

Food crisis in India claimed under control

By RUKMINI DEVI
Canadian Press Correspondent
BOMBAY (CP)—A food crisis that has passed its worst phase, government officials say, although the next eight to 10 weeks will continue to be an anxious period.

Food Minister C. Subramaniam told a special convention of the ruling Congress party that he now has a "firm grip" on the national food situation.

And the government's confidence is indicated by its rejection of a demand from the Socialist "ginger group" in the party for complete nationalization of the food industry.

India, now a nation of 465,000,000, has not faced a similar shortage of grains since the Great Bengal Famine of the early 1940s. But there's an important difference.

About a million people died in the Bengal famine. There have

been no starvation deaths during the present crisis, though press reports say villagers in some remote parts of the country are living on roots, wild fruits and leaves.

The government party has been goaded into firm action against food hoarders by widespread criticism in the country. The Socialist, Communist and Hindu opposition parties have made political capital out of the situation.

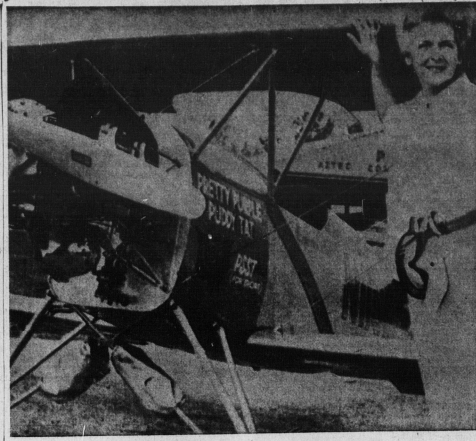
URGED TO RESIGN
However, in some cases even members of the Congress party have joined in anti-government statements. N. V. Gadgil, former governor of Punjab, said Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri should resign if unable to solve the crisis.

A combination of factors led to the food shortage. The last three harvests have been below average. Expecting higher prices, some farmers began hoarding grains. There have been allegations that wealthy wholesale traders advanced money to villagers to persuade them not to sell their grains in the open market until prices rise sharply.

Food Minister Subramaniam has said there is no real shortage of grains in the country but that hoarders have cornered stocks. Police have been raiding godowns (warehouses) in various parts of the country, and one raid in the Punjab resulted in seizure of 200,000 bags of wheat.

Critics of the government say the food ministry is to blame for the difficulties, contending that under pressure from so-called vested interests in the Congress party the administration failed to take effective action against hoarders and black market operators.

RELUCTANT TO SELL
Four or five states in the country, including Punjab and



HOUSEWIFE BUILDS OWN PLANE

Mrs. Tracy Pilurs, 36-year-old mother of six children, stands beside the small airplane which she built and flew. Mrs. Pilurs built the plane in the garage of her home at Highland Park, Ill., a north Chicago suburb, during the past four years. She painted the little airplane lavender and named it the "Pretty Purple Puddy Tat." She flew the craft Thursday for the first time. (AP Wirephoto)

Madhya Pradesh, which are surplus in food production have also been reluctant to sell grains to deficit states. This attitude has been assailed by opposition parties and the press as "anti-national."

One columnist wrote: "It is easier to get wheat from America than from Punjab."

The United States has stepped up wheat shipments to India, and Washington has promised 4,000,000 tons of wheat and rice in the coming six months.

A family planning conference in Bombay was told by government experts that, in the light of a 21-per-cent annual population increase while food production remains almost stagnant (90,000 tons of grain a year), the only real long-range solution lies in mass birth control.

The Indian cabinet has started a reassessment of five-year-plan priorities to ensure that sufficient attention is paid to agriculture, but the crisis has provided ammunition for various political groups.

Opposition parties have staged nationwide demonstrations, some of them impressive, against what they describe as government bungling of the food problem.

DEMONSTRATORS JAILED
The pro-Moscow faction of the Communist Party of India is taking a leading part in organizing anti-government protests. Some 15,000 Communists have participated in satyagraha (passive resistance) in towns and villages and have spent short periods ranging from one to 18 hours in jails.

The united Socialist Party and the Hindu Jana Sangh (People's League), both of which are anti-Communist, have also organized many demonstrations but now seem to feel the Communists should be isolated from the anti-government movement.

As a result attempts to organize a "united front against hunger" have failed.

The coverage given in Soviet newspapers to arrests of Communists, and the veiled insinuations in the Moscow press about New Delhi's "inability" to deal with hoarders have displeased many Indians. They feel the Russians are being given a one-sided version of the Indian food situation.

Racial barriers crumble in troubled Deep South

By ARCH MACKENZIE
WASHINGTON (CP)—Racial barriers crumbled throughout the U.S. Deep South last week with a tranquility that was in sharp contrast to the naked hostility at Little Rock, Ark., in 1957 when the long struggle began in earnest.

Negro students desegregated all-white schools in all 11 Deep South States. The final thrust came in Mississippi.

But all this last week the 11 states desegregated areas lengthened.

Maryland's Dorchester County—More than 76 Negroes registered against 24 last year.

Gloucester, Va.—Three Negro pupils break the segregation barrier in Gloucester County.

Monk, Ala.—Three schools admit seven Negroes compared with one desegregated school last year. Alabama now has eight desegregated school systems.

Gadsden, Ala.—A scene of tense demonstrations last week, but three schools eventually register 15 Negroes quaily.

Moore, Okla.—More than 300 Negroes register for the first time after short-lived violence last week.

Columbus, Ga.—Start desegregation to join all other major Georgia cities.

Dallas, Tex.—More than 1,000 Negroes register in 18 desegregated elementary schools. There are complications.

smaller cities or ruraly favored areas where bitter anti-segregation sentiment may hang on longer.

The Southern School News of the Southern Education Reporting Service at Nashville, Tenn., reports that 570 school districts now admit Negroes at kindergarten to university level. But another 728 are either all-white or all-Negro.

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At Atlanta, Ga., the rare and new development of a 35-50 racial split in a high school is threatened by a white boycott and mass transfer after a school year fight.

Atlanta is desegregating one school grade each year, working from the top, and now has reached Grade 8.

At Canton, Miss., 13 Negroes were turned away from a high school.

But the trend is optimistic for the Deep South integrationists.

Without internal peace and a common objective, little hope is held for the development of the troubled colony, whether the leader be Jagan or his arch-rival, Negro leader L. Forbes Burnham.

BEYOND POLITICS
Reflecting the opinion of some prominent Guinean, political commissioner Peter Owen said recently: "Neither Jagan nor Burnham can govern without the consent of the other. I'm afraid violence has now gone beyond the realm of politics."

The strapping, ruddy-faced Briton commands a big police force of 1,600 men and 800 officers when a badly over-matched in 24 months of almost continuous civil strife. Terrorist violence since February has claimed 16 lives; 24 persons are missing, more than 800 have been wounded and damage to property and crops is estimated at over \$2,500,000.

The violence has evolved mostly around the controversial personalities of the big, erudite Burnham and Jagan.

Burnham, a lawyer - Shakespearean scholar with a large following among the Negro middle and poor classes, is viewed warily by some intellectuals who claim to see in him a disquieting thirst for power.

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Russian sources greatly shocked

By DORIAN FALK
GENEVA (AP)—The defection to the United States of nuclear scientist Heinz Barwich—long a holder of key positions in the Soviet Union and East Germany—caused elation today among Western officials. Soviet sources expressed shock.

The 33-year-old East German is considered a major prize for the West, which lost two top nuclear experts—Klaus Fuchs and Bruno Pontecorvo—to communism.

Barwich's defection was announced Friday by officials in Washington. He made his getaway last Wednesday, while in Geneva for the 71-nation conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The scientist slipped out of Geneva's Hotel President when the conference ended accompanied by another East German scientist, Prof. Max Steenbeck, whose whereabouts has not been revealed.

Barwich's chief in East Germany, Prof. Baron Manfred von Ardenne, said by telephone the defection was "extremely deplorable" and "I am sure that

Western scientists, some of whom have been permitted to study the Dubna operation, say their research is devoted to peaceful uses of atomic energy.

At Rosendorf, one of Barwich's deputies was Fuchs, who slipped into East Germany in 1950 after serving a prison sentence in Britain for passing nuclear secrets to the Russians.

U.S. officials declined to say whether Barwich now will work for the United States. The official announcement merely said he had got in touch with American authorities in West Germany earlier this month and has asked for political asylum.

Barwich was described as a lanky man whose dark hair is thinning. He began his career as an assistant to Nobel Prize winner Prof. Gustav Hertz, who

B. G. premier prepares for crucial fight

By ROBERT BERRLETT
GEORGETOWN (AP)—British Guiana's Dr. Cheddi Jagan has turned in his prophetic robes for the trappings of a practical politician in a last-ditch move to avert election defeat this fall.

The consensus is that the darkly handsome Marxist premier will fall.

But in British Guiana, now consider Jagan's ouster a certainty, the forthcoming elections will amount to no more

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