TO THE EDITING CHAIRMEN!

Dear Friends!

The Mis decided to begin sending around rough drafts of some of the articles its numbers write either as Front Pagers or columns for discussion by the local committees. This will both give the locals a view of some of the projected articles by the centre and give the centre the beautit of the local discussions so that the drafts can be rewritten accordingly before we go to press.

The first article contributed by Venver is here appended for discussion. It is written as presented to the RES and not rewritten afterwards. Therefore it is necessary to state from the suggestion by Felson to begin on the note of Risanbower's statement at the time of Stalin's death and the reaction to it on the part of the portions and public in general, and the ore by Frazier that the article include reference to the fact that Victor Routher who was to have been the European representative of the UAV promptly left Europe after June 17th revolt and never returned. When the local discussions are in as well the article will first be rewritten.

Matkins his review of Indignant Heart, which will proceed the socialization of the work on the Magro page will follow. The HER hopes that the locals will do the same and that all this material will not only circulate ahead of discussions publication but so will discussions on it. That is the best way to begin getting the feel of the paper as a whole, instead of each local concerned with but one assured and losing eight of the whole.

Neaver

TWO PAGES OF TODAY'S HISTORY THAT HAVE SHOWN THE WAY TO FEEEDOM

On June 17, 1953 the East Berlin workers case out in a strike against the Communist rulers. This unprecedented action began us a strike against "higher norms", that is, speed-up, and developed into calling for the release of political prisoners and the formation of a new government through free elactions. It was the first strike to have occurred in a country under Russian occupation and it thereby changed the political face of Europe.

A few weeks later another "first" occurred that shock the Kremlin to its foundations. This time it was a strike at its own slave labor camp at Vorkuta. This strike, inspired by the Mast German revolt, was even more remarkable than the first in that it was organized underground by prisoners who had no rights whatever and right under the noses of the NKVD (Russian Secret Police).

We now have the story of this other strike in a most remarkable book by a Dr. Joseph Scholmer, an insets there who experienced imprisonment by the Gestape

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for his anti-Maxi activities only to be rearrested by the Russian after his liberation for his auti-Eussian sentiments. This eyo-witness account of the Verbuts revolt is distinguished from all other stories of forced labor camps by its passionate and unrelentless struckle for freedom. Even the horrible conditions in these camps aband out not for their terror but by virtue of the princers' sence of humour? from their reference to the guards' Tomay gums as "balabelkas" to their takes of how Jave meet the new anti-Semitism by writing, next to the word, meticability, "Indian". It is this humality, this comradeship, which made living telerable and united them not alone in the spiration to revolt but the actual planearing and execution of it.

"Fat in the wildres dreams"

The strike in July 1953 could not have secured without the previous underground fernation of resistance groups within the camps which were led by the various actionalities of Russia, mainly Ukrainians. Tet the strike as it occurred was sutirely different from the action planned previously.

Prior to June 17 all the preparations for resistance to the totalitarian releva were based on the eventuality of war and therefore looked to the Vestern Priors to start. When Stalin died heps appeal through the camp but all that came from the Missabowers and Churchille wase condolences to the loaders who continued the Stalin regime. Once June 17th took place, on the other hand, the Vorkuta prisoners say that the workers and only the workers, of whatever country, must achieve their own liberation and by their own methods. Must Germany had shown the way and they decided to follow up that strike.

thinking in terms of outward success at all. They were just intextoated by the strike. For all those taking part in it, the strike was simply the first positive defiant action of this sort ever to take place within the Seviet Union. And that was enough. It was comething unheard of, something which no one had ever thought possible even in his wildest drongs.

The Strike Iteles

Indeed, the most remarkable part of the strike is that it ever took place at all. For most participants it was the first strike they had ever been in. It was the ordinary men in the campa that had to bear the day to day burden of the strike. A first they just refused to work. But then they actually organized a public meeting right in the camp. They elected a strike consistee of their own in which all nations were represented, and informed the camp police that they better withdress because the priseners themselves were taking contfol of the camp.

The price did so, not of course without informing Moncow immediately.

But so did the strikers—they refused to nest with their direct joilors but included that a representative from the Kremlin be sent down to nest with them. The Russian government sent a commission headed by General Derovianko. His attempt to barungue a public meeting of the innertee proved a failure. The prisoners stood solid, refused to be moved by the better food once their sentences remained the case, and demanded a review of all political trials and removed of berbed wise.

The Commission returned to Messow. Nothing shows so the magnification with the magnificant and impossarity of these tetalitaries rulers than the caution with which the Government at first dealt with this revolt. The sympathy of the soldiers too were with the prisoners. In the end they did what the Tsar did back in 1912 Lens gold field strikes open fire and shoot down the strikers. But where in East Berlin they recorted to violence quickly, here they bargained and moved cautiously for weeks before the mass shooting.

Myth of invincibility destroyed

But it had the effect of shaking the Kremlin to its very foundations.

mining institute working in the pit in
A few months later a students from Leningrad immansuspectate stated. Vorkuta and he they
told them of their strike of which everyone talked in Laningrad; introductions
profound of facture tracks

that's all. And everyone knows how volumerable plane are. It destroyed the myth

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that the system was unassailable."
One Page of Treachery

Five months after June 1/th one of the leaders of the Bussian resistance group met an East German student in Vorkuta and naturally the talk use all about the East German revolt. The Eussian leaders first them grasped the treathery of "the West". Not alone had the Eisenhowers and the Churchille sided with the Stalin regime in Bussia as the prisoners here know, minumatively apparentianes from the prisoners have know, minumatively apparentianes from the France Allied radios no encouragement to the workers in revolt was sounded. To the prisoners' "why", the East German students replied, "because they were affaid that any approvation of the situation might lead to var."

"But it's clear from the reports from the prisoners that the Enspians
were also afraid it might lead to war! Each side was afraid of the non-existent
contage of the other?"

The East Corman students resumed their tale that the labor bureaucrate, as well as the West Corman Government, found nothing better to tell the West Berlin workers than to be sure "not to compromise themselves". Finally the Russian resistance leader saw how wrong it was at all to depend on "the West". He said: "These radio stations are controlled by the various governments, aren't they? Well, on June 17 they had to ask the government officials what they were to do. And the government officials have a professional dislike of popular uprising, where they take place. "

mach in "descentio lands" "The use in the street has the best idea"

The epilogus Dr. Scholmer erites is much more degreesing than the conditions at Vorkuta. For here he was free at last, he thought. He had been one of
some thousands of flave leborers released during the Big Four Ministers Conference.
He had a story of revolt to tell and the press to listen to hig. They listened
but they didn't hear. First, these Russiss experts could not understand that a
revolt had occurred: they were ready to discuss abstractions, such as could such
12045 a revolt occur, but not the concrete fact that it has occurred. Then he was given

the line that "the time was inopportune" to tell his story.

"Mann I first mentioned the word, "civil war" to these people", Dr.
Scholmer concludes, they were appalled. The possibility of a rising lay outside
their reals of accomplisation. They had no idea that there were restutance groups
in the company.

from the Soviet Union. It esseed to us that the man in the street had the best like of west was now going on. The 'experts' seemed to understand nothings'

The min in the street does indeed know more than these experts because the American worker, as the American public in general, in its own struggles with the becauserate, inclds and outside factories, inclds and outside governmental; in its own aspirations for a new society and struggle for it feels at one with the Euselin and East Corres workers. It is not a question of lauguage. It is a question of appropriences and expectations.