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RICHARD THOMAS GIBSON

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"AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA, ASIA REVOLUTION"

SECRET*England*

Reports received from a number of sources make it clear that "Africa, Latin America, Asia Revolution" has been in difficulties for several months and it appears that the last issue was No. 11 dated March 1964. The trouble began, apparently, when the French authorities seized copies of issue No. 7 of the French edition, "Revolution", dated March 1964 because of an article it contained on French overseas territories. Creditors became alarmed, fearing that the publication might be banned, and demanded settlement of their debts which were then estimated to exceed £10,000. Jacques VERGES, the publication's Director, tried to effect administrative economies in order to cope with the situation but, according to VERGES, Richard GIBSON, the Editor, argued that the Chinese should be asked to pay the debts. Matters worsened when, again according to VERGES, GIBSON persuaded the Lausanne printer to write to Peking and ask the Chinese to settle the publication's debt to him. VERGES regarded GIBSON's activities as deliberately disruptive and designed to produce proof of China's support for the publication.

2. Also, VERGES complained that GIBSON was working for Communist splinter groups in Europe to the detriment of the international Communist movement, and that he was dealing tactlessly with the magazine's agents and contributors. The situation was such that VERGES visited the U.K. in mid-July to discuss the position with BABU, a member of the Editorial Board. BABU, who is now Minister of State for Development Planning of the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, was in London for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

3. In July 1964 there were rumours that the English edition had gone bankrupt but these were denied by GIBSON who suggested that the English and French editions should be made quite separate, and that the former should be published in London. At about this time the split between VERGES and GIBSON became complete and the latter was removed from his position as Editor and from the Editorial Board, which issued the following "warning":-

"Comrades from New York, London and Accra (Ghana) have raised up grave charges against Richard GIBSON. These charges have been confirmed and underlined by Richard GIBSON's present disruptive activities. Revolution's Editorial Board has decided to dismiss Richard GIBSON from all his responsibilities and expell him from the Editorial Board.

"From now on, Richard GIBSON's activities can not in any way engage the responsibility of the review in all its editions.

for the Editorial Board"

A similar statement was published in "Revolution" No. 10-11 dated July-August 1964.

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4. With GIBSON out of the way, VERCES and his supporters were hoping to resume publication of the English edition. GIBSON also seemed determined to carry on and it has been reported that as early as June 1964 he was enquiring into the possibility of publishing an English version in the Netherlands.

5. The only other change of significance which has occurred during 1964 has been the resignation from the Editorial Board of Hamza ALAVI who objected to the publication's pro-Chinese attitude. Issue No. 11 of "Africa, Latin America, Asia Revolution" shows that he was replaced by another Pakistani, the 78 year old Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan BHASHANI. BHASHANI, who lives in East Pakistan, is the leader of the National Awami Party.

English

1886

1st September 1964.

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