branch would "get him." A year later he has been brought to trial and found guilty of taking a car without the owner's consent and illegal possession of a revolver with intent to rob and endanger life. The only evidence was a thumbprint on the driving mirror of the getaway car. A state witness stated that this bore fourteen points of resemblance to Dillon's print. (Scotland Yard normally demands 21 points of resemblance before they will make a positive identification.)

The sentence was passed by Mr. "Justice" O'Caoimh, an in-law of De Valera and Fianna Fail Attorney-General for many years. Even he, never, to put no finer point upon it, noted for impartiality, had to admit that he was "probably in error when I impose a sentence of five years," and was "leaving myself open to criticism". Which was putting it mildly. No matter what the background to the case this should call forth the strongest protest from the Irish, British and world labour movement. But there is more to it. Joe Dillon was an active republican. For years the rump of the Irish Republican Army has acted as a substitute for a revolutionary movement in Ireland, functioning as a safety-valve to prevent the bourgeois state from bursting at the seams, and eternally throwing up new sterile bourgeois groupings. One such anti-revolutionary tendency is at present in control of the IRA and seems set to follow the path already trodden by De Valera and Co.

Joe Dillon was one of the leaders of an opposition grouping inside the IRA which was moving towards a Marxist position. This is the real reason why the Special Branch decided to "get him" and O'Caoimh passed such a vicious sentence. The Fianna Fail tenants of power have a vested interest in maintaining the present "leadership's" control of the Republican Movement. So Joe Dillon gets this savage sentence, a) to remove him personally from the political scene, and b) to deter others from following in his footsteps. For these reasons, the largest possible protest on an international scale should be mounted. The Irish Militant appeals to its supporters everywhere to mobilize in conjunction with a protest movement in Ireland to demand Joe Dillon's release, and to demonstrate at Embassies and Consulates of the Irish Government. Resolutions of protest should be moved at all levels of the Labour movement and directed to Mr. Brian Lenihan, Department of Justice, Merrion St., Dublin 3.

NINETY BRITISH MERCENARIES FIGHT NAUSSER IN YEMEN

The following report appeared in the Sunday Telegraph on June 4:

" A scarred, 39 year-old Scot, Major John Stevens has just returned to the Yemen with his latest batch of £800-a-month London recruits for the Royalist guerrilla war against the Egyptians. Major Stevens was Sgt. Stevens of the Royal Air Force Regiment. He later served in the Spanish Army, then moved on to "Mad Mike" Hoare's Congo force. After 12 months as an instructor and guerrilla leader in the Yemen - where Royalist tribesmen have kept 70,000 of Egypt's best troops pinned down - Major Stevens returned to Britain in February in search of more mercenaries to join the 175 already there. Of these, he says, more than half are British. Since his return, he has found more than 30 men, some in their 40s, willing to risk death for £10,000 a year. All carry clean discharge papers after service with British forces and are now on their way to Djibouti.

From the French Somaliland capital, they will go by sea with Moslem pilgrims to Jiddah, Saudi Arabia's port on the Red Sea. Next comes an overland trip to Riyadh, the Saudi capital, to see a Saudi liaison officer - also a Scot - who supplies uniforms, weapons and jeeps. Of a night attack which went wrong, Major Stevens said: "There was nothing for it but hand-to-hand combat. We fought not for the fear of dying, but because of the fear of being captured. A captured-mercenary dies a ghastly death: we found one who could be identified only by his belt. The Royalist insure us each for £5,000. The insurance is always paid."

* * * * *

RELEASE JOE DILLON!

A public meeting will be held at the LUCAS ARMS, GRAYS INN RD.,

(near Kings Cross Tube) at 8 p.m. on Sunday, June 18th to

organize protests against the imprisonment of Joe Dillon.

Speakers from Labour and Republican movements.

RELEASE JOE DILLON!

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VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN BULLETIN

JUNE ISSUE NO 5.

contains:

V.C.S. News and future activities,
Full text of the Verdict of Stockholm Session of
International War Crimes Tribunal

The Bulletin is available from 11a Wormwood St. E.C.2.

for 9d a copy, post paid. Reduced rates for bulk.

(free to V.S.C. members, Membership is only 10/- p.a.)

IMPERIALIST STAKES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

FOR BRITAIN THE MIDDLE EAST MEANS OIL. And the war now raging between the Arabs and Israel is threatening both supplies and the massive capital investments that have been poured into the area by the oil monopolists. Last year B.P. and Shell accounted for one third of the total amount of oil produced in the Middle East.

American capitalists are even more involved in the oil stakes than are their British counterparts. In 1966 U.S. companies took out 250 million tons from the 310 million tons that remained after the British had taken 162 million tons. A spokesman for British Petroleum said it was impossible to calculate how much cash the company has invested in the area," but it must be very considerable".

For British Capitalists the problem is not just one of oil profits. For instance Kuwait ranks only second to Australia as a holder of sterling. It is reckoned that the Sheik of Kuwait has around £300 million in sterling. Added to this is the cash that the Kuwaiti capitalists have in this country - some £100 million - as well as the investments from the £200 million that come in each year from oil revenues.

Even this is not the full extent of Kuwait's financial ties with Britain, recently the United bank of Kuwait was opened here with an issued capital of £1,000,000. Kuwait and Iraq are the second most important customers for British exports in the Middle East, both countries buying more than £25 million of goods from Britain. However, the most important sale isn't mentioned in the official figures. That is the £102 million worth of arms that are being sold by Britain to Saudi-Arabia. Not including the Saudi-Arabian deal Israel buys more from this country than the Arabs, In 1966 anglo-Israeli trade amounted to almost £52 million.

It is quite clear that the financialists and capitalists of this country are too closely tied to both Israel and other Arab states to allow Wilson to align the government with the Zionists, likewise American capitalists and Johnson. The situation also looks like becoming more perilous for the Arab oil Sheiks and feudalists who will be riding in increasingly unsafe saddles as the pressure mounts from their own exploited peoples.

STAN NEWENS AND THE COMMON MARKET - A BRIEF COMMENT by Richard Cooper.

Stan Newens need not be in any doubt that I still think that outright advocacy of the Common Market is based on the premise of helping capitalism solve its problems and then hoping that the working-class will be allowed to share any of the extra profits they make from this monopolization. As opposed to them, I would put the proposition, that if the employers want to join the Common Market, let Labour M.P.s put forward a programme to safeguard interests of the working-class and recompense them for the inevitable cut in their standard of living.

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..... A D V E R T I S E M E N T
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Copies of the VERDICT of the first session of the International War Crimes Tribunal, the closing statement by Jean Paul Sartre may be obtained from I.W.C.T. at 11a Wornwood St. London E.C.2.
BULK ORDERS OVER TEN... 3D EACH.

ARMS LOADED FOR ISRAEL

The Naval correspondent of the Sunday Telegraph wrote in the June 4th issue:

The Israeli cargo ship Miryam, 2,038 tons, loaded a cargo of arms and ammunition for Israel at Felixstowe yesterday. Supplies have been going on board continuously for 24 hours, and yesterday two three-ton Army lorries and four large civilian vehicles were brought in. I watched a lorryload of 105 m.m. armour-piercing tank gun ammunition being taken to the docks in conditions of special security. Also, a number of tracked armoured personnel carriers were visible as deck cargo.

The reason why the Miryam docked at Felixstowe was that the Israeli Government could not wait for the loading of the arms to be completed in the normal way. This is by means of lighters in the Thames Estuary.

JEWS FIGHT IN EGYPTIAN ARMY

The following report by Peter Hopkirk, printed in The Times of June 5, throws an interesting light on the charge that Nasser would liquidate all Jews in Israel if he were victorious:

Among massed Egyptian forces confronting Israel in Sinai and Gaza there are almost certainly Jewish soldiers, I learned today. Whether there are any in the actual front line, presumably manned by regular troops, it is not possible to say, but like other Egyptians over the age of 19, young Jews too have been called to the reserves.

In the event of a war between Egypt and Israel, these could find themselves fighting fellow Jews on the battlefield. The very existence of a 2,600 strong Jewish community in Egypt may come as a surprise to many people, although it emphasizes a point the Egyptians never tire of making - that it is Israel they aim to destroy not the Jews.

Like other minority groups here, Jews have full Egyptian citizenship, with equal rights and responsibilities. In the Cairo telephone directory alone I found 26 Cohens. The majority of the Jews live in a poorer quarter of the city.

Ninety per cent of Jews living in Egypt today are Egyptian born and regard themselves as Egyptians, I was told today by Chief Rabbi Haim Douek. I talked with him and other leading Egyptian Jews in his office in the old part of Cairo. Behind his chair, on the wall, was a portrait of President Nasser. I asked him if Egyptian Jews encountered hostility from the rest of the community. "No", he said. "Of course, there are occasional incidents but you get these everywhere, even in England. But the Government does all it can to prevent them. Anyone found guilty of causing an incident of this kind is punished." He had not heard of any anti-Jewish incident since the present crisis began, he said. "Most of us have Muslim friends and neighbours," he said. Although their children went to state schools there was complete freedom of worship. There were 26 synagogues in Egypt.

INFLATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM from a U.S. correspondent.

The following report appeared in the New York Times on June 3:

Economic officials have acknowledged that prices are rising in South Vietnam twice as fast as they had predicted.

At the end of 1966, American economists warned that the fragile South Vietnamese economy "could live with" price increases of no more than 30 percent in 1967. Further inflation, they said, would endanger the precarious benefits of last June's far-reaching devaluation and economic reforms.

However, officials said yesterday that price increases this year may reach 50 percent. South Vietnamese economists have said privately for months that holding inflation even to this level would be difficult. Prompting the change in estimates was an 8 percent increase in prices recorded in May.

In May, 1966, prices rose 10 percent, an increase judged so dangerous that the government finally enacted the reforms before the inflation got out of control. Following devaluation of the piaster from 73 to 118 for \$1 prices jumped 35 percent in July, but remained basically stable until the end of 1966.

Prices have risen 25 percent so far this year. The largest single increase was recorded in March, when the delay in American rice imports drove the price level of this staple to a new high.

U.S. GOVERNMENT BANS CATHOLIC CHARITY MEDICAL AID TO VIETNAM *

The post office has refused to transmit money orders to Caritas International, a Roman Catholic relief agency in Rome, because its medical aid beneficiaries include North Vietnam.

Timothy May, the Post Office Department's general counsel in Washington, advised officials here not to send the money orders because it would be "in violation of the Trading with the Enemy Act." "He indicated that if they made it clear that this mailing was intended to reach the civilians of North Vietnam we were not permitted to accept it," a spokesman said.

The decision was made after 25 members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, a pacifist group, showed up at the post office intending to send the money orders or to mail packages of medical supplies.

Mary Ann McNaughton, a member of the fellowship, said they did not feel that "sending medical aid to suffering civilians" was the same as trading with the enemy.

* Based on a U.P.I. report.