

it is said by Turkey) was created with each community guarded and administered by its respective section of the former State services. Greek and Turkish police have clashed for nearly a fortnight on the respective borders of their enclaves in Nicosia. The Turks sought to capture the main lines of communication into the city and so isolate it in the north; the Greeks have seized a rumoured 500 Turks and are holding them as hostages. With each stage of the struggle, both communities have turned to their respective foreign parents, with the danger of so internationalising the conflict that it would lead to direct friction between Greece and Turkey, or the Greek minority in Turkey would be threatened with reprisals. The Turkish Government, demanding tripartite foreign intervention in Cyprus, has despatched warships to just outside the Cypriot coastal waters, and sent for at least three consecutive days Sabre jets to fly low over Nicosia to encourage Turkish and warn the Greek Cypriots. Greece has put her navy on a four hour alert, called her defence chiefs together but denied she is mobilising. From Washington comes a denial that the American Sixth Fleet is steaming towards east Mediterranean.

The British have not seen fit to deny their intervention. On the basis of the stalemate between the two communities, the British have taken over military administration of Nicosia, outlined a neutral zone covering all the areas of fighting and flown in sufficient troops to patrol these areas. The British Commonwealth Relations Secretary has flown to the island to arbitrate between the communities and patch up a truce. It is argued that this duty falls on Britain both because her bases on the island (the largest outside Britain) make her a major air power in the east Mediterranean, and also because of her 'historic duty' in the area enshrined in the Zurich Agreements. But that British intervention was possible and indeed welcome to the embattled communities is a sad commentary on the prospects for Cypriot independence, particularly considering the long and bitter struggle the Cypriots waged to establish that independence. The fighting has at

least compelled the Turkish community to accept the need for constitutional reform. If the Greeks, the overwhelming majority, can force through a reform that gives them effective power, then that independence will be a little more possible. Then Cyprus can bargain with the British and secure their steady evacuation. The events of this Christ-

mas will be used by the British Government to validate its claims to be a legitimate policeman in Cyprus, arbitrating between twin irrationalities—when in fact those events are the direct legacy of British rule in Cyprus and, in particular, the 1959 constitution which raises communalism to the highest principle.

Retreat from Prohibition

WHAT is surprising is not that Maharashtra should be the first State to go back on Prohibition but that it should have persisted in wrong doing for so many years in keeping up Prohibition. None knew better than the Government of the State what a disastrous form prohibition had assumed, but it had been completely impervious so long to what was happening all around, kept its eyes tightly shut and refused to listen to the voice of reason, Shri Vasant Rao Naik has shown outstanding political courage in deciding to undo the accumulated evils of a policy which was breaking down under the pressure of the forces of corruption that it had released. The Chief Minister has acted not a moment too soon.

Having watched Prohibition at work over the years and witnessed every day its pervasive and pernicious influence on the people and the administration, it was impossible to believe that the members of the Congress Party could possibly remain wholly unaffected by the distressing spectacle of Prohibition strengthening its vicious grip. Rumbles had been heard within the

Congress Party to which neither the party executive nor the ministry could have been deaf. But so vicious had been the grip of the party bosses that the official Congress still pretended even at the time when Justice Tek Chand conducted an official investigation last June that Prohibition had been a success and as for flagrant violations and the corruption that it had spread, well, they knew of no such thing! This continued to be the position until the present Chief Minister took over,

Shri Naik has to act within the limitations imposed by his membership of the Congress Party and allegiance to its creed and at the same time he has also to do the right thing by the people and see to it that the policy decided upon by the Government does more good to the people than harm. It is not on the moral question of the right of the people to drink if they want to that Maharashtra has changed its stand. The relaxations now announced which are to come into force from April 1, are intended primarily to protect the public from the illicit distiller, the bootlegger and the trafficker. The means by which this is

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A FERNANDES
Business Manager

to be achieved are;

(1) Beverages with an alcoholic content not exceeding 3.5 per cent will be made freely available,

(2) If toddy with alcoholic content not exceeding 3.5 per cent can be made available, it will be sold freely under Government control.

(3) The issue of permits for foreign liquor to persons above 40 will be liberalised. It is only those below 40 who will still need, a health permit from a medical board.

(4) In order to meet the demand which will arise from relaxation, manufacture of liquor and making of wine will be permitted

and the number of licensed whole salera And relaitera in liquor will be suitably increased.

It is not as a mere face-saving concession to doctrinaire prohibitionists that Shri Vasant Rao Naik has made a definite commitment that the Government will not make money out of drink. The Chief Minister made the definite commitment that "the revenue collected from the economically weaker section shall be spent in the implementation of prohibition by making our propaganda and persuasion more intelligent and effective and by introducing many welfare schemes which will keep the people away from the

evil of drinking Experience all the world over has proved over and over again that propaganda and persuasion are futile in 'stopping even checking the kind of drinking which creates a social problem, The only way to keep people away from unwholesome drinking is to make their lives a little more cheerful, To achieve that objective in the case of the working class and the poorer sections of the community is difficult indeed. Nevertheless, it is a much more sensible and worthwhile objective to pursue than the wholesale enforcement of prohibition which is not merely more difficult but absolutely unattainable.

Weekly Notes

European Agriculture

IN retrospect it does appear "Unthinkable for European unification to fail on the problem of margarine", but while it lasted the impression was created that nothing less than the future of the European Economic Community was at stake at the Conference of the six Foreign Ministers which opened in Brussels on December 18. Time was running out. President de Gaulle had threatened that if the EECs Council of Ministers failed to adopt, before December 31, regulations covering dairy products, meat and rice and to fix the Community prices for cereals for the 1964-65 season, France might consider even withdrawing from the EEC. The French stand was based on the time-table adopted by the Council of Ministers in May 1962 for synchronised development of the Community, according to which regulations for rice, meat and dairy products had to be agreed upon and cereal prices for the 1964-65 season fixed by the end of 1963. West Germany, which has always dragged its feet over the integration of agriculture within the EEC, did not share France's anxiety to extend the Community's agricultural policy and maintained instead that this question should be considered after the six had reached agreement on the common policy to be followed during the Kennedy round of trade talks, France, it is well known, has never shown much enthusiasm for the Kennedy round

and W German strategy in linking agricultural integration to the policy for the Kennedy round was motivated as much by the hope that this would be effective in getting a French commitment on the latter question as by the expectation that it would slow down agricultural integration.

In the event, the "package deal" made at Brussels on December 23 covered regulations for the agricultural products involved as well as a common policy for the Kennedy round. The terms of the agreement are not known and notwithstanding the assurance that "the ideas have been very clearly defined"¹¹, it is not unlikely that the working out of the details may lead to fresh conflicts and prove no less protracted than the negotiations over principles.

The difference between the French and W German attitudes to agricultural integration within the EEC arises from the differences in the role, efficiency and structure of agriculture in the two countries. In France 23 per cent of the active population is engaged in agriculture and contributes 9 per cent of the national income; in W Germany the proportions are 14 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively. The W German farmer thus receives a higher income than his French counterpart. This by itself would not create any problems for a common agricultural policy if the higher earnings of the German farmer were matched by higher product-

vity. This, however, is not the case. Whereas France produces about 90 per cent of its total requirements of agricultural commodities and has export surpluses in grain, meat and certain dairy products, W Germany meets at least 30 per cent of its requirements through imports.

These, of course, are very rough estimates, but they indicate the basic difficulty in the way of a common agricultural policy for EEC. At present agricultural systems vary considerably in efficiency coexist in the Community as a result of elaborate tariffs, subsidies and other support measures. A common agricultural policy would sweep these away and treat agriculture in different countries on the same terms. If the common prices were fixed nearer the present French levels than the higher W German levels, incomes of German farmers would fall — an eventuality politically dangerous and unacceptable to the ruling Christian Democrats who are heavily dependent on the rural vote. High agricultural prices, on the other hand, do not suit France. In the first place, higher food prices would add to the already disturbing inflationary pressures on the French economy. And even more important, French hopes of expanding agricultural exports within the Community depend on a curtailment of production in the other countries. Low prices will restrict German output, and even reduce it