

Indians Shower Rose Petals on Unionists

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Australian unionists entertained at a banquet by Indian seamen at India House, Pyrmont, on Sunday were adorned with garlands of flowers and showered with confetti, rice and rose petals as they rose to speak.

Each guest was given a posy of flowers and women were presented with bouquets.

Hosts to the Australians were Indian seamen of the KPM (Dutch) labour pool.

These seamen refused to work Dutch ships going to Java for use against the Indonesians, in line with decisions of the Australian trade union movement, which declared all Dutch ships black.

Tribute to Australia

The banquet was spontaneously organised by rank and file members of the Indian Seamen's Union in Australia under the direction of the butler, Mohammed T. Hossain, in appreciation of Australian aid in the struggle against Dutch aggression in Java.

Among Australians present were H. Grant (Chairman of the NSW Labor Council sub-committee on Indonesia), C. Campbell (Treasurer of Indian Seamen's Union in Australia) and S. Moran (Treasurer of Waterside Workers' Union, Sydney Branch).

After a sumptuous dinner served by the Indians, the Secretary of the Indian Seamen's Union in Australia, Mr. D. Singh, said:

We have been in many countries and met many people, but only in Australia have we felt that we are among people who treat us like brother human beings.