

though they paid no attention to the wishes of the masses; and the revolution, of course, occurred in the midst of the war which far from strengthening the monarchy was instrumental in its downfall.

Mr. Schuman is not a Marxist and although he tends to idealize Lenin and the opening years of the Soviet regime and to exaggerate its achievements, he takes a somber and realistic view of the government and administrative practice of the Stalin era. He unreservedly condemns Soviet federalism as "a fiction or a fraud"; the stereotyped unanimity of elections and parliamentary procedure; "the political inflexibility, callous unconcern for suffering, misinformation, and blind violence in pursuit of a secondary objective" of the Politbureau; the "threats and trickery" by which Communist-controlled regimes consisting of "Stalin's stooges" were imposed upon the European satellites; the oligarchy of Party leaders which by 1938 "in its lines of arbitrary authority and fear-inspired obedience began to resemble an Autocracy"; and "the sordid record of intolerance" that led to "the jailing or killing . . . of all prominent opponents, schismatics, heretics, and potential dissidents" in the Soviet Union and in the satellite countries.

Mr. Schuman, however, is not an uncompromising enemy of Sovietism. Like the Webbs, whose notoriously misleading "Soviet Communism: A New Civilization?" he calls a "great book," he sees in the Soviet Union the Welfare State of the future. Although he notes that in 1957 the total output of fifty million Soviet farmers was

roughly equal to that of six million American farmers, and that intellectual freedom in the USSR was narrowly circumscribed, he has boundless faith in Soviet economic and cultural progress. He extols industrialization, urbanization, and education as "the most mighty and magnificent accomplishment . . . irrevocable and irreversible." This and similar statements are unwarranted. Schuman bases his economic speculations on the alleged rate of economic growth, a relatively novel statistical device that must be used with circumspection and caution. He does not mention that authorities disagree on the actual rate of economic growth in the USSR and its relation to the rate of growth in other countries.

The slight increase in the number of domestic animals from 1954 to 1955 does not justify Schuman's statement that four decades after the revolution "Soviet consumers . . . were eating more and better than most of them ever had before." A study of the table in the official statistical manual "National Economy in the USSR" (1956) from which Schuman presumably borrowed his figures, discloses that the per capita ratio of the larger animals in the latter year was considerably less than it was twenty-seven years earlier.

Schuman's assertion that "the Soviet scheme of socialized enterprise worked extraordinary well" is negated by the current drastic remodeling of the structure of economic agencies and the bitter criticism of their former policies. The other recent manifestations of Soviet economic malaise are the devaluation of the

ruble and the virtual writing off of the entire public debt.

In dealing with Soviet foreign relations Schuman deliberately ignores revolutionary Communism and makes but casual references to the theories of Marxism-Leninism-Stalinism. Basic and seemingly insoluble conflicts of principle and policy between East and West are represented as misunderstandings and errors of judgment due to mutual suspicion, prejudice, blindness, and foolishness of Soviet and Western leaders. Both sides are blamed but somehow the West comes off as the worst offender. Schuman has no illusions as to how Communism was forced on the European satellites, yet he insists on the feasibility and necessity of a comprehensive East-West settlement. What its contents will be and how it will be enforced is not revealed.

Mr. Schuman's final chapter suggests that the true and final solution resides in the formation of a world government, which is a large order. It is doubtful whether these interpretations and proposals are of much practical value or help the reader to get a grasp of the issues.

THE DAYS OF THE REVOLUTION: Laszlo Beke is the pseudonym of a member of the Students' Revolutionary Council in the recent Hungarian revolution, an art student at the Technical University of Budapest. In his book, "*A Student's Diary: Budapest, October 16-November 1, 1956*" (Viking, \$1.95), he throws new light on the history of the uprising. It began in Hungary's second largest city, Szeged, he writes, where thousands of university students were demonstrating against Hungary's Stalinist regime days before the Budapest outbreak. Beke appears to have been an active fighter in the crucial phases of the battle on Parliament Square, the Radio Building and the Kilian Barracks. His description of the fight is graphic and detailed. He witnessed the hesitations of the regime of Imre Nagy and the return of Cardinal Mindszenty to Budapest. Before the return of the Soviet tanks to the capital, Beke and his wife, an expectant mother, decided to make a break for Austria. Their hitch-hiking exit from Hungary had its perilous moments. Freedom beckoned to them across the frontier in the shape of a man with a lantern, shouting to them "in Austrian." That a Hungarian university youth should not know that the Austrian neighbors speak German may be indicative of the ignorance in which people were held.

The little book is well edited
(Continued on page 34)



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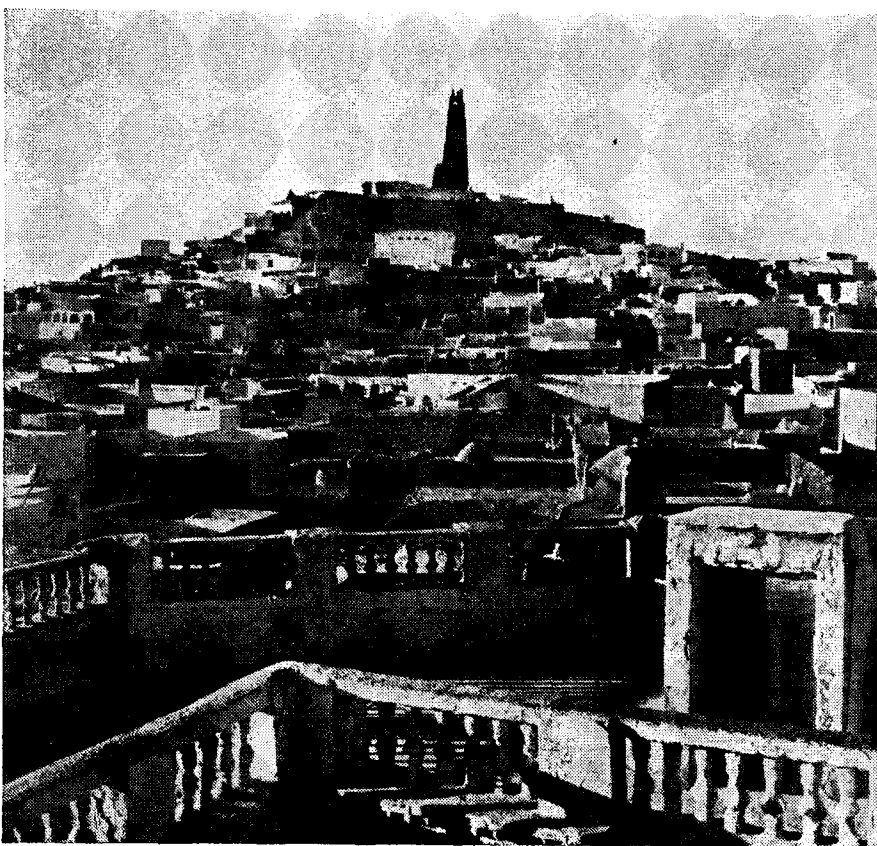
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Kanuri woman of Bangoa.



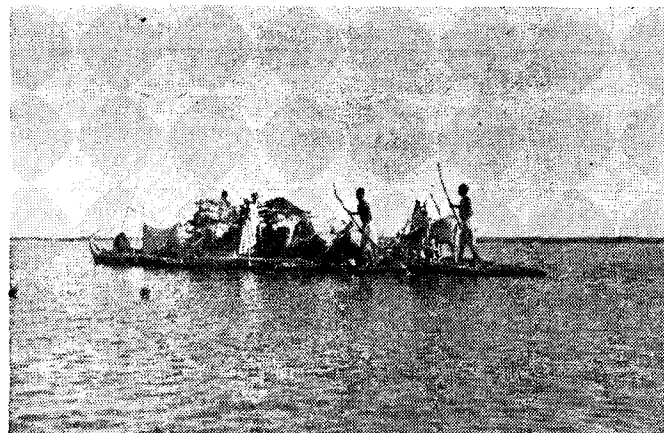
Kirdi woman in posture of greeting.



Ghardaïa, capital of the M'Zab inhabited by sedentary Arabs of the Abadite sect.



Spice seller in the market of Ghardaïa.



Rafting across Lake Chad takes three or four days.

DARKEST AFRICA is what our forebears used to call the vast land mass south of the Mediterranean, but European power politics, intercontinental airlines, and the camera have made most of it familiar to every schoolboy and his parent. One section of it still remains *terra incognita*—the desert and hill country of the northwest, an area so far from the coasts that visitors are rare, an area peopled by Arabs and other white men whose skins the blazing sun has made resemble Negroes'. Through it a great Swiss photographer, the late Peter W. Haeberlin, wandered, usually alone except for his camera, between 1949 and 1953. Eighty-three photographs he took of the often haunting landscapes and the fascinating people, handsomely reproduced in gravure in Switzerland, make up one of the most attractive albums of the year: "**Yallah**" (McDowell, Obolensky, \$10). Paul Bowles, who has demonstrated in four volumes of fiction that he knows something of northern Africa and her people, contributes illuminating commentary. *Yallah*, he tells us, is Arabic for "Let us be off!" *Yallah* for a copy of "**Yallah**." —ARCHIBALD VAN VORHEES.