

refined at A E O's refinery, which had a throughput of 3 million tons in 1960. is on behalf of the General Petroleum Authority. Besides the oil produced by Oriental Petroleum, the crude refined on behalf of the G P A at A E O's refinery includes imported crude and crude, which the U A R Government has been receiving from the oil companies in lieu of royalty since 1958.

The E N I is keenly interested in exporting crude oil to Italy. Thus, about a million tons of oil produced by Oriental Petroleum were exported to Italy in 1959. This is partly because Italy's domestic production of petroleum is inadequate and partly because the high sulphur content of the oil produced in the Belayim field renders it unsuitable for refining in the Egyptian refineries. It is understood that part of the oil likely to be discovered in the new fields covered by the recent agreement will also be exported to Italy, though how much is not yet known. In the U A R. the demand for oil products is rising rapidly. Besides, refining capacity in the country has always been considerably in excess of local crude production. For these reasons, the UAR imported 1.5 million tons of crude and 1.1 million tons of products in 1959. It is natural, therefore, that the UAR should wish to retain the domestically produced crude for refining in the country.

No Room for Immigrants?

Our London Correspondent writes : ONE of the most controversial pieces of legislation in recent years is the bill to impose restriction on Commonwealth immigration. Despite the legal verbiage with which this bill has been clothed, there is little doubt that whatever its declared intentions may be, it is in essence a bill that will weigh more heavily on coloured immigrants, for the simple reason that the bulk of immigrants happen to be coloured. The mainspring behind this bill is racial emotions and the anti-colour group inside the Conservative Party associated with such names as Mr Norman Pannell, Sir Cyril Osborne and others, whose battle cry has been: "Do you want to see Britain go Black?", Britain is now finding it difficult to face up to the colour problem; is this then another step towards the disintegra-

tion of the Commonwealth? It seems obvious that this bill will heighten the distrust of Britain's policy in the main Commonwealth countries affected.

Pandit Nehru, questioned about the bill at London airport on his arrival, said that he thought it was rather unfortunate that this kind of thing should be pursued now. Dr Cheddi Jagan was more outspoken and said that "the new bill can only be interpreted as a colour bar ... and strikes at the very root of Commonwealth solidarity". Sir Crantley Adams, the West Indian Federal Prime Minister, has also come out sharply against the bill, saying that despite pious assurances to the contrary, it will in fact operate on a basis of race and colour. "It is doubtful whether the Commonwealth can survive the repercussions which must follow. One thing is certain; it will never be the same again. Restriction will cause economic chaos in the West Indies: the territories may fall a ready prey to doctrines foreign to the democratic, principles to which Britain subscribes", he said. The more liberal press in Britain has attacked the bill, tracing its genesis to the spectre of racial emotion.

which lies behind, and pointing out that restraint on Commonwealth immigration would not have been demanded so vehemently, had the inflow been mostly of Canadians or of Australians, instead of West Indians, Indians and Pakistanis.

The real problem involved in the influx of immigrants, it has also been maintained, is not so much a question of jobs, but of homes. In the U K, the house-building rate of some 300,000 homes a year is barely enough to remove the slums, re-house the slum-dwellers and provide for the natural increase of the population. There is therefore, nothing to spare for the immigrants who are now coming at the rate of about 4,000 a week. Many papers, however, have pointed out that Commonwealth immigration works both ways. The immigrants provide a large reserve of new urban labour ready to take lower paid or less agreeable jobs and therefore, help a swift increase in the living standards of the majority. The prosperity of the average British wage-earner since the war has been built partly on the labour of the West Indian Irish, Cypriot and other immigrants.

