

LONG LIVE MAY DAY

*For a Lasting Peace, for a Peoples
Democracy!*

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**LONG LIVE MAY DAY—REVIEW OF
MILITANT FORCES OF WORKING
PEOPLE OF WORLD, DAY OF
FRATERNITY FOR WORKERS OF ALL
LANDS!**

ONWARD TO NEW VICTORIES!

The working people of the world are celebrating their traditional holiday, May Day—the day of international proletarian solidarity, the day of consolidating the fraternity of the workers of all countries. On the day the broad masses of the people' review their militant forces united in the democratic camp, beneath the banner of struggle for democracy and Socialism; for immediate common aims—to consolidate and extend their democratic gains, to uphold freedom and national independence, to achieve a stable and lasting peace.

Through years of tradition the outstanding features of this holiday have grown. The working people review the results of the year's battles and put forward the principal tasks they will have to solve. Today these tasks are the struggle against the warmongers, against the American imperialists who threaten the peoples with enslavement and fascist dictatorship, a dictatorship more brutal and barbaric than the Hitler dictatorship crushed during World War Two.

At the head of the fighters for peace stands the great land of Socialism—the Soviet Union. Thanks to the superiority of the Socialist system and the heroism displayed by its people during the Great Patriotic War, the Soviet Union smashed Hitler Germany, saved the world from the threat of fascist

slavery, helped the countries of Central and South-eastern Europe to throw off the yoke of the imperialists, and to restore their freedom and independence. The name of J. V. Stalin, the man who led the way to this great victory, the brilliant leader and teacher, is pronounced with love and esteem by the working people of the world. The hearts of progressive mankind are filled with joy at the Soviet people's successes in the political and economic development of the land of Socialism, the flowering of its socialist culture, the growth of the material wellbeing of its people. The increased might of the Soviet Union reinforces the powerful democratic camp and constitutes another major contribution to the cause of peace and world security.



Millions of Soviet people will demonstrate on this day in the U.S.S.R. In the tread of the marching columns will be heard confidence in the morrow and firm determination to spare no efforts in building Communism. In this the Soviet people under the leadership of the Party of Lenin-Stalin have already remarkable achievements to their credit. In 1948 Soviet industry surpassed the pre-war level of production by 18 per cent, in agriculture the overall grain crop reached the 1940 level, while the harvest, as a whole, was above the 1940 figure. This rapid progress is being maintained during 1949. The increased plan for the first quarter of 1949 was fulfilled by 100.2 per cent. Compared with the first quarter of 1948, industry increased its ranks by another 1,400,000 workers. The standard of living of the Soviet people has gone up considerably.

The working people of the New Democracies also celebrate May Day with big achievements in economic, political and cultural life. The fusion of the workers' parties and the formation of a united party of the working class based on Marxism-Leninism has further consolidated the peoples of these countries. It has furnished the necessary conditions for successfully laying the foundations of Socialism and rapidly eliminating the bitter legacies left by the fascist and reactionary regimes. The masses of Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania, freely and joyously bearing their May Day banners through the streets of towns and villages, will demonstrate their determination to advance along their chosen path, to build Socialism, to crush ruthlessly any attempts by the imperialist robbers to destroy their hard-won freedom and independence.

In the capitalist countries the working people will celebrate their traditional holiday under the slogans of intensifying the

struggle against the governments of national betrayal, for bread and democratic liberties. On this day in Italy and France, in the United States and Britain, in Australia and India, in all the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries, the voice of the supporters of peace will ring out still more clearly. At the Paris Peace Congress they resolutely voiced the people's will to curb the instigators of a new war.

The traitors to the working class, the Right Socialists who have become the hirelings of the bourgeoisie, have once again shown themselves in their true colours. The "Socialist" Labour Government's ban on the May Day demonstration in London shows that Bevin and Attlee have relinquished this more than fifty-year old tradition of the working-class movement. They fear the people, they are against the masses. Now the working people see for themselves that the Right Socialists are serving the imperialist bourgeoisie heart and soul.

The Labour Government may ban the May Day demonstration but it cannot conceal the fact that in 1948 the British people only received half the fats, a quarter of the sugar and three and a half times less meat than in 1938. Truman and Acheson can throw Communists into prison, persecute supporters of peace, proclaim the "superiority" of the "American Way of Life" but they cannot hide the 3,700,000 unemployed and 9,500,000 short-time workers. They cannot conceal from the American people the fact that, between 1935 and 1948, workers' real wages dropped by 20 per cent.

The rulers of the Marshall countries in company with their American patrons can juggle with statistics and boast that industrial production in Britain and France has reached the pre-war level; but they cannot make people forget that the 1938 level in these countries hardly exceeded the 1913 level. No matter how much they manipulate their figures, the imperialists cannot conceal the stagnation and decay of industry, the unemployment and poverty of the working class, the growing

pauperisation of the people in the countryside, the ruin of artisans and small traders, the degeneration of culture and the disintegration of capitalist society.

On May Day the working people of the world salute the historic victories of the national-liberation armies of China which, advancing to shatter the rotten, corrupt feudal-bureaucratic regime of Chiang Kai-shek, despite the extensive aid given him by the Anglo-American imperialists, are, at the same time inflicting crushing blows on the imperialist system. The armed struggle of the peoples of Greece, Malaya, Indonesia, Viet Nam for freedom and national independence merges with the struggle of the peoples of all countries against imperialist slavery and the warmongers. The strength of the movement of the peoples in the colonial and dependent countries today lies in the fact that the working class heads this struggle of the peoples.

What have the rulers of the imperialist camp to offer in opposition to this? Like every dying class, the imperialists, desperately striving to prolong their rule, are resorting to terror and police persecution, to torture chambers and concentration camps, to trials and the gallows. In propaganda all that is left to the imperialists is lying provocation, in art only fanaticism and appeal to the basest human instincts, in science they turn to charlatanry, perverted theology and racialism, exalting the darkest ideas of the Middle Ages. Truth is not on the side of the imperialists. They are trying to kill it with lies, to ban it with laws. But the history of human society shows that no one can murder truth. In the Middle Ages the "Holy Inquisition" could not destroy the idea of a new era, neither can the Truman inquisition hold up the triumphal march of the idea of Socialism.

The future belongs to the class. Communism is the youth of the world. We are living in an age when all roads lead to Communism. Ever broader sections of the people are

recognising that only Communism can save them from capitalist slavery and they are taking the Communist path. Despite all their armaments the imperialists are powerless to block these roads, to bar the working people from Socialism with an iron curtain of lies and provocation. Their very impotence is the cause of the nervousness and rage exhibited by the Truman's and Churchill's who are forming military blocs and speeding up a frantic armaments drive.

On May Day the working people of all countries, reviewing the results of their struggle for peace, and taking note of their successes, feel confident of their strength. At the same time they are conscious that the struggle calls for redoubled efforts in the matter of rallying and consolidating the forces of peace. The camp of imperialism has declined in strength [???] wounded beast is becoming more dangerous. Because of this all honest people must rally still closer round the working class—the only class capable of leading the struggle for their country's freedom and independence.

On May Day the militant call of the Communists, "Workers of all lands, unite!" rings out with greater force throughout the world. Under this slogan the Communist movement has advanced along its glorious century old path and won sweeping victories. Today it takes on still deeper significance for the working people of the capitalist countries because working-class unity is absolutely vital for their final victory. This slogan is a call to strengthen international proletarian solidarity which is the basis for the unification of the working people of the world fighting for a common cause.

The Communist and Workers' Parties, equipped with the invincible teachings of Marxism-Leninism, stand at the head of the struggle for peace and national independence. Resolutely exposing the agents of imperialism, the disrupters of the unity of the democratic forces—regardless of whether they appear in the guise of Right Socialist Blum, bourgeois cosmopolitan, or

Trotskyite Tito—the Communist and Workers’ Parties are fighting for democracy and freedom and the establishment of a broad peace front. They support all those who treasure progress and the future of civilisation.

The movement for peace will gain greater momentum. The peoples will curb the rabid cannibals, the Kennans and Forrestals who dream of destroying mankind with atom bombs. Sooner or later the lunatics will be put into straight jackets and the criminals will find themselves in the dock. Such is the will of the peoples. Great aims give birth to great energy. This energy has found expression in the battle of the peoples for peace against the imperialist warmongers. May Day 1949 demonstrates the confidence of the working people in their victory.

Raise higher the banner of international proletarian solidarity, the banner of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin!

**MAY DAY – DAY OF UNITY OF
WORKING PEOPLE. Georges Cogniot,
Member, Central Committee,
Communist Party of France**

May Day in France will be held under the keynote of unity of the working class. May First will be a landmark in bringing together wide masses of the people to uphold peace, against ratification of the Atlantic Pact, for wage increases at the expense of the huge profits of the big industrialists, for raising the standard of living which has deteriorated as a result of the “Marshall Plan” and the vassalisation of France's economy, for the right to strike and for all workers' and democratic liberties.

Two years ago, when the Communists were still in the Government, there was no unemployment. Today, however, the number of registered unemployed in Paris receiving unemployment benefit has increased from 4,700 in January 1948 to 24,000 in March 1949, in addition 100,000 applications for jobs have been filed in Paris.

The official report of the finance commission of the second Chamber points out that in view of certain “international exigencies” the “production of finished goods must take second place” and that the country must make a “new orientation”, namely, turn to “agricultural production and the production of industrial raw materials”. This orientation, according to the report, is somewhat similar to that with which France was faced in 1940 during the early months of the occupation. The author is compelled to admit, willy-nilly, that the outlook is extremely gloomy: “Many enterprises will have to close down, especially in the machine-building, electrical and textile industries; workers will be discharged and in all probability

there will be unemployment...”

The conclusion is absolutely correct, with the only difference that the future tense should be replaced with the present.

In his closing remarks at the National Conference of the Communist Party on April 10, Maurice Thorez stated that France's economic and financial situation will inevitably deteriorate due to the war preparations and increasing military expenditure, and to the slowing down and sabotage of production, arising from the subordination of the Government to U.S. insistence. The budget deficit is growing: tax returns for January-February were nearly 50 billion francs below the envisaged figure. As for the 1948 fiscal year, the, as yet, incomplete results reveal a budget deficit of 65 billion francs. Finally, the growing difficulties of the war in Viet Nam, urgently demand an additional 50 billion francs. Thus, right at the beginning of the second quarter, the budget has disclosed a deficit of 165 billion francs.

Inflation is having a devastating effect: in the middle of April the weekly report of the Bank of France showed another increase of 10.5 billion francs in circulation. In the meantime Anglo-American and French financial journals are openly discussing the further devaluation of the franc. This will be the third devaluation since January 1948. Certainly the war preparations are bringing the country to ruin.

The Government's class policy in conjunction with the employers' offensive against wages and trade union rights is reflected in the unjust sentences imposed on strikers, in the refusal to amnesty the miners now in prison, in the attempt to annul the parliamentary immunity of a number of Communist deputies, in the persecution of numerous Resistance fighters and patriots. At the same time traitors and war criminals are acquitted. That is why Maurice Thorez was fully justified in stating on April 10: “Contradictions will grow, class

antagonisms will intensify. We are heading towards big social and political battles.”

The proletariat, all working people and many representatives of the middle classes are beginning to realise with increasing clarity that there is no possibility of survival for the French people unless they adopt a policy of struggle for national independence, a policy of actively defending peace, the policy of the Communist Party of France. Pertinax, the well-known journalist, wrote in a bourgeois newspaper that “The Atlantic Pact threatens the flesh and blood and national independence of the French people. We cannot remain passive and submissive.”

On this May Day the working class will raise still higher the banner of struggle for peace, and for national independence. The working class is heading the struggle against the Atlantic Pact which the people of France regard as not binding so far as they are concerned. The working class, intensifying the struggle in the factories against the production of armaments, is calling for peace-time production, for switching the war industry on to peace rails, The workers ardently proclaim their complete loyalty to the Soviet Union and their loyalty to proletarian internationalism. They are demanding an immediate peace with Viet Nam by means of negotiations with the Ho Chi-Minh Government.

The Communist worker calls to the Socialist worker, to the Catholic worker to engage in joint struggle for their immediate interests, in defence of freedom and peace,

A broad united front has already been formed in one of the decisive trade union bodies—the Metal Workers' Federation. On April 12, responding to the joint call of all trade union organisations, the workers and technical personnel, members of the General Confederation of Labour and other trade union groups, started a widespread united struggle for collective agreements. Their demands were granted at a number of

enterprises on the very first day; restoration of the wage scale, three-weeks' paid holiday, payment for national holidays.

The working class and its organisations are paying closer attention to supporting and guiding the movement of the working peasantry now suffering from the market crisis arising from the poverty of the urban population and the sharp fall in agricultural prices, due to American competition, heavy tax increases, and the confiscation and auctioning of their property by court decision. Giving every support to the immediate demands of the working peasantry, the working class and its organisations are combating this short-sighted economy and are showing the working people of the countryside that they will be faced with the inevitable choice of either capitalism and the accompanying expropriation, poverty and war, or an alliance with the working class and Socialism which means peace, the expropriation of the expropriators and the handing over of the land to those who till it.

In this way in the course of the May Day preparations the workers first strengthened the unity of their own ranks and later their alliance with the other sections of the working people.

Every election of workers' delegates is a demonstration of the strength of the General Confederation of Labour which is countering the splitting tactics of the employers and the Government. Despite the unprecedented police pressure on the miners, despite the specially devised and fraudulent electoral system, the miners on April 14, when electing social insurance delegates, displayed their devotion to the General Confederation of Labour. The C.G.T. received 71 per cent of the votes while the splinter "Force Ouvriere" hardly polled a fifth of the vote. Had not the voting system been changed compared with last year, the C.G.T. would have received more mandates than in 1948.

The working class is drawing the broad masses of the people into the struggle. All who do not want war are moving

into action. As a result of this deep-going movement the propaganda of the “Marshall Plan” organs in France is losing effect. The New York Herald Tribune ruefully admitted in its April 1 issue that American officials are not satisfied with French public opinion. The recent World Peace Congress was accompanied by monster demonstrations throughout the country.

May Day in France will be a day of unity of all working people, of all democrats, to prevent the third world war from being, unleashed and to save the cause of peace.

MAY DAY IN BULGARIA

A committee to prepare May Day celebrations in Bulgaria has been formed under the chairmanship of Comrade R. Damyanov, Chairman of the trade union federation and candidate member of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

The committee include representatives of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, of the National Council of the Fatherland Front, the People's Army and all mass organisations.

May Day in Bulgaria is a nation-wide holiday of labour. It will be celebrated under the slogans of the struggle for peace; strengthening friendship with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies; reviewing socialist emulation to fulfil production targets and the spring sowing.

May Day celebrations are closely linked with the preparations now being made for elections to the people's councils and the election of people's assessors which take place on May 15.

Enterprises throughout the country will review the results of the May Day emulation drive. After the meetings there will be concerts in the towns and villages.

A large rally will be held in Sofia sponsored by the May Day Committee. On May 1 demonstrations will be held throughout the country.

TOWARDS MAY 1, IN GERMANY

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany has led the German working people's preparations for May Day.

The days before May Day were marked by the people's militant response to the Peace Congresses in Paris and Prague. To mobilise the German people to fight for peace, the Socialist Unity Party put forward the following May Day slogans: For peace and understanding between the peoples! Against the imperialist warmongers! Long live German unity and a just peace! Down with the Atlantic Pact—a conspiracy against world peace! Solidarity and friendship with the peoples of the New Democracies!

Throughout the Soviet zone, local May Day committees were formed under the leadership of the trade unions. They included representatives of all the democratic parties of the anti-fascist bloc and of mass organisations. Mass demonstrations and meetings are being prepared in towns.

Hennecke shock workers will honour May Day with new production victories. On the eve of May Day the Hennecke shock workers were no longer isolated individuals. The movement had become a mass movement at all great plants in the Soviet zone.

In Western Germany, despite all kinds of obstacles, bans and threats, the working people prepared for demonstrations under the Communist Party slogans: Against the Atlantic Pact! For peace and the democratic unity of Germany! Against the occupation statutes and plunder of the Ruhr, against the Western powers' dismemberment of Germany!

MAY DAY IN ITALY

In its May Day message to trade unionists and all working people, the Italian General Confederation of Labour declared that the working people, “irrespective of their political opinions or religious beliefs, should be drawn in to take part in the May Day demonstration under the slogans of peace, work and unity.”

All the mass democratic organisations are mobilising their forces to hold powerful demonstrations, meetings and rallies on this great holiday of the working people. May Day committees have been formed in all towns and villages, and at factories.

The chief May Day slogans of the Italian people will be the struggle for peace, against the Atlantic Pact; defence of the people's hard-won gains; friendship and solidarity of all peace-loving peoples.

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