

Workers of All Countries, Unite!

For a Lasting Peace, for a Peoples Democracy!

**Belgrade. Organ of the Information
Bureau of the Communist and
Workers' Parties**

No 10(13) SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1948

Scanning, transription and editing:

Socialist Truth in Cyprus

<http://www.st-cyprus.co.uk>



&

Direct Democracy (Communist Party)

<http://www.directdemocracy4u.uk>



July 2012

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STRENGTHEN THE MILITANT OF WORKERS AND PEASANTS!

All the great social changes in modern society are linked with the struggle of the working class and peasantry. Marxism-Leninism teaches us that the alliance of these classes is the basis of all revolutionary activity aimed at liberating the working people from the yoke of capitalism. The history of the liberation movement during the past 50 years affords striking proof of the correctness of this thesis.

The socialist revolution in Russia was carried out by the working class jointly with the peasantry under the leadership of the working class. The victory of October 1917 would have been impossible without the firm alliance of the working class and the peasantry. The working class in the USSR, in alliance with the peasantry built a socialist society.

World War II and post-war life provides fresh evidence of the resilience and stability of the alliance of the working class and

the peasantry. In the occupied countries the workers and peasants were the force which waged a ceaseless struggle against fascist enslavement.

After the defeat of fascism profound economic changes took place in the countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe. In the course of the war against Hitler Germany and in the post-war period the peoples of these countries expropriated the property of the big capitalists and landlords. The principal means of production passed into the hands of the State, the land became the property of the peasantry and the main reactionary forces in these countries were eliminated—the big capitalists and landlords who constituted the backbone of internal fascist reaction and who bartered their people to the foreign imperialists.

There could be no economic reforms without profound political reforms. The exploiting classes were deprived of political power, which passed into the hands of the people. A new social order—the people's democracy—was created.

The working class and peasantry are the main classes effecting these revolutionary changes in the given countries. Moreover, the working class is the leading element of these revolutionary changes. The working class and peasantry are leading the rest of the people and the democratic forces of their countries.

The workers' and peasants' alliance in these countries is expressed in the close cooperation between the proletarian and progressive peasant parties.

It is well known that every capitalist and landlord party, in order to deceive and win over the masses, calls itself either a “people's”, “socialist” or “peasant” party, or masks itself under some other name.

It was necessary for the working class and its leader—the Communist Parties—to unmask these parties politically and to expose them to the people in their true colours. The Marxist parties successfully coped with this task. The struggle against the Right Socialists was particularly difficult. Entering into the service of the Anglo-American imperialists these gentlemen

skilfully camouflaged their treachery. The realisation of the initial economic and political changes such as expropriation of the capitalists and landlords, depriving them of political power, and putting down the foundations of the new state confronted the working class and peasantry with the question what shape will the further development of the economic and political life of our countries take.

The nature of these profound economic and political changes furnished the necessary conditions for developing the new democracies along the path to socialism.

From the standpoint of the historical phase of social development, the new democracies have entered the transition period from capitalism to socialism.

Lenin teaches us that the working class, firmly relying on its alliance with the peasantry, constitutes the foundation of State power during the transition period. The alliance of the working class with the peasantry is the foundation of foundations for the development of the social and state order of the countries moving towards Socialism.

The entire policy of the Communist and Workers' parties is aimed at an all-round strengthening of this alliance. The alliance of the working class and peasantry is being effected everywhere. The people's power is drawing the broad masses of the peasantry into the administration of the country. As the more experienced and politically developed, the working class is helping the peasantry to master the new and difficult work of governing the state by reposing complete political trust in the peasantry and by giving it every practical assistance.

Through the medium of all political and State organs the working class is rendering all-round economic aid to the agricultural labourers, poor and middle peasants. This aid is expressed in different forms. In Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland and other countries the industrial workers are supplying the countryside with agricultural implements, they are sending special brigades to repair agricultural machines and help the peasants gather the harvest. The State, for its part, comes to the

aid of the peasants in need of implements, seed and fertilizers, with credits.

The working class and the State are devoting special attention to building the agricultural cooperatives and are doing everything to turn them into powerful organisations which will help supply the peasantry with manufactured goods and organise agricultural production along cooperative lines.

The present-day cooperatives vary in the different stages of their development: from consumer and credit cooperatives to the higher phase of producer cooperatives in which the principal means of peasant production are coordinated.

The working class appreciates the role and importance of the Cooperatives in promoting the development of agriculture, and as the best combination of the personal interests of the peasants with the interests of the entire country, advancing towards socialism.

By helping in every way to strengthen the popular democratic nature of the cooperative movement, the working class is strengthening the alliance with the peasantry. The peasantry for their part, seeing this disinterested assistance, place still greater confidence in the working class as their political leader.

One of the decisive conditions contributing to the successful building of socialism is realisation of the fact that the land reform in the new democracies has brought into being millions of new peasant households, that these new households have promoted small-scale production and that the improved wellbeing of the bulk of the peasantry is accompanied by an increase in the kulak element in the countryside. And here it is important to remember that during the transition from capitalism to socialism the class struggle, if anything, grows sharper. Lenin teaches us that small-scale production gives birth to capitalism and the bourgeoisie, constantly, daily, hourly, spontaneously and on a mass scale.

Therefore, anyone who fails to see the class differentiation in the countryside, who ignores the danger coming from the capitalist elements, who glosses over the class struggle in the

countryside is slipping into the opportunist position of extinguishing the class struggle, whether he likes it or not, and is upholding the rotten theory of the peaceful growth of the capitalist elements into socialism. Anyone who is blind to the class struggle in the countryside and slurs over it, endangers the alliance of the working class and the building of socialism in the new democracies. Marxism-Leninism teaches that socialism cannot be built only in the towns, in industry; it must be built also in the countryside, in agriculture.

The alliance of the working class with the peasantry is likewise a matter of cardinal revolutionary importance to the Communists in the capitalist countries, because only those Communist Parties who all the time strengthen the alliance of the working class and peasantry can count on serious success in the struggle for national independence, peace and democracy.

The history of the revolutionary struggle of the working class for its liberation shows that the peasantry is the firm ally of the working class and a valuable reserve in the socialist transformation of society. With the working class pursuing a correct policy in relation to the peasantry, the peasantry can be relied upon for the most decisive revolutionary exploits alongside the working class, can be relied upon to play their role in the socialist reorganisation of society under the leadership of the working class.

An outstanding example of this is afforded by the history of socialist construction in the USSR, by the experience of the economic and political changes in the new democracies, by the examples of selfless struggle waged by the peasantry jointly with the working class in France, Italy and other countries.

The alliance of the working class and peasantry, Marxism-Leninism teaches us, is the cornerstone of all the successes achieved by the working people in the struggle for their liberation from capitalist slavery. To the working class belongs the leading role in this alliance, as the most revolutionary class modern society.

FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES, AGAINST IMPERIALISM!

PROTESTS AGAINST THE UNPRECEDENTED TERROR IN GREECE

The reign of terror and mass shooting of Greek democrats by the monarcho-fascist government have evoked the indignation and protests of world democratic public opinion. In the USSR the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions has demanded that the brutal shooting of Greek patriots be stopped at once, and has called upon the World Federation of Trade Unions to take effective measures to bridle the Greek fascists and to prevent the new atrocities that are being planned. The AUCCTU has also called upon the Women's World Federation and the youth to come out in defence of the working women and 'youth of Greece. Members of the USSR Academy of Science, writers, artist and factory workers have called upon the people of the world resolutely to protest against this fascist terror. Sharp protests have been lodged by the International Women's Federation, the Communist Party of France, the General Confederation of Labour and other democratic organisations and people prominent in public life in France, by the Executive Committee of the Popular Democratic Front in Italy, the Chamber of Labour, members of the Danish Parliament— by big public meetings in Sofia, Bucharest and Prague, the Council of Civil Liberties in Britain, leading

figures in Sweden and Norway, the American Labour Party, by representatives of trade unions and other organisations in all parts of the world. Thanks to the vigorous stand of the Popular Front Senators the Italian Government was prevented from handing over Greek democrats to the monarchist-fascist government. With fascist terror raging in Greece under the aegis of American and British patrons, reaction in Britain, under pressure of public opinion is trying to absolve itself of all responsibility for the murders by hypocritically requesting, through the British Government, data on the terror in Greece, which has been unleashed on its instructions and with its aid.

POLISH YOUTH MERGES

On June 22, a national holiday in people's Poland, a Unity Congress of the Polish Democratic Youth movement will be held.

The unity campaign and the preparation for the Congress are conducted by the Central Committee for Youth Unity, formed by the for youth organisations: the Youth league of Struggle the OMTUR (socialist), the "Vizi" (peasant), and the SMD (democratic).

The formation of the Central Committee was preceded by a number of meetings of the leading bodies of the four organisations. As a result the ideological basis of the fusion was worked out and accepted in the form of a declaration on the unify of Polish youth.

The principal aim of the united Polish youth, says the declaration, is to rally all the young people in the fight for the country's rehabilitation and development on lines consistent with people's democracy, for strengthening national independence and for building up the friendship with the international democratic youth movement.

The Youth Unity Committees, set tip throughout the country, have started wide-scale preparatory work. In this years' May

Day demonstrations, Polish youth for the first time came out as a united detachment. The appeal to establish a united organisation has had a wide response not only among members of the four organisations but also among unorganised young people. Recruitment of youth to the democratic organisations has increased and over 120,000 young workers now take part in the steadily growing labour emulation.

CZECHOSLOVAK PARLIAMENT APPROVES NEW CONSTITUTION

On May 9 the Czechoslovak parliament ratified the new Constitution which safeguards the rights and liberties won by the people. The draft of the Constitution was submitted to the people and was widely discussed prior to ratification.

Numerous suggestions of the people were taken into consideration by the Parliamentary Constitution Commission. As a result, many articles of the final text differ considerably from the draft and express more clearly the democratic gains and rights of the people. During the discussion of the draft the working people declared that the Constitution expressed their cherished aspirations and secured their path to socialism.

STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE UNITED STATES

The anti-labour Taft-Hartley Law, the Un-American Committee and other anti-democratic measures, evidently no longer satisfy United States reaction in its struggle against the democratic movement. This is evident from the so-called "Mundt Bill" which is directed against all progressive organisations and particularly against the Communist Party.

The Bill demands that the authorities are provided with a list of the members of any organisations not to the liking of American reaction. These black lists will be used to persecute the members of these organisations.

A big protest movement against this has started among labour and progressive opinion. The Communist Party has called for a struggle against this latest attack on civil liberties. The Democratic Liberties Committee, headed by Senator Taylor and ten Congressmen, has voiced similar objections. Their protest was signed by 386 prominent trade unionists.

The Bill has been denounced by a group of Third-Party leaders from seven states. The CIO Centre in New York has issued a resolution calling on workers to resist the dangerous aims of the Bill. The Electrical Workers' Union in Philadelphia and the Printers' Union have requested Pennsylvania Congressmen to vote against the Bill.

E.C. MEETING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ALLIANCE

An Executive meeting of the International Students Alliance was held in Bucharest a few days ago. The Alliance unites in its ranks numerous organisations of the democratic student youth. Because of the recent changes in Czechoslovakia, reactionary and Catholic organizations in the U.S., in Scandinavian and West European countries, withdrew from the international body. However, despite attempts to disrupt it, the organisation is growing stronger. It was joined recently by a number of student organisations in Canada, Australia, Mexico and the U. S.

The Executive Committee decided to address a call to students throughout the world for resolute resistance against attempts by reaction to disrupt the unity of International Student movement.

It denounced the Anglo-American imperialist as stranglers of the liberation struggles of the peoples of India, Spain and Greece; as the instigators and protectors of reactionary governments, to whom they are giving material and military aid.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEFEAT OF HITLER GERMANY

All progressive mankind, the entire anti-imperialist and democratic camp, the forces of which are steadily growing and gaining in strength, celebrated May 9, 1948, the third anniversary of the defeat of Hitler Germany.

World War II ended in the complete destruction of the dark forces of fascist reaction which strove to reverse the wheel of history, to return mankind to the gloom of the Middle Ages. The peoples of Europe, enslaved by German fascism, endured bitter privations. But it was the great land of the Soviets itself, invaded by Hitler Germany, that withstood the greatest test in a war unprecedented in the history of mankind, a war that

entailed great sacrifice, superhuman effort and which required the mobilisation of every resource, both human and economic. The Soviet Union sustained losses in manpower far exceeding those of Britain and the United States taken together. Both the nations indebted to the Soviet Army, for their liberation and the whole of mankind will always remember this heroic and selfless exploit of the armed forces of the Soviet Union.

History has lifted the lid and exposed the criminal gamble with nations destinies, the intrigues that prevented the unification of the peace-loving states against fascist aggression, the brazen efforts to isolate the USSR from the very outset and to divert Hitler aggression eastward against the Soviet Union.

“By their selfless struggle the Soviet people saved European civilisation from the fascist pogrom makers.

Therein lies the great service of the Soviet people to the history of mankind.” (J. Stalin)

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), created and educated by Lenin and Stalin, was the zealous inspirer and staunch organiser of the great victory of the Soviet Union in the Patriotic War against Hitler Germany.

As a result of the victory, more links dropped from the chain of imperialism. The Soviet Army routed the Hitler troops in Rumania, Poland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Hungary. Profound democratic changes took place in these countries. The State power was taken over by the people who, under the guidance of the Communist and Workers' parties are actively working to consolidate the gains of the people's democracy. These countries are advancing towards socialism in their own way. In many of the countries of Europe—Yugoslavia, Poland, Greece, France, Czechoslovakia and others, the peoples waged a valiant fight against the fascist invaders and contributed in no small measure to the destruction of the common enemy. This struggle was headed by the Communists—faithful defenders of the national interests of the people. The prestige and influence of the Communist Parties have increased throughout the world. This is but natural. The

influence of the Communists has grown,” stated Comrade Stalin, “because in the difficult years of fascist domination in Europe the Communists proved to be the reliable, bold and selfless champions against the fascist regime and for the freedom of the peoples.”

But world imperialist reaction cannot become reconciled to the progressive changes that have marked the onward march of history.

It was pointed out in the Conference Declaration of the nine Communist Parties, even during the war there were differences in the allied camp regarding the definition of both war aims and the tasks of the postwar peace settlement. Whereas the Soviet Union and the democratic countries regarded their basic war aims to be the restoration and consolidation of democratic order in Europe, the prevention of the possibility of new fascist aggression on the part of Germany and the establishment of cooperation among peoples, the United States and Great Britain set themselves another aim—to rid themselves of Germany and Japan as competitors on the markets and to establish their dominant position.

During the three years since the end of the war, the Soviet Union, supported by the progressive and democratic forces, has consistently and persistently fought for a lasting and democratic peace, for universal security and genuine cooperation between peoples.

The reactionary imperialist circles, headed by American and British finance capital, are endeavouring to split the world into hostile camps; they are forming alliances and blocs to veil their aggressive, expansionist aims of struggle against Communism.

In the three years since the defeat of Hitler Germany, the US Government has directed every effort toward extending its network of naval and air bases throughout the world, including the countries directly bordering on the USSR. The military alliance of the Western countries, composed of Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg, an alliance directed against the Soviet Union and the new democracies, came into

existence thanks to the patronage of the United States.

The so-called “economic” aid to Europe based on the Marshall Plan serves as camouflage for the predatory plans of American imperialism, plans which aim to save US economy from the oncoming crisis and to deprive the peoples of Western Europe of their national independence and freedom.

The ruling circles of the United States, Britain and France grossly violated the decisions of the Berlin Conference, adopted to further the

Yalta Declaration on Germany. As a result, the programme of the demilitarisation and democratisation of Germany has been disrupted and in the Western zones the monopolists, reactionaries of all shades, militarists and armed remnants of fascist reaction are accorded every encouragement.

All this, the outcome of the United States' policy during the recent period, could not but strain the international situation and lead to unsatisfactory Soviet-American relations.

To the Right Socialists, who have long since betrayed the working class and the national interests of their people, falls the disgusting role of zealous accomplices of the warmongers.

At the recent conference of the Right Socialists, Leon Blum tried to prove that “Europe will never again be an independent economic unit,” that it is “the duty of Socialism to reject the conception of national sovereignty” and that “it is beyond the

peoples of Europe to rehabilitate their war-devastated countries... “ The Right Socialists want to disarm the people, to undermine their confidence in their creative forces and to make them subservient to imperialism. In league with Churchill, they are servilely taking part in the Hague conference, thus helping imperialist reaction to set up an international, office known as the “United States of Europe”, and to place the economy natural wealth and resources of the European countries wholly at the disposal of monopoly capital.

The success and growth of, the forces of democracy and socialism are not at all to the liking of the imperialists.

“The brilliant victory of Socialism in the Great Patriotic War,

which was also a brilliant victory of Marxism, has become a bone in the throat of imperialism.” (Zhdanov)

The Soviet Union was the leading and decisive force in the military defeat of Germany and Japan. The first socialist state of workers and peasants in the world, inspired by Stalin's genius, utterly routed the most powerful enemy. The Soviet Union emerged from the war stronger than ever, and rallied around the Soviet Union are the democratic and progressive forces of the world.

With every passing day the anti-imperialist and democratic camp is consolidating its ranks. The Communist and Workers' parties, the genuine defenders of the national independence of the peoples, vigilantly guard over the peace and security of the peoples and are confidently advancing towards new victories of socialism and democracy.

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TOGLIATTI'S REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ITALY

Beginning on May 4 the Executive Committee of the Communist Party held a 3-day session in Rome, attended by members of the Central Control Commission, at which Comrade Togliatti reported on the recent election results and the policy of the Party.

In his opening remarks Comrade Togliatti stressed that the meeting should serve as the starting point for extensive discussion throughout the Party organisations and branches. He urged the need for criticism and self-criticism in the discussion for a frank discussion of the Party's policy and activity in order to "determine the mistakes and weak points and rectify them".

Togliatti noted that the election campaign marked an important phase in the struggle now being waged on an international scale between the forces in the reactionary and imperialist coalition and the forces in the democratic and anti-imperialist camp. The offensive which was begun by the imperialist forces against the USSR, the new democracies and working people after the conference of the nine Communist Parties in Poland, has ended in a defeat for the imperialists and the reactionaries. The Soviet Union has gained in prestige during recent months, the people's power in the countries of Eastern Europe has taken root and these countries are on the high road to recovery under

the leadership of the Communist Parties and their allies. The hopes of the imperialists to isolate the popular forces and smash them have come to nought.

In Italy the imperialist coalition mobilised all its forces to crush the Popular Democratic Front and especially the Communist Party on election day— April 18. A coalition of all the reactionary and conservative forces in the country was formed around the Catholic Church and under the aegis of American imperialism. Moreover, the electorate, was subjected to unlawful pressure by the State apparatus with the aid of which the Government waged an unprecedented campaign of terror and corruption and indulged in lavish promises. This campaign of intimidation and coercion of all honest persons revealed the true essence of so-called Western democracy and to what lengths it is prepared to go. This experience once again demonstrated that the moment the democratic and peaceful development of the popular movement threatens the privileges of the propertied caste, this caste discards all norms of democracy and resorts to deception, terror and violence. The Party and the masses must draw the necessary conclusions from this, conclusions which should not be mere extremist chatter but which would steel the Party and the people for the struggle ahead, would rid them of all illusions and help them appreciate the significance of the democratic order to which the working class and the socialist movement want to lead the people.

THE RESULTS OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Togliatti considers that the most important features of the election campaign were the following:

1. The interference of the “Azione Cattolica” as the driving force and leading element in the reactionary coalition. This organisation was responsible for the main line in the programme of the Christian-Democratic Party, appointed its

candidates and guided its propaganda. Headed by bishops, priests and the church hierarchy the “Azione Cattolica” was the backbone of the dense network of Christian-Democratic organisations. It succeeded in giving the reactionary coalition an aureole of a mass following, something which no other leading group of the bourgeoisie, neither the Liberals, Qualunquists, nor even the embryonic group of social-democracy, was capable of ensuring. This was the first time in the history of Italy, that the “Azione Cattolica” took part openly in a political struggle headed by reactionary forces. It was also the first instance in which this organisation and the Catholic church so blatantly took upon themselves the leadership of the conservative bloc.

2. The appearance of a social-democratic force of the traditional type which tries to take root among certain groups of the labour aristocracy and middle-class strata, who are under the influence of this section of the working class. This force has a following mainly in certain centres in the North where the bulk of the urban population is conscious of the need for social recovery and where, social-democracy is out to split the popular movement and, under the mask of Socialism, to corrupt groups of the working class and middle class strata.

The appearance of the Saragat social-democrats undoubtedly confronts the democratic movement, and especially the Communist Party in the North, with new problems.

3. Decrease in the Left vote. The parties of the Left lost about a million votes, and these mainly in the North. In Central Italy, on the other hand, there were no substantial changes in the electorate that voted for the workers' parties— some districts registered a drop in votes, others an increase. There was progress in the South but not to the extent anticipated.

Thus, concluded Togliatti, we see a certain weakening of the popular movement in the North, even though there are progressive democratic forces there: the working class and agricultural labourers. We are making progress, although not rapidly enough in the South where the poor peasantry and

small urban and rural bourgeoisie are coming forward as the allies of the working class. Account should also be taken of the mass of voters who are not closely linked with the Left parties. It is this mass of voters, whom we hardly know and with whom we have but slight contact, that compared to the 1946 election gave an additional 41/2 million votes to the Christian-Democratic Party.

THE DANGER OF A CLERICAL DICTATORSHIP

All these facts taken as a whole, continued Togliatti, fail to give a positive picture of the development of the Italian democratic movement. The interference of American imperialism and the Vatican represented a gross violation of national sovereignty and gravely threaten the independence of Italy. Defence of our independence must now be the keynote of the democratic struggle.

In the sphere of domestic policy there looms the danger of a one-party totalitarian regime with certain accessories of little significance. It is obvious that the Christian-Democratic Party is endeavouring to lay hands on all levers of the national life in order to secure its positions in the most blatant form. The probabilities are that in the political sphere this totalitarian position will correspond to the “corporative” type of programme in the economic field, which means delaying structural reforms, curtailing trade union liberties, endangering social gains, etc. To this should be added the interference of the “Marshall Plan” which, undoubtedly, will put a brake on the development and autonomy of the national economy as a whole. Finally, all this increases the danger to peace. It goes without saying that the Christian-Democratic Party will try to draw Italy into the Western military bloc. There is already talk of armament plans which aim to involve Italy in new war ventures.

The positive aspects in this situation are the stable bloc of 8 million Italians who withstood all violence and displayed their determination to follow the path of recovery, and the strength, militancy and growth of the Communist Party which emerged from the election struggle more organised, militant and with its influence considerably increased.

Explaining why the election results were not what was expected Togliatti said that these results should, not be ascribed to the political line of the Party. Our political line was correct from beginning to end, stated Togliatti. Correct also was the policy of unity which gave birth to the Popular Front. It should be remembered that the Socialists and Communists regarded the Front as something more than an election organisation, a broad and profound unity movement of the popular forces, a movement which was to lead them into the counter—offensive and constitute the organisational element in winning the new democracy. To have fought the election in a different form would have been a mistake, would have caused a split in the country and in Parliament and might have isolated the Party in the struggle.

However, it is also true that during the election campaign the Front was not everywhere what it should have been, namely, a militant organisation leading the people in the struggle, uniting all the healthy elements of the people in this struggle. In some places the Front was merely a propaganda organisation and failed to conduct the election struggle along new lines, to impart the new experience to the masses and expose the reactionary character of the conservative political groups in the course of the struggle.

Togliatti mentioned shortcomings that came to the fore in the campaign against social-reformism and the belated reaction of Party organisations to the influence of social-democracy among certain groups of the labour aristocracy and middle-class sections.

THE NEW TASKS OF THE PARTY

After stressing the failings of Party propaganda, Togliatti dwelt on the perspectives of the popular movement and the tasks confronting the Party. The essential task of the popular forces, he said, is to expose and liquidate anti-Communism which once before led the country and democracy to disaster.

Togliatti emphasised that the prospect of establishing a progressive democracy in Italy is something real. It is linked, he said with the main aspects of an entire historical period. The results of the April election do not, and cannot alter the main features of this historical perspective . If anything these results must help the Party to a better understanding of certain aspects of the struggle which it is waging, to realise this historical perspective. The election results show that there can be no new democracy without first destroying the privileges and positions of the old castes who have a monopoly of economic and political power, without structural reforms, without establishing a wide and firm network of people's organisations of a political, economic and trade union nature.

These factors determine the tasks of the Party for the immediate future. The struggle for reforms must be renewed and developed. Agitation for the vital demands of the workers, peasants and office employees must be intensified. We must insist that the burden of taxation borne by the middle-class strata be eased, we must fight for peace and civil liberties.

The job now is to work with vigour and energy in Parliament and in the country for the realisation of the Front's programme. This means extending and strengthening the Front organisations. The danger of a clerical dictatorship and arbitrariness on the part of the Christian-Democratic Party offer wide possibilities in this direction. The Front must come forward as the central factor in the opposition to Christian-Democratic totalitarianism in all its aspects, in the sphere of economy, foreign policy, defence of democratic liberties, and in the sphere of culture.

Togliatti warns against any illusions that this process can be effected rapidly. He anticipated a period of arduous struggle and stressed the danger to trade union unity, freedom and autonomy; he warned against the attempts to exclude the trade unions from the democratic struggle and recalled the 1944 Rome agreement concerning the trade unions which described the struggle in defence of democracy and freedom as a cardinal task. Togliatti said that unity with the fraternal Socialist Party which the Communist Party will support in the spirit of fraternal solidarity, while respecting mutual autonomy, constitutes the main and valuable element in the difficult struggle ahead. It is also necessary to strengthen the Party's contact with the other democratic groups and movements in the Popular Front.

Togliatti suggested that all matters affecting the activity of the Party be thoroughly examined by the special commissions under the leadership of the Executive Committee, and said that he was confident that if the Party seriously and frankly engaged in self-criticism, if it eliminated its weaknesses without loss of time, it would draw new strength and vigour from the recent election struggle.

“Over a period of years,” stated Togliatti, “under the difficult conditions of foreign occupation and a reactionary regime we have built up a . vast and powerful organisation, new in the history of our country and our labour movement. The enemy offensive failed to destroy this organisation. We shall go forward along our path, stronger' and more capable of finally ensuring our people with a future of progress, justice and peace.”

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MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions was recently held in Rome. The agenda included the following questions: the administration and policy of WFTU: the trade union movement in Germany: WFTU's activities in defence of the principle of equal pay for equal

work.

In spite of the various manoeuvres of Anglo-American trade union organisations to undermine unity of action of the international trade union movement, the meeting concluded with a call for solidarity and consolidation in defence of the common interests of working people throughout the world. A resolution on the administration and policy of WFTU says that no national trade union centre shall be allowed to gain a dominant position in WFTU with the aim of preventing other national centres of groups from expressing their opinion.

A resolution on the German trade union movement vigorously protests against the way the authorities in Bizonia are hindering the free development of the movement in Western Germany. The resolution calls upon the German trade unions to form a Central Committee as soon as possible which WFTU will instantly recognise as a representative body of German trade unions.

In the resolution on equal pay for equal work the meeting emphasised that discrimination against women labour is especially flagrant in colonial and dependent countries. It urged national trade union centres to struggle resolutely in defence of women workers. The Executive Committee also pointed out that reaction was intensifying its offensive against workers' trade union and democratic rights. In many countries strikes were banned and workers took part in them under penalty of death.

The Executive Committee decided to demand a guarantee from the United Nations that the trade union movement should be allowed to develop freely throughout the world.

The meeting vigorously protested against the unprecedented terror of the monarchist-fascist government in Greece and expressed its wholehearted sympathy with the heroic struggle of the Greek working people.

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ROLE OF THE WORKING CLASS IN CREATING RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC. Vasile Luca. Secretary, Central Committee Rumanian Workers Party

The criminal anti-democratic and anti-popular policy pursued by the bourgeois-landlord clique and Right Social Democrats, dating from the time of the first world war became completely bankrupt as a result of the predatory war waged against the Soviet Union.

This policy made our country a pawn in the hands of imperialism. Foreign trusts held sway in the country.

The anti-democratic policy of the reactionary parties then in

power pushed Rumania on to the path of fascism and led, finally, to the Antonescu dictatorship. As a result of the national betrayal by the Antonescu clique, who, in fact, enjoyed the support of all the old bourgeois parties, our country was occupied and plundered by Hitler. Rumania became a strong point of fascist Germany in the war against the Soviet Union. Her people, regarded as being fit only for cannon fodder, were sacrificed in the interests of Hitler Germany.

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FASCIST DICTATORSHIP

The only party that fought for democratic liberties, that ceaselessly exposed the anti-national, imperialistic and anti-Soviet policy of the reactionary fascist clique was the party of the working class, the Communist Party of Rumania, which carried on its work in conditions of fierce tenor.

The Communist Party, weaknesses and shortcomings notwithstanding, was throughout the consistent organiser of the struggle against the dictatorship and against the anti-Soviet war, the organiser of the struggle for a new, democratic Rumania.

The Party played a decisive role in bringing about the act of August 23rd, 1944, when by means of a state coup, the Antonescu regime was overthrown and our people turned their guns on Hitler Germany.

It is important to remember that the absence at the time of an all-out mobilisation of the mass of the people, enabled the reactionary parties—National Peasant and National Liberal—to turn the situation to advantage and to take the leading part in the new government. This fact exercised a profoundly negative influence on the political situation that followed the events of August 23rd. The liquidation of this influence necessitated a bitter struggle, considerable sacrifice, and brought much suffering to the people of Rumania.

The monarchy, and the so-called Historical Parties, tried hard to bring the people once again under their influence in spite of the fact that they had seriously compromised themselves by underhand dealings with Antonescu and the German and also to absolve themselves of their responsibility for Rumania's disaster.

They wanted to retain their role of masters of the country and their class privileges and, it goes without saying, they wanted to keep the working class and the Communist Party out of the government. They tried to isolate the Communist Party from the people, to create an anti-Communist and anti-Soviet bloc and in doing so mobilised all the remnants of the fascist legionaries, all the reactionary elements in the state organs and, with the aid of the Right Social Democrats, endeavoured to attract the Social Democrat Party to their side.

This reactionary activity and the criminal preparations to sabotage the front and disorganise the rear of the Soviet and Rumanian armies fighting shoulder to shoulder for final victory over fascism was supported by Anglo-American imperialist circles. But despite this, neither the monarchy nor the old bourgeois-landlord parties were able to regain their lost positions.

On the contrary, the leading political role and this was decisive for the democratic development of Rumania—had been taken over by the working class at the head of which stood the Communist Party. After the ideological and organisational unification of the working class, the Rumanian Workers' Party took the helm.

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY

The realisation of popular democracy in the Peoples' Republic of Rumania and the opening up of the path to socialism were determined by three decisive factors,

First,—the act of August 23rd 1944—was the outcome of the defeat suffered by Hitler and his allies who were smashed by the valiant Soviet Army; also the Soviet Army entered Rumania as an army of liberation.

The same can be said of other countries of Eastern and South Eastern Europe who were liberated directly by or with the aid of the Soviet Army. Without the victory of the Soviet Army over fascism, without the destruction of the fascist beast in his B... den, the new type of democracy, whose path these conditions opened up, would not have been created.

The significance of this fact has been confirmed over and over again by the experience of Greece, Italy, France and other countries where the first concern of the Anglo-American troops was the disarming of the National resistance forces and the handing over of state power to collaborators.

Without any interference whatsoever in our domestic affairs, and by preventing others from dictating their will to our country, the Soviet Union and its glorious Army cleared the way for the unfettered development of the democratic forces in our country, and provided the people of Rumania with the opportunity to take their destiny into their own hands.

The Second Factor: the Rumanian Communist Party, the party of the working class, consistently following the path of Marxism-Leninism, and applying it to the new conditions, resolutely combated all tendencies alien to the interests of the people.

In this way the Party was able to rally around the working class its natural allies, the peasantry, the forward looking intelligentsia and the middle class.

Combating opportunism and fighting for the Marxist-Leninist ideology, the Communist Party of Rumania became the genuine representative of the national interests of the people; it scorned nationalist chauvinism and did not tend toward bourgeois nationalism.

Our Party, the vanguard of the working class, was the initiator of the so-called programmatic platform which was the starting

point for co-operation between the democratic forces. It initiated the liquidation of the remnants of feudalism by means of the agrarian reform; it initiated all the political, economic and social reforms carried out in Rumania. It was due to the Communist Party's initiative that the People's Republic of Rumania was created.

The Communist Party ceaselessly exposed the pseudo-democracy of the bourgeois-landlord parties who were in the service of foreign imperialists. Thanks to their activity, the Communist Party and after the unification of the working class movement, the United Workers' Party, won the leadership of the working people of town and country.

In this way the Party of the working class was able to exercise decisive influence over the labouring peasantry and strengthened its bond with the Ploughman's Front, the mass organisation of the peasantry.

The Party built up the alliance of the working class and peasantry, helped the peasants to raise their cultural-economic standards and helped liberate them from the influence of the profiteering, capitalist and exploiting elements..

Thanks to this help of the Party, the peasants are no longer a tool in the hands of the bourgeois-landlord parties to be employed against the workers and against their own interests. The labouring peasantry have taken firmly to a new path—a path common to workers and peasants alike, and are securing more and more democratic gains.

The Workers' Party is not the product of a compromise between the Communist and Socialist Parties. It grew out of the ideological and tactical struggle waged by the Communists and honest elements in the Social Democrat Party against the Right Social Democrats who pursued a policy of collaboration with internal reaction and with imperialistic circles abroad. It developed not on the basis of an unprincipled fusion of the two parties, but as a result of the long experience acquired by the working class when it was divided and in the course of the joint struggle for the United Front which was formed by both parties

in May 1944.

The uncompromising struggle waged by the Communist Party against reaction and trends alien to the interests of the working people, a struggle that gripped and rallied the entire working class, resulted in the isolation of the Right Social Democrats both, in the trade unions and among the workers in the factories.

The left wing of the Social Democratic Party, gained in strength and numbers as a result of the powerful rank and file movement for the formation of a single working class party. Based on the teachings of the renowned leaders of the world proletariat, Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin—the Workers' Party is leading the people of Rumania along the path of People's Democracy towards socialism.

The Third Factor a factor of outstanding importance without which the future of the new democracies could not have been secured—namely the solidarity and cooperation between the new democracies and between them and the USSR in the joint struggle for peace, freedom and national independence.

The Rumanian people learnt this from experience—from the struggle against the attempts by imperialist circles to dictate to Rumania her political evolution, to switch her on to another path, the path which in the past brought our country to the brink of destruction, to the path of hostile relations with the Soviet Union.

The people of Rumania were conscious of this support and help on the part of the USSR both at the peace conference and during the grim days of the drought which threatened our country with famine.

Our people were also conscious of Soviet support in the struggle for the rehabilitation of the country's economy and finances—a rehabilitation that would have been impossible without the generous economic cooperation of the USSR and the neighbouring people's democracies.

Our people responded with wholehearted enthusiasm to the signing of treaties of friendship and mutual aid between the

USSR and the new democracies. The Rumanian people regard these as a special factor for securing peace, which is necessary for the growth and development of our republic.

In taking the path of people's democracy and creating the people's republic, the Party of the working class was faced with no easy job. It had to secure for the working class the leading role in building the people's democracy, since only the leading role of the working class could ensure this development going the socialist way.

Had our Party, during the struggle for national liberation for the gains of liberation and in defence of our national sovereignty which now, with fascism defeated, is threatened by another group of imperialists headed by the United States, departed from revolutionary Marxism-Leninism, we would now be confronted with the danger of being diverted to the path of bourgeois nationalism.

AGAINST BOURGEOIS NATIONALISM

Nationalistic, jingo and anti-Semitic elements and the elements of fascism had a measure of strength, especially in Transylvania where among the Hungarians and Rumanians chauvinist prejudice had penetrated into the trade unions and the Party.

Both reaction at home and the imperialist circles tried, just as Hitler had done to turn this situation to their advantage. They wanted to rupture the unity of the parties of the working class and the democratic forces during the solution of the Transylvanian problem and by supporting Hitler's notorious Vienna Award wanted to drive a wedge between the Rumanians and Hungarians and to keep them at loggerheads.

Waging a resolute struggle against the chauvinistic elements and fighting for a democratic solution of the problems in the way of the coexistence of the two nationalities, the Party routed the intrigues of the chauvinists and replaced discord and

animosity with sincere and loyal cooperation between Rumanian and Hungarian democrats.

The working people among the Hungarian population of Transylvania fought for—and today are working alongside their Rumanian fellows,—for the flowering of the people's republic.

However, it would be a serious error on our part were we to rest on our laurels overlook our shortcomings and forget about the very big tasks that still await fulfilment, both in relation to Party life and in building up the people's democracy. We have in our Party numerous petty bourgeois elements through which alien influences penetrate to our ranks. The level of the Party cadres, politically and ideologically, is low.

Much remains to be done before we will be able by means of criticism and self-criticism, to get rid of our shortcomings.

Never for a moment sinking its identity, by being the vanguard unit of the working class, by faithfully keeping to the path outlined by the great teachers of the world proletariat, Mane, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, and by combating all trends and tendencies alien to the interests of the people, the Party of the working class won the leadership of the working people of town and country. Ever at the head of the struggle for the national, economic, political and social interests of the people, our Party has won great prestige and the people place their trust in it.

Under the leadership of the Party, the people of Rumania triumphed over all the obstacles encountered on the way to democracy, they routed reaction and its strongest of strong points—the monarchy. They overcame the serious financial economic difficulties and created the people's republic.

Led by the Workers' Party the working people irrespective of nationality are rebuilding the country on new foundations. They are moving forward towards the abolition of the exploitation of man by man, utilising on behalf of the people the enormous national resources of the country, they are laying the cornerstones of a prosperous and cultured life, the

foundations of a flowering people's republic in Rumania.

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STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE IN HOLLAND. P. de Groot, General Secretary Central Committee Communist Party, Holland

A general election will take place in Holland in July. The immediate reason for the election is connected with revision of the Constitution and the new status of Indonesia.

After the defeat of Japan the people of Indonesia who for over 20 years had been fighting for their independence, set up their own republican state.

At first the Dutch Government seemed to reconcile itself to this accomplished fact. Last year, however, it sharply changed its views on this matter.

Under American pressure, furnished with American and British arms and credits and following the advice of the American Consul in Batavia, Walter Foot, the Dutch Government put a colonial army in the field and after a number of large-scale actions seized considerable territory in Java and Sumatra.

Contrary to a decision by the Security Council of the United Nations, colonial power was restored on those territories and today the people there are continuing their struggle against the Dutch forces.

The colonial war has reduced to ruins the bulk of enterprises belonging to colonisers. The Dutch imperialists are banking on the United States to restore these enterprises the cost of which is estimated at 15 billion florins.

The Americans are eager to make capital investments in those

rich colonies which occupy important strategic positions in South-eastern Asia. But they are not quite sure how the people of Indonesia will react to their projects. Consequently, they are asking for guarantees and one of the guarantees is that the sovereignty of Holland be preserved throughout Indonesia as a cover for American capital.

That is why the Dutch parliament decided to revise the Constitution, to replace the somewhat bald formulation of Dutch domination with that of a Dutch-Indonesian "alliance" in which Holland will wield the political, economic and military power.

This fact reveals the main concern of the Dutch bourgeoisie, which is out to regain its former rich colonial possessions. It also reveals the full significance of American domination in Holland and in its colonies. In their endeavour to regain at least part of their colonial possessions the big capitalists of the country, supported by the Labour Party, have turned to Wall Street.

That is why they called up 200,000 conscripts, (the former army of colonial troops no longer sufficed), and that is why they are now heavily in debt to America.

As a result Holland is now far more dependent on the US than the other countries of Western Europe. Its national economy, not to mention the liberties of its people, are in danger.

Holland's adherence to the Brussels Pact was accompanied by a violent anti-Communist campaign and anti-democratic measures. Immediately after the attempt to stage a reactionary putsch in Czechoslovakia, reaction, with the support of the Labour Party, tried to work up a scare and to isolate the Communist Party. In the municipal councils of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and other cities the Marshall parties demanded the resignation of Communist councillors. The Government for its part is preparing corresponding legislation. Moreover, the majority in Parliament called for the removal of the Communist representative from the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Commission.

The Communist Party has replied vigorously to these anti-democratic attacks by calling upon the masses to hold demonstrations and meetings.

In Amsterdam these demonstrations were accompanied by one-day protest strikes in the port, factories and on construction sites. In a number of factories and workshops the workers passed protest resolutions.

Demonstrations were also held in other cities, and in several municipal councils Labour members refused to support the anti-Communist measures.

During the war Holland suffered damages estimated at 25 billion florins. The annual budget deficit since then has been in the region of 2 billion florins including 11/2 billion for military expenditure. Apart from this the Dutch Treasury has allocated 51/2 billion florins for military and administrative needs in Indonesia. Here it should be noted that part of this sum is derived from American, Canadian, British or Belgian loans. Just how considerable these sums are can be gathered from the fact that normal budget expenditure rarely exceeds 31/2 billion florins annually.

The industrial and agricultural production reached the 1938 level only last year, while engineering and the output of consumer goods are lagging. The 1947 output index was lower than the 1938 figure. The trade balance shows an enormous deficit since imports exceed exports by 50 per cent. The 1948 balance of payments promises a deficit of 1½ billion florins. After the transfer of foreign currency and existing gold reserve there will still be a deficit of 911 million florins. So that Holland offers fresh proof that American "aid" is paid for by the economic, political and military enslavement of the countries receiving this "aid".

The Communist Party of Holland declares that it is prepared to accept loans from any country, but denounces the plan of the Wall Street imperialists who are using credits to prepare for a new world war and for the political and economic enslavement

of the peoples of Holland and Indonesia. By carrying the Marshall supplies in American ships the US is competing with the Dutch merchant fleet, by curtailing steel deliveries to Holland the United States is paralysing the Dutch Shipbuilding industry. The reduced supplies of fertilizers and oil-cakes, the import of egg powder, canned food and California fruits (despite the abundance of fruit in the country) constitute a serious danger to Holland's agriculture.

It should be noted that if anything, the adhesion of Holland to the Brussels pact aggravates the contradictions between the West European countries.

The competition between French and Belgian goods has seriously injured the Dutch producer. Rotterdam is waging a tariff war with Antwerp; the Dutch-Belgian payment balance is unfavourable for Holland. That is why Belgium has demanded the transfer of gold and cancelled its credits; the American and British occupation authorities of Western Germany are actually boycotting Dutch canals and ports and are giving preference to Hamburg or Bremen.

The Communist Party is urging the people to resist this American policy of enslaving the country. It is supporting the activity of the trade unions which hold strong positions in the key industries. The Labour Party, on the other hand is actually, a Marshall Party. It is obvious that the leaders of this party, formed after the war when the former Social-Democratic Party was dissolved, are relying on the aid of the American bankers. Active behind the scenes are the agents of the American trusts and Royal-Dutch oil company.

Throwing overboard the theory and practice of the labour movement and endorsing the colonial war, the Labour Party, which is hostile to the Soviet Union and the people's democracies, is losing the confidence of the working people, the majority of whom, as was shown by the May Day demonstrations, are following the Communist Party.

The Catholic Party, the most influential in the country, is split on the colonial issue.

With the aim of uniting these disillusioned elements the Communist Party is working for a broad popular movement based on “Committees of struggle for peace, prosperity, democracy and national independence.”

At a conference in Amsterdam, held at the beginning of April, 400 delegates elaborated a programme of concrete demands and elected a committee consisting of prominent Communist leaders, Socialists and Catholics. Preparations for similar conferences are under way in other towns and rural centres, and a national congress which will coordinate the activities of the local people's committees, will be held later this year.

Reaction will be sure to use the election campaign for a bitter attack against the Communist Party. However, this onslaught will be offset by the firmness and discipline of the Party, and by the confidence of the masses in the Party.

Our Party is confident of its strength derived from its correct policy, from the universal growth of the forces of democracy and socialism with which it is linked.

These forces saved the world from fascist barbarism, and by their unity and international solidarity will secure a lasting and democratic peace.

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PARTY CHRONICLE

ELECTION APPEAL OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of

Czechoslovakia has issued an appeal to the working people of the country on the forthcoming Parliamentary elections.

The appeal explains why, before, February, the Communist Party wanted to contest the elections independently. The reason was the increasingly unfavourable situation created by reaction inside the National Front.

The February events brought victory to the people and resulted in the regeneration of the National Front as a stable union of workers, peasants, intellectuals, small craftsmen and traders and as a brotherhood of all honest Czechs and Slovaks trying to build a people's democratic republic. The basic questions of national development arising out of the February events go far beyond the bounds of individual political parties. That is why the regenerated National Front will contest the elections with joint lists of candidates.

The appeal also stresses the successful development of the Republic since the liberation, emphasises the leading role of the Communist Party in this development and exposes the treachery of reaction.

The elections, says the appeal, will be a vote of the working people for the victorious unity of the people; for the speedier fulfilment of the Two Year Plan, for the gathering of a good harvest for the successful realisation of the Five Year Plan which will create the necessary conditions for a better life for the working people marching towards socialism.

The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia calls upon all loyal Czechs and Slovaks to work for the Republic and to secure a glorious victory for the National Front on election day, May 30th.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE HUNGARIAN WORKERS' PARTY

The joint political committee of the Communist and Social-Democrat Parties of Hungary has issued a draft programme of

the Hungarian Workers' Party.

The declaration consists of five sections. The first section deals with the general crisis of capitalism, the victory of socialism in the Soviet Union, the development of people's democracy and the struggle of the democratic forces against the imperialist camp. The second section analyses the development of the working class movement in Hungary and criticises the Right leadership of the Social Democrat Party.

The third section is devoted to the changes in the class structure of the Hungarian people's democracy. The fourth outlines the Party programme in political, economic, social and cultural life and also in the sphere of defence and foreign policy.

The fifth section shows the role of the Party as the vanguard of the working class.

The declaration will be submitted for ratification to the Unity Congress.

WORKING PEOPLE OF ITALY JOIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY

After the election the recruitment of new members to the Italian Communist Party has greatly increased. A characteristic feature of this is that women and young people constitute a considerable part of the applicants.

On April 24, 91 people (26 of them women) joined the Party in Milan; in Naples 955 new members were accepted from April 20 to 29; in Rome, 49; in Bologna 208 people joined in the two weeks after the election.

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PRESS REVIEW

QUESTIONS OF PARTY LIFE. (“Rabotnichesko Delo”—organ of the Bulgarian Workers' Party (Communist))



Today, when the role and influence of the Communist and of the Workers' Parties is growing immeasurably, the strengthening of inner Party life is of great significance in the matter of educating the Party members, in raising their ideological standard and preparing them for their vanguard role.

This applies especially to those countries where the Communist Parties have become the leading force in the State and are called upon to guide and educate the people and help them to master Marxist-Leninist theory.

“Rabotnichesko Delo” (“Workers’ Cause”), organ of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Workers’ Party (Communist) pays serious attention to inner Party activities.

It systematically publishes material describing activities of Party organisations, their achievements and short-comings. The section “Party Life”, gives detailed of the Party conferences held in a number of the bigger regional organisations during April.

“The Party Conference at Gorna Djumaya”, writes Rabotnichesko Delo, “was attended by 141 delegates from the town and village organisations. The report of the District Committee dealt with Party activities over the past year. Party organisations conducted propaganda work among large numbers of people and actively assisted in realising Government measures. The Two-Year Plan targets set for the district were reached, thanks to the stubborn efforts of the Party organisation. The workers donated to the Republic 64,000 work days without pay and their work was valued at 19 million leva. Work brigades organised by the Party visited 35 villages and helped the villagers with work valued at 1,500,000 leva.

The Party organisation scored a big success in developing national culture. The first Macedonian theatre opened in Gorna Djumata as well as a school for the Macedonian language. An outstanding organisational success was achieved in the development of the cooperative movement.

Alongside these successes the newspaper notes that serious shortcomings and weaknesses were revealed. There was no planning of the work, organisation lacked discipline, there was too little criticism and self-criticism, inadequate help given to the village organisations and cooperatives. These shortcomings were subjected to criticism in the delegates speeches to the Conference.

The Conference also stressed the need for increased vigilance. Reviewing the Party Conference in Lom, "Rabotnichesko Delo" noted the lack of organisational and propaganda work. It declared that the local Party organisation should pay the utmost attention to the country's reconstruction and to the mobilisation of the people around the Two Year Plan. These tasks, however, could not be carried out without a strengthened Party organisation and a livelier and more forceful internal Party life. The newspaper, however, does not give any concrete examples how the absence of criticism and self-criticism in the organisations can be overcome; for instance, drawing the membership into Party life, raising them to leading roles in production and the development of mass work.

The newspaper published a number of reports of work in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. An article on the role of Party organisation in leading production, says: "In this article we give example of experiences of the Bolshevik Party in leadership in industry. From these experiences our communist and party organisations can learn much that is valuable for their own work." This exchange of experience is correct and gain much that is rich and valuable from the experiences of the Soviet Party which will help them to forge ahead successfully. But these experiences cannot alter the strength and weaknesses of our Party organisations. Rabotnichesko Delo, in demonstrating Party life, has not yet given enough attention to this aspect.

The announcement that the Party will expel all those who do not deserve the name of member of the Bulgarian Workers' Party—a Party which enjoys great prestige among the masses—has undoubtedly educational significance. But this cannot replace the lack of criticism of the work of the local organisation in the exchange of experiences in the course of party life, and in the strengthening and development of Party organisations.

Writing about the possibility of eliminating these shortcomings, the newspaper gives example of work of local branches of the

Fatherland Front including a report from the Front's branch in Sofia's Vassilevsky district.

The inaugural meeting of the single Front organisation held in February was attended by 60 Party members and over 100 non-Party people. At the next meeting, in March, 250 people turned up. The branch did much to help in smartening up the city and in organising emulation between the labour brigades.

This particular branch displayed good initiative. A meeting called at the "Gloria" factory was attended by 1.000 people. Numerous questions were asked dealing with factory work and workers' conditions. In the ensuing discussion workers exposed a number of shortcomings.

Meetings of this nature are an excellent form of popular control, enable the workers to take part in running the enterprises and arouse interest in industrial and political activity.

We are sure that the leading organising role in the work of this particular branch of the Fatherland Front belongs to the Communist Party, since the Communists always lead the masses. The utilization of this experience would be exceedingly useful for other Party branches engaged in broadening and strengthening the new Fatherland Front.

Compared with the daily organs of some of the other Communist Parties in the new democracies, "Rabotnichesko Delo" gives a livelier and fuller picture of Party life. There can be no doubt that "Rabotnichesko Delo" will continue to report Party life in its pages, criticise the shortcomings in the work of the Party branches and hold up as examples the work of the best Party organisations.

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NEW CONSTITUTION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. A. Dresler

On May 9, the National Legislative Assembly of Czechoslovakia ratified the new Constitution which will be of great importance to the Republic's further development.

The Constitution safeguards the far-reaching changes in the country's economic and political structure brought about by the 1945 revolution and especially by the people's victory over the reactionary conspiracy this February. The Constitution firmly and irrevocably places Czechoslovakia among the people's democracies and rules out the possibility of a capitalist comeback. It gives actual power to the people and thus realises the principle of people's democracy.

The Constitution hands over to the state all the country's national resources, nearly 90 per cent of industry as well as wholesale and foreign trade. It ratifies the sweeping agricultural reform and guarantees that the Republic shall be a state of two equal peoples—the Czechs and Slovaks. It solves the main problems of the Czech and Slovak peoples in the spirit of democracy and progress and ensures Czechoslovakia's speedy progress to socialism.

Nationalisation carried out in 1945-48 undermined the economic power of the big capitalists. The new Constitution ratifies this measure and excludes forever the possibility of the means of production returning to the capitalists. In a number of basic sections of the country's economy the Constitution recognises the right of the state to set up any enterprise for its exclusive use.

The scale of nationalisation was not arbitrary. It had its basis in the demands of the working people to deprive the big

capitalists who dominated the pre-Munich Republic of the possibility of exploiting the people, in the experience acquired by the people during the years of building up the new state and in the course of carrying out the Two Year Plan which began in 1947.

The pre-Munich capitalist system did not guarantee work for the people and doomed hundreds of thousands to unemployment. The middle strata of townfolk and the bulk of the peasants lacked the means of developing their own businesses. The big bourgeoisie who gathered enormous profits from exploiting workers and peasants, were reluctant to sacrifice a fraction of their privileges even when the country was faced with the mortal peril of Hitler aggression. Selfishly the bourgeoisie tried to safeguard merely their own narrow class interests.

That is why, after the German invaders had been driven out, the people did not let the traitors—the big bourgeoisie—hold leading economic positions. They nationalised the mines, the iron and steel industry, large-scale industrial enterprises and the most important financial institutions whose former owners had compromised themselves by supporting the anti-state fifth column and later by collaborating with the Nazis.

However, after nationalisation, a large sector of private capitalists remained in the country deriving advantages from the rapidly recovering economy. While the working people of town and country were working creatively and vigorously, the bourgeoisie spared no efforts to undermine the economy and to increase their profits illegally.

To prevent an economic break-down and to ensure further development along the road to socialism, the Congress of Factory Committees, held this February, worked out the new nationalisation programme. The Congress's decision is now being put into practice by further nationalisation laws which are detailed' in a special article of the Constitution.

Thus the Constitution places a powerful obstacle in the way of all who would attempt to stage a comeback of capitalist

domination.

The Constitution safeguards the interests of small private enterprises and protects the property of small and medium peasants. It systematically carries out the principle that the land should be owned by those who work it. The realisation of the land reform which transforms the face of the village is controlled by the powerful peasant movement.

The new economic system of the people's democracy based on the national economic plan gives the people major social rights which were unknown under the capitalist system of the pre-Munich Republic. The new Constitution guarantees all citizens the right to work; just payment for labour; to leisure; care of public health; to pensions in old age, illness or other cases of loss of working capacity.

Political rights provided for the people by the new Constitution together with other Government measures now become more significant. The democratic constitutions of capitalist countries also recognise certain political rights for the working people. But for the majority these remain paper phrases since in practice the broad masses of the people cannot enjoy the rights accorded them by law.

The people's democracy secures the practical realisation of all such rights. The new Constitution formulates in detail the political rights of the citizen: it radically changes the political regime in the country as compared with that of the pre-Munich Republic and hands over political power to the people. The Constitution guarantees a new, more mature and more complete democracy.

The transfer of political power to the people is proved by the popular nature of social administration which will now be carried out by national committees elected by the people and responsible to them. The Constitution eliminates the former system of a police bureaucracy, the system of provincial officers which existed in the pre-Munich Republic since the days of the Austrian monarchy. During the occupation it became clear that the bureaucratic state apparatus, is plated

from the people, was alien to the interests of the Czech and Slovak peoples and easily became a tool in the hands of invaders.

The national committees were created during the struggle for liberation and replaced the bureaucratic apparatus that was in the hands of traitors.

Similar Slovak national organs were set up during the liberation whose existence is now fully recognised as representing the Slovak people. The Slovak National Council has legislative power within Slovakia to the extent that it does not require a national decision on Slovak questions. The executive organ of Slovakia is the Council of Delegates.

The new Constitution rejects the ideology of a single Czechoslovak nation—an ideology the Czech bourgeoisie often used to strengthen their own domination. This ideology also created fertile soil for the seeds of fascist propaganda in Slovakia respect for the national aspirations of the Slovaks is the best defence of the unity of the Republic. For this further industrialisation of Slovakia is essential.

The new Constitution is based on reality, develops the progressive, democratic and revolutionary traditions of the Czech and Slovak peoples, taking into account their historical experiences.

The Constitution secures the gains of the national and democratic revolution and the results of democratic development in Czechoslovakia.

It takes over with negligible changes, certain parts of the former Constitution which, however, acquire a new and more profound meaning because of the new articles embodied in it. The general content of the Constitution reflects the economic and political structure characteristic of people's democracy.

The new Constitution confirms the decisive defeat of reaction in Czechoslovakia. Its history cannot be separated from the Communist Party's struggle against the capitalist and landlords and for strengthening people's democracy in the country. All attempts to prevent the Constitution's adoption were but a

component of reaction's plans. After the war the bourgeoisie did their best 'to reinstate capitalism, to renew their class domination and to place Czechoslovakia in the anti-democratic, imperialist camp.

The February victory of the people irrevocably placed Czechoslovakia in the ranks of the anti-imperialist democratic front. The new Constitution resulting from the February victory,

was drafted on the initiative and with the participation of Comrade Gottwald. It provides possibilities for the further and more rapid development of the country on the way to socialism. The Constitution ensures that the will of the people becomes law and that the bourgeois minority will no longer be able to impose their will on the people.

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**THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF FRANCE—
DEFENDER OF PEASANT INTERESTS.
Waldeck Rochet, Member of the Political
Bureau of the C.P. of France**

In pre-war days French agriculture in the main produced enough grain for the country's bread. Such, however, is not the case today. Last year France imported agricultural produce to the value of 761,000,000 dollars, that is, one-fourth of the total imports. Home grown wheat yielded a mere 36,000,000 quintals compared to the average 80,000,000 quintals pre-war.

The bad plight of French agriculture can be explained by the aftermath of the war which last year was further aggravated by the damage caused by severe frosts, and later by drought.

But the principal reason for the backwardness of our agriculture must be sought in the economic and agricultural policy pursued by the Government since the liberation.

As early as 1944, the Right Socialist Andre Phillip, then a minister in the de Gaulle government in Algiers, openly declared that **“it will be necessary to pursue a policy of systematically restricting the wheat crop”**.

This policy which became the policy of successive French governments, was based on the assumption that the US would supply France with plenty of grain and other produce. And acting on this assumption they pleaded that there was no need for any special effort to re-equip agriculture and increase agricultural output.

The Communist Party of France, anxious to ensure bread for the people and to preserve the independence of the country, insisted on an altogether different policy.

At the 10th Congress of the Party held in June 1945, Maurice Thorez said:

“In this transitional period, we should import, together with the equipment which we need, grain, meat and other foods normally produced at home. But this situation can be only temporary, otherwise it would mean the complete ruin of our agriculture which must remain an integral part of our economy. It is extremely important to increase agricultural output and to lower production costs by providing the peasants with machinery, fertilizers, fuel and manufactured goods at appropriate prices”.

The Communists waged a strenuous fight for this policy in the Government, in the National Assembly and throughout the country.

However, the Communist proposals were rejected. Government policy was shaped by reactionary, anti-national interests. Over a period of years peasants received 50% less for their wheat than they did for secondary grains fit only for cattle feed. As a result the area sown to wheat was reduced. Moreover, far from making any serious effort to provide the peasants with machinery the Government deliberately hampered and sabotaged the development of the agricultural machinery industry. The Government relied solely on imports from America and these failed to reach even 40 per cent of the anticipated shipments.

The closing down of certain basic branches of French industry is not the only aim of the American imperialists. They also want France to become a market for US agricultural products.

The Mayer plan which fits into the framework of the American plan of enslavement, is a far-reaching calculated measure, designed to bring about the liquidation of French agriculture in the interests of American exporters.

In the National Assembly last December, Mayer outlined the principles of his plan. He declared that the national income is not distributed correctly among the different social groups in the country—the discrepancy being particularly marked between those engaged in industry and in agriculture. Consequently he recommends, as one of his main aims, reducing the peasants' share in the national income and increasing the share of the industrialists, in other words, of the capitalist monopolies.

THE SCHUMAN GOVERNMENT POLICY—A POLICY OF THE PEASANT

In pursuit of this aim the Schumann Government acted on three

basic considerations.

First: to bring about a big increase in the price of manufactured goods and, as far as possible, to freeze agricultural prices.

Second: the imposition of an extraordinary special tax and new heavy permanent taxes, especially on the peasants, in order to drain their savings.

Third: the utilisation of foreign imports as a means of pressure on the peasants to compel a lowering of agricultural prices, and to let the American exporters gradually seize the French market.

Since January, fertilizers, seeds, agricultural machinery and implement building materials and other industrial goods essential in agriculture have jumped in price: fertilizers, for example, have increased from 80 to 200 per cent, tractors and other machines—75 to 150 per cent, building materials—80 to 100 per cent, hardware—50 to 80 per cent, imported oil-cake—65 to 70 per cent, footwear and clothing—50 to 60 per cent.

It hardly needs saying that this general increase in prices meant increased profits for the big capitalists. But for the peasants, the consequences were disastrous. Many peasants had to abandon the idea of purchasing machinery and equipment. As a result French agriculture which suffered during the war, is not in a position to renew equipment and is deteriorating steadily.

The increased prices for manufactured goods are supplemented by “extraordinary special tax” for certain categories of taxpayers which places a new and heavy burden on agriculture.

According to official estimates, this tax will take from the peasants in the course of the next few months nearly 40,000 million francs. Big landowners and landlords possessing estates which they do not cultivate themselves but which they rent, are exempted from paying the special tax. The tenants leasing their land will pay instead. Apart from the special tax, the peasants pay a total of 4,000 million francs in land tax and additional collections and contribute 6,000 million francs to the fund for aid to peasants with large families. Finally, a Government proposal for reforming the tax system envisages an increased

tax return of 10,000 million francs at the expense of the tax on profits from agriculture. Thus, the total sum of the new taxes falling to agriculture is in the region of 60,000 million francs.

The Communist members in the National Assembly vigorously fought this tax bill inch by inch and were successful in getting certain reductions for the small and medium peasants. According to the initial Government draft, the small peasants who do not pay tax on income from agriculture, had now to pay from 5,000 to 15,000 francs. Thanks to the efforts of the Communist deputies the tax payable by small peasants was reduced to the single sum of 5,000 francs.

Responding to the will of the American imperialists the Schumann Government, agreed to abandon our customs defence system and to restore “international freedom of trade”. The Geneva agreement and the “trade charter” signed recently in Havana, provide for a substantial lowering of tariffs, and, in the near future—the complete abolition of the preliminary definition of the quantity and variety of imports, which in effect means unrestricted imports.

Arising from these agreements Mayer has not concealed his intention to resort, as soon as possible, to large scale imports of American agricultural products in order to bring down the price of home grown produce.

The present Government hasn't the slightest intention of regarding these foreign imports as a temporary measure and only where the need is urgent. On the contrary, it is determined to carry out a policy of ruining the agriculture of France.

AMERICAN MONOPOLISTS DICTATE THEIR CONDITIONS

Clear evidence of this is seen in the international grain agreement signed in Washington on March 6 this year and approved by the French Government.

According to this disastrous agreement, 33 countries, including

France, are to purchase every year from the US, Canada and Australia, 130 million quintals of grain. During the next five years France is obliged to import a minimum of 9,750,000 quintals of grain annually. This obligation is fraught with serious consequences for our country.

In signing this agreement the French Government unreservedly placed France among the grain importing countries; moreover, the additional obligation of buying grain exclusively in the American countries was imposed upon France.

It is easy to understand why the US exerted pressure on the French Government and forced them to accept this obligation. Faced with an oncoming crisis the US must at all costs ensure for itself new markets. The advocates of these disastrous agreements headed by Blum assert that the abolition of custom barriers will facilitate French exports. Such statements ignore the fact that under capitalism, so-called freedom of international trade inevitably leads to the strangling of the weak by the strong, and in the modern capitalist world—to the enslavement of countries like France by American imperialism. It is perfectly clear that the realisation of the Genoa agreement dooms our small and medium peasant households to complete ruin, and this without any benefit to the French workers and consumers in general.

THE COMMUNIST PARTY DEFENDS THE INTERESTS OF THE PEASANTRY

Daily, with increasing Clarity the French peasants are becoming aware of the grave danger confronting them. They are becoming more and more convinced that the plan of economic enslavement of France by American imperialism also aims at American political and military domination, that it is a plan which aspires to use the French as cannon fodder, and to involve our country in fresh military ventures in the interests of the American capitalist monopolies.

Unrest and dissatisfaction is spreading among the peasants and

this strengthens the urge to resist American expansionism. On January 13 this year a general meeting was held of the chairmen of the department federations of the Trade Union of Agricultural Workers, many of whom belonged to various political groups represented in the Government. Under pressure from the large peasant body, the meeting was compelled flatly to condemn the Mayer plan and to accept proposals for a mass protest by the peasants on February 2nd. Unprecedented demonstrations took place on that day despite some reactionary manifestations. Another outcome of the peasant resistance is the growing numbers of peasant defence committees.

Heading this nationwide struggle of the peasantry is the Communist Party.

Recognising that today the chief political task lies in the rallying of all the democratic and patriotic forces of France around the working class, the Communist Party and its Executive Committee are making every effort to organise and draw the peasantry into the struggle against the aggressive, grasping plan of the American imperialists.

Regional peasant conferences were held throughout the country during last December and in January this year. These meetings culminated in a national conference in Paris at the end of January attended by some 800 delegates including our most active peasants, federal secretaries and the leading party workers.

The conference resolution pointed out that together with steady work among the agricultural organisations (trade unions, co-operatives, mutual aid societies, etc.) the Communists should “vigorously rally the broad peasant body around the defence committees democratically elected at village meetings and uniting all peasants regardless of politics or creed from the peasant owners, tenants and sharecroppers to agricultural labourers and village artisans, including the women and the youth”.

At present there are already nearly one and a half thousand peasant defence committees and their number is increasing day

by day.

Thanks to the tireless work of the Communists and their devotion to the cause of the people, the resistance movement is spreading throughout the country. The alliance of the working class and peasantry will frustrate the aggressive plans of enslavement poached by American imperialism.

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THE SLAV MOVEMENT—A FIGHTING UNIT OF THE DEMOCRATIC CAMP. Bojidar Maslarich, Chairman of the All-Slav Committee

In August 1941, at the height of World War II, the first All-Slav meeting, held in Moscow, defined the aims and democratic principles of the Slav movement. The message sent out from the meeting to the Slav peoples said:

“Oppressed brother Slavs! A grave danger threatens us. The hour has struck for the entire Slavic world to unite and destroy fascism utterly and without loss of time.

“We have come together as equals among equals. Our one, burning desire is that the Slavic nations, together with all other nations, should live their lives freely and in peace within the boundaries of their countries. We reject, firmly and resolutely, the Pan-Slav idea as an out and out reactionary trend — a trend which is in profound contradiction to the lofty aims of equality of nations and national development of all countries and which was used by Russian Czarism to further its imperialist ends”.

In his speech on November 6th, 1941, Generalissimo Stalin said:

“Our aim is to aid the peoples in their liberation struggle against the Hitler tyranny and then to provide them with the

opportunity freely to build their life in accordance with their desire. There must be no interference with the domestic affairs of other nations”.

The Slav peoples responded to these calls. They adopted this programme and in the course of the struggle against the aggressor they gave clear definition to the aims of the Slav movement.

The Russians, Ukrainians and Belorussians had achieved practically all their national and social aspirations long before World War II. For them the Slav movement was a powerful weapon with which to rebuff the fascist aggressor and the embodiment of Slavic friendship and solidarity. For the other Slav peoples the movement indicated the only correct way to avoid physical annihilation. It was directed against the invaders and against the traitors and quislings. It was a movement for national unity and social emancipation—the path to socialism which guarantees national independence and sovereignty of the peoples.

The first post-war Slav congress held in Belgrade in 1946 defined the tasks of the Slav movement in the post-war period as the eradication of the remnants of fascism and reaction; the struggle for a stable and just peace based on the Yalta and Potsdam decisions; strengthening friendship with all freedom-loving peoples; cultivating the creative qualities of the Slavic peoples in order to further their progress and prosperity.

The Slav movement is a profoundly popular anti-fascist, peaceful and democratic movement linking together millions of Slavs in the Slavic countries and throughout the world. It has absolutely nothing in common with all hitherto existing Slav movements. It maintains close links with forward looking democratic organisations everywhere, and together with them is combating the main enemy — imperialism. It maintains links with the non-Slav peoples in the new democracies— Rumania, Hungary, Albania, and gives moral support to the peoples fighting for their freedom and independence. Today they express solidarity with the freedom-loving peoples of Greece,

China, India, Indonesia and other countries. In manifestoes, articles and broadcasts, the Slav organisations brand the American instigators of a new war who are trying to set up in Western Germany a new base for war against the Soviet Union. They are resisting the Marshall Plan, designed to enslave the nations of Europe and they call upon all freedom-loving peoples to struggle for just and stable peace, for close cooperation between the nations and for equality of small and big nations.

At the moment the question of honest, objective information in the press is of vital importance. In January this year the Slav Committee convened in Zagreb a meeting of the journalists of the Slav countries. The decisions of this conference struck a blow: at the slander and miss-information appearing in the press. It refuted the nefarious talk about a “revival of Pan-Slavism” and the “Slav menace”. Declarations by journalists from Rumania, Hungary and Albania confirmed the fact that the present Slav movement bears no relation whatsoever to Pan-Slavism or racialism, but is a broad people's movement defending peace, democracy and socialism. The decisions of the Zagreb conference were approved and accepted by the International Organisation of Journalists.

All Slav organisations are guardians of peace and democracy and are vigorously combating the American imperialists, warmongers and new pretenders to world domination. The Slav congress in the US protested to Truman concerning his suggestion for universal military service. It condemned the Marshall Plan, US imperialist policy in Greece and China, and sent a protest to Marshall concerning the proposal to hand over Trieste to Italy. The congress denounced this proposal as election aid to de Gasperi and as an attempt to sow discord between the Italian and Yugoslav peoples.

It goes without saying that the activity of the Slav organisations is not to the liking of the reactionaries. That is why, for instance, under US imperialist pressure, the Argentine authorities raided the Buenos Aires print shops which produce

all the Slav newspapers in the Argentine. These print shops were shut down simply because the Slav newspapers published the truth, called upon the people to struggle for peace and democracy, cultivated the idea of close cooperation between the nations and told the truth about the Soviet Union.

On June 18, in accordance with the decision of the first post-war Slav congress, a congress of Slav scientists will be held in Moscow. Slavic science calls for advanced methods and theory, corresponding to the problems facing the countries of the peoples' democracies. The imperialist camp striving to realise their anti-democratic aims, employs a pseudo-science which must be countered by genuine science.

When the war ended and the world became divided into two camps—the imperialistic and democratic camps—the Slav movement, by virtue of its ideology and methods of struggle could not but enter the democratic camp and did so wholeheartedly.

For the Slav movement, the defeat of fascist Germany, Italy and Japan and the destruction of their armies by no means signified the end of the struggle against the remnants of fascism and reaction. Only by uprooting them and removing the soil in which they flourished can fascism and reaction finally be destroyed.

Much was done towards this end by the Slavic peoples in their own countries both during the war and afterwards. Now, too, they are battling against the remnants of fascism. The Slavic countries have taken the path of building socialism since socialism is the surest guarantee of national independence and freedom.

The Slav peoples did not become the slaves of German fascism; nor will they become the slaves of the American monopolists, the latest pretenders to world domination. The Slav peoples who during World War II were in the vanguard of the anti-fascist coalition, today are in the front ranks fighting

for a just peace and democracy.

The Slavic nations, Slavic public opinion and Slavic warmly welcomed the manifesto of the nine Communist Parties which met in conference in Poland. The manifesto reflected their strivings and cherished aspirations. The Slav people marched together with the Communist in the war against the fascist aggressors and now, too, together with the Communist they are continuing the struggle for peace and a people's democracy.

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REPRESSION AGAINST THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA. D. Cambey

The Government of West Bengal has declared the Communist Party illegal, arrested nearly 200 leading Communists in the trade unions, peasant leagues and youth organisations, outlawed the Party volunteer organisation—the “Red Guards”, and confiscated and sealed the press of the popular vernacular, organ of the Party, the daily newspaper “Swadhinata” (“Independence”)

A few days later the Communist Party of Delhi was outlawed, and similar punitive measures taken against it. The banning of the Communist Party was accompanied by police raids on all trade union offices in Delhi.

These attacks on the Communist Parties of Bengal and Delhi are not accidental. They are part of a general anti-Communist crusade which the Government of India and its provincial administrations have been carrying on for the last few months. The powerful Communist Party of South India is virtually illegal. Recently six of the members of the Andhra (South Indian province) Committee of the Party, all leaders of the working-class and peasant movements, were arrested. In the Central Province, as well as in the United Provinces, warrants were issued for the arrest of leading Party officials. In every province the Party press is gagged or made to pay heavy penalties for such “offence” as writing editorials against the fascist gangs who killed Gandhi and want civil war between the Hindus and Muslims, for criticising the Governments industrial and agrarian policy, and so on. The “Swandhinata” was temporarily suspended by the Government even before the ban was imposed. The central organ of the Communist Party of India. “People’s Age” was by a gag order of the Bombay Government last December, prohibited from writing anything that concerned the daily life and struggle of the people.

The crusade against the Communist Party is part of the India Government's general offensive against all democratic forces. The Communist Party is selected as the principal target because it is the most militant and advanced organiser of all democratic forces. The Government of India, which owes its origin to the British imperialists and the big cartels of India, is unable to meet any of the legitimate needs of the working class and peasants, and therefore in its desperation hits out against the struggle that the working class is waging for a decent living standard and higher wages, and the peasants for a programme of agrarian reform. Instead of nationalising big industries and confiscating British monopolies, the Government is indulging in wage cuts. Instead of giving land to the peasants it is protecting the feudal landowners.

The democratic movement of the workers, peasants, middle-class employees and students depends, therefore, on their own strength to fight the industrial bosses and feudal lords. But everywhere the Government's armed police and administration are at the disposal of the exploiters and are turned against the people. The jailing of thousands of trade unionists, workers, peasants and members of the youth movement is a normal occurrence in India today. The shooting of peasants and students is an everyday incident. In Bengal alone the police have opened fire on students twice in the course of the last six months, once on peasants and three times on workers on strike. Last January the Government passed a fascist bill known as the Special Powers Bill which prohibits even private gatherings. The Bill also gives the Government lavish emergency ordinance powers against all other forms of democratic activities. In these conditions the Communist Party has been in the vanguard leading the democratic forces for greater liberties and better living conditions. Hence the outlawing of the Communist Party branches of West Bengal and Delhi and the arrest of its members as a prelude to further attacks on all

democratic popular movements and organisations. To quote “People’s Age”: The attack against the Party is an attack against the entire democratic movement. Reaction is heading towards the establishment of fascism in India.”

There is every evidence to believe that the recent attacks on the Communist Party of India were undertaken by the India Government’s provincial ministries under direct orders from Washington. Dr. Grady, the US Ambassador in India, recently expressed the hope that the Marshall Plan would be extended to South East Asia also. But his interest is not only in economic “aid”. Since Bengal is one of the centres of the democratic movement of India and since the Communist Party is very strong in this province, the American Embassy recently undertook a special investigation of Communist influence in this province. As an Indian newspaper recently reported, it is reliably learnt that the Embassy sent an alarmed report to Washington about the extensive influence of the Party in this province. The ban order, coming as it does immediately after this, shows the hand of the American imperialists in the whole affair. The Washington order has been executed by Dr. B C. Roy. Premier of Bengal, who has recently return from a tour of America.

The offensive on the Communist Party of India clearly shows the role of the United States in suppressing the democratic movement not only in Europe, but also in Asia.

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OPPRESSION OF AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES

The Australian Communist Party newspaper “Guardian” reports: “Under Australian law, one of our most famous painters, one of our leading singers, and one of our most

promising boxers cannot vote in a Federal election.” The reason why: “Albert Namatjira, Harold Blair and Elly Bennett are aborigines.”

“Representatives of the Australian Government, for example, Evatt, who oppress the aborigines and deny them elementary rights, at the same time hypocritically pose as “champions of minorities” and thump tables at international conferences when the real liberation of Eastern European minorities is discussed.”

“Tribune” another Australian Communist paper, quotes Miss Olive Pink, Australian anthropologist on the outrageous treatment of aborigines:

“Aborigines were paid 5 shillings a week while “mixed bloods” were getting £ 5.18 s.” (that is 23 times more. (Ed.)

Among the many charges made by this anthropologist is the amazing revelation that Christian missions use aborigine labour without any payment whatsoever of money wages.

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TURKEY IN THE VICE OF THE USA. Jan Marek

Over a year ago on March 12, 1947, the world was informed of the “Truman Doctrine” of “aid” to Turkey and Greece—the two bastion for struggle against Communism, as openly stated in the message to Congress. The Truman “aid” for Turkey was used by the United States to strengthen the military-strategic bases of American imperialism and to turn Turkey into an

American market.

The USA's policy of transforming Turkey into a colony is strikingly reflected in the "Turkish-American Aid Agreement", concluded on June 12, 1947. This agreement allows the American Government to control Turkey's internal affairs. Article 2 of the agreement states that the head of the American Mission may freely perform his duties in executing the assignment of the Mission.

Considerable changes have taken place in Turkey during the year that has elapsed since the "Truman Doctrine" was first announced. The United States has flooded the country with military and economic missions, with delegations and commissions which have entrenched themselves in all branches of the country's economic and military life.

US military experts inspect the military units, ports, aerodromes, air lines and navy and... instruct the Turkish Government where to build and the scale of new military objects. The Americans are paying special attention to fortifying the areas adjacent to the Soviet borders and the frontiers of the new democracies. Admiral Sittel recently announced that Turkey's Black Sea fleet will be increased by another 22,000 tons. On March 26 American ships loaded with arms for the Turkish army dropped anchor in Istanbul. These arms included fighter planes of the "Invader" and "Thunderbolt P-47" type and tanks. The US has also given Turkey the 12,000 ton aircraft carrier "Rendova".

The Americans are promoting military construction not only in order to turn Turkey into an appendage of the US war machine but also to extend the domain of the American cartels and trusts. American industrialists have signed a number of agreements with the Turkish Government to supply machinery and equipment on terms which threaten to undermine the country's economy. These terms stipulate that profits made by foreigners in Turkey can be taken abroad, that imports be increased, foreign commercial, industrial and banking institutions encouraged, and, of course they tend to spread US

influence in Turkey. US imports to Turkey have increased from 14.9 million dollars in 1937 up to nearly 70 million dollars in 1947. In exchange for the military aid the Turkish Government has given the Americans oil wells, chrome deposits, the construction of car repair works, electrical lamp plant, etc.

The Americans are also reconstructing the Eregly-Zanguldan coal basin. They also control the army and civil air force, shipping, the post and telegraph, etc.

American imperialism, in pursuance of its selfish aims, is drawing Turkey into the Greek adventure. At the beginning of April, Turkey's Foreign Minister, Sadak, visited Athens where he discussed with the monarchist-fascist government the question of a Mediterranean bloc and the military interference of Turkey in the civil war in Greece. This is only the first payment for Americas "disinterested aid".

Turkey's military budget has soared from 150 million lira in 1945 to 377 million. in 1948. Appropriations for the police and gendarmerie have increased two and a half times compared to 1945. In all, about half of the current budget is earmarked for military expenditure.

US domination in Turkey constitutes a direct threat to home industry. According to the newspaper "Hur Vatan" rubber imports have brought the production of boot leather to a standstill and foreign competition has adversely affected many branches of industry. The textile industry in particular is in a bad way. The textile mills have laid off a large number of worker's and the remainder are on short time. American "assistance" has dislocated iron and steel production, the tobacco, match industries and others. Agriculture, too, is in a sorry plight. The number of livestock is decreasing steadily. The crop yield last year was 20 per cent below that of 1946. Impoverished peasants are fleeing to the towns where they swell the ranks of the hungry unemployed. Industrial workers are subjected to brutal exploitation. In Istanbul bakers work 17 and 18 hours a day and receive a miserable wage.

The policy of turning Turkey into an anti-Soviet military base

of American imperialism has caused much discontent among the people. The people of Ismir who took to the streets to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the liberation of that city from Anglo-Greek occupation, demonstrated with the slogan: “Our country must be free and independent! We sell our goods but not our rights, freedom and votes!”

Turkey is an example to the peoples of the world of the consequences arising from loss of national sovereignty, from the policy of betrayal of the national interests. Only a stubborn and organised struggle can halt the onslaught of the American imperialist on the vital interests of the peoples of those countries where the ruling cliques are betraying the national interests.

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OPEN AID TO THE REACTIONARIES

London “Daily Worker” reports:

“A decision has been taken to revive immediately the wartime Department known throughout the world as P.I.D.

“It was this organisation which played the principal role in conducting British propaganda and political activity in enemy countries and countries occupied by the Nazis.

“Even during the war it was often strongly criticised for tendencies to direct propaganda and assistance mainly to Right-Wing elements of the Resistance movements.

“The decision to re-establish it is the direct result of conversations with the American authorities responsible for the notorious “Project X”.

“Washington openly proclaims that Project X is intended to finance and organise propaganda, underground political

activity, espionage, etc., against the new democracies of Europe.

"It is the scheme which contributed £1 million to the much greater total of American money expended in Italy to finance the Christian Democrat election campaign.

"The decision means that large sums of British money are now to be spent in openly aiding and abetting, by propaganda and other means, the activities of Fascists and anti-democratic criminals against the democratic governments of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia."

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ANGLO-AMERICAN CONTRADICTIONS IN GERMANY

The New York Times of April, 18 throws light on the ruthless exploitation of German timber resources by the British and American occupation authorities.

According to the newspaper: "The establishment of the British Timber Production Agency was regarded as an emergency move. The group is operating under top priorities orders to extract 1,750,000 tons of timber annually from Germany."

The Americans angry with the British "woodsmen" have charged them with "seriously damaging Germany's forests and future potential production".

An official American report on the subject, quoted by the newspaper, reminds the British in unmistakable terms that they are the junior partner in this plunder. It says: "United States officials consider it essential that all future felling in Bizonia should be carried out... bearing in mind Germany's export

responsibilities as a country receiving US aid”.

Hinting at the closing down of the British Timber Agency in Germany the New York Times says: “This dispute is similar to the sharp difference of opinion over the old North German Coal Control, a board the British finally were forced to dissolve in favour of a joint control organisation.”

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ITALIAN SOCIALISTS FOR STRENGTHENING THE POPULAR FRONT

Without waiting for the results of the election on April 18, reactionaries and renegades of all shades shouted about a crisis in the Italian Socialist Party, the fiasco of the Popular Front policy and so on. These provocative sallies were meant to sow confusion among Italian Socialist workers, to cover up the treachery of the Saragat group and to create an atmosphere of uncertainty inside the democratic Popular Front.

Certain members of the Socialist Party took upon themselves the job of panic-mongering, thus meriting honourable mention in the dispatches and commentaries of the reactionary press and radio. But they failed to provoke the crisis they hoped for in the Italian Socialist Party. The Right press now derides Giuseppe Romita and his handful of accomplices since they fell down on the job of being traitors.

As a matter of fact during the first few days after the election many Socialist workers were bewildered by the heavy loss of votes their party suffered, especially in the North, in Veneto

Piedmont and Lombardy. They underestimated the danger of the Saragat group and in certain cases did not fight them energetically. Seeing that the Saragat men do not represent a serious organisation, have no party press to speak of, are unsuccessful at trade union elections and have failed to disrupt the ranks of the lower Socialist Party organisations, the Socialists regarded Saragat's party as a “group of generals without an army.”

That is why they were taken aback by the extensive disruptive work the Saragat men carried out during the election campaign work promoted by the slander and deception practised by the capitalist press and radio, by the organisational and propaganda apparatus of the “Azione Cattolica”, by the parish priests who, when they were unable to persuade the electorate to vote for the Christian Democrat Party, conducted open propaganda in favour of Saragat.

But the confusion was only temporary. The furious campaign of the Italian and foreign reactionaries in itself helped to rally rank and file Socialists round the party leadership. On April 29 the leadership issued an appeal to Socialists and all working people in which it emphatically stressed the need for consolidating the unity of action of the working class and the democratic Popular Front, in face of the danger of reaction.

The appeal points out that, “in view of a similar situation, the 25th congress of our Party—indignant at Saragat's attempt to compromise Italian socialism—proclaimed that the only way to save democracy in Italy was to form an alliance of all workers, peasants and the middle social strata in a struggle against capitalist oppression, which inevitably leads to dictatorship and war.”

The firm position of the Socialist Party leadership was reflected in the honest stand taken by even those socialist leaders who, like Barbaresci, Santi and others, formerly opposed united election lists but who, immediately after April 18, came out in support of the party and the Popular Front. The group of adventurers and persons hitherto unknown in the

party, who tried to manoeuvre against the party and the Popular Front and who had rallied around Romita, were so completely isolated that at their “conference” they did not dare to speak of breaking away from the Front or of rejecting united action, and certainly did not dare to proclaim a manifesto in their own name.

The Socialist workers, rank and file members of the party who, shoulder to shoulder with the Communists, withstood the most bitter and unequal election struggle in Italian history, were able to see for themselves the spirit of unity, enthusiasm and selflessness with which the Communists fought and the countless examples of Communists’ loyalty to their Socialist comrades and other political groups in the Popular front. The Italian Communists once again proved their loyalty—a loyalty absolutely unknown in the history of bourgeois parliamentarism—when, after April 18 they decided that a number of elected Communists would relinquish their seats in favour of Socialist and independent Popular Front candidates who had not been elected. This friendly act is fresh proof of the mutual respect and confidence between the parties of the Popular Front, which is not merely the outcome of an election agreement. There is no doubt that after the election the Front will grow still stronger in face of the onslaught of reaction.

The appeal does not restrict itself merely to proclaiming the need for unity of the large forces already rallied under the banners of the Front. It confronts the Italian Socialists with concrete tasks for struggle in defence of the masses through the trade unions, the peasant and cooperative movement and similar organisations. “Democracy can be protected,” says the appeal, “only by attacking the interests of the oligarchy and the system of capitalist oppression, only by radical reforms.”

Maintaining its independence like the other organisations in the Popular Front, the Italian Socialist Party has powerful forces and opportunities at its disposal in the struggle which the people are waging against the attempts to introduce a clerical-fascist regime in Italy and to transform the country into a base

of American imperialism.

The Communist workers have the firm support of the Socialist workers and, as the appeal says, “the eight million votes cast for the Popular Front warn its enemies that the road they have taken remains barred.”

The Italian Socialist Party has more than once been a disappointment to international reaction and its hirelings in the Committee for International Socialist Conferences. There is no doubt that in the future it will be the source of still greater disappointment.

The hopes of Bevin and Schumacher, Blum and Saragat, who relied on Romita's “fifth column” have been frustrated by the clear and vigorous statement of the Socialist Party leadership: “The Party does not require treatment with ersatz medicines... it does not need the advice of those who insist that it should preserve its specific role and autonomy without outlining how this can be done by any other method than the one we are applying or by a policy any different from that which has characterised our party since its inception. It will not change its loyalty to the policy of unity, its loyalty to the working class, merely because it has suffered losses in this struggle—a struggle in which, if anything, it was the “third force” that met with a crushing defeat.”

Just how weak is the Italian “third force” is borne out by the fact that the Saragat group received only 32 seats in the new parliament compared with 52 in the Constituent Assembly, and the Republican Party only nine as against 38. It is also proved by the behaviour of Saragat's followers during the past few days. Even that hoary Belgian reformist, de Brouckere, said that it would have been more to their advantage and more dignified to have been in opposition to the, de Gasperi Government. But how can there be any talk of dignity when it is a question of people who patiently submit to the insults of Scelba and who kow-tow to the clericals and American imperialists?

The election campaign, partial trade union elections and the

May Day demonstrations, show that there are millions of Socialist workers in Italy who have not sold themselves to the dollar and who are vigorously fighting in the spirit of unity for peace, freedom and socialism.

G. P. (page 5)

DEMOCRATIC YOUTH CONGRESS IN LATIN AMERICA

A congress of the democratic youth of Latin America, held in Mexico, was attended by delegates from Mexico, Cuba, Porto Rico, Guatemala, Argentina, Ecuador, Panama and from other countries of Latin America. The Congress resolutions sharply criticised the expansionist policy of the US and the dictatorial regime in a number of Latin American countries. It also demanded independence for Porto Rico where, as in many other countries, colonial conditions prevail and where the backward industrial development has caused unemployment among the youth.

The Congress manifesto urged the youth of the Latin America countries to devote all their energies to the fight for peace, for democratic rights and for the complete destruction of fascism and fascist ideology of race hatred. The Congress called on the youth organisations to join the World Federation of Democracy Youth.

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PARTY EDUCATION IN THE POLISH WORKERS' PARTY. Helena Kozłowska

The experience acquired in building the new Poland has brought to the fore the decisive role played by the class consciousness of the Party members and especially the political level of the Party functionaries.

Immediately after the liberation the Polish Workers' Party centred its attention on the education of its cadres. However, prior to 1947, during the period of struggle against reaction the situation did not favour the organisation of systematic study. The newly opened Party schools did not follow a common curriculum, or common methods of study. Despite these shortcomings over 10,000 functionaries graduated the Central Party School and 16 provincial schools during the period following the liberation up to 1947.

The Party "active" was developed and steeled in intensive work, in the sharp struggle to consolidate the people's power and effect important social reforms. However, the political experience gained and organisational abilities displayed by members of the Party were not always accompanied by the necessary Marxist training. After the democratic camp in Poland had won the main rounds in the struggle for power, the matter of Party education became the problem of the day. The decision of the Central Committee of the Polish Workers' Party in April 1947 to focus attention on ideological work marked a turning point in the matter of Party education. It was necessary to elaborate a new system of political study, to define its content, forms and methods. The rich experience acquired and the initiative of the local Party organisations helped to avoid a mechanical approach to the matter and enabled us to outline a

system corresponding to the concrete demands and tasks of the Party.

Party education was developed, in the main along two lines: the organisation of permanent Party schools and study circles.

The Central Party School (six-month course) and the 16 provincial schools (three-month course) are attended primarily by the Party "active". In 1947 over a thousand members finished the Central School and some 4,000 the provincial schools. The Higher Party School under Executive Committee auspices (one-year-course) opened last April.

However the existing schools could not satisfy the growing demands of the Party. We therefore introduced a new form of Party education last year in the shape of two-three-day courses for the secretaries of regional and district committees, political workers of the provincial committees and also for the secretaries of Party committees in the big enterprises. These courses are conducted every two months and are based on independent study. Such courses have been held on the following subjects: "Lenin on Imperialism", "Class Content of the State in the People's Democracy," "The Polish Worker's Party—the Party of a New Type", "Struggle for the Development of the Polish Countryside", and the "USSR—the Country of Victorious Socialism."

Serious shortcomings in this work are due to the poor educational training of the comrades and the lack of practice in working independently original material. Nevertheless, these courses have registered positive results. During the winter months a large number of secretaries of provincial committees attended corresponding study courses.

Mass Party education is conducted in three stages which, as yet, are not properly interrelated, The three- and four-months evening courses constitute the main form of study. During 1947 over 30,000 members, and in the first quarter of 1948 approximately 50,000 members attended such courses in factories and office, in the regional centres and urban districts. These courses are attended mainly by the secretaries and

members of factory committees, secretaries of Party circles and their assistants and by the leaders of the smaller Party groups. We proceeded from the fact that a trained leadership in the Party branches and Party circles is essential in the conditions of a rapidly, growing mass party. This, in its turn, promotes the development of independent work by the lower Party organisations and contributes to the ideological content of Party meetings. That is why the curriculum of the study courses gives priority to current problems relating to the development of the people's Poland.

The second stage is the one-year correspondence courses started last year, which embrace more than 12,000 Party functionaries. These courses deal with the cardinal questions of Marxist-Leninist theory, with the history of Poland and the Polish labour movement. Experience has proved the expediency of this form of study.

The third stage, which is still in the organisational phase, are the higher self-study circles and theoretical talks with Party members who are studying independently. Apart from these main forms of study short-term courses are being arranged on the initiative of the local organisations. These courses will cater for teachers, cooperative workers, etc. active in the Party. The growing network of circles for lecturers organised by the provincial, regional and city committees and the lecturer's bureau of the Executive Committee plays an important role in the system of Party education.

The existence of a common curriculum and teaching methods in the schools and courses are an important condition in the normal work of Party education. We had to close the gap between questions of theory and practical experience of building the people's Poland and to balance the lectures, courses and independent studies of the students.

Studies were greatly facilitated by the "Ksiazka" Party Publishers which issued a number of the classics of Marxism-Leninism and especially the works of Lenin and Stalin, which appeared for the first time in the Polish language. Also the

publication of Comrade Gomulka-Weclaw's articles and speeches in two volumes entitled "The Struggle for the People's Democracy", played a big role.

Experience showed that ready outlines of the principal subjects were needed both for teachers and students. These outlines, of which more than a million copies were printed, are the main form of study material, although the elaboration of some of the subjects is not without shortcomings. The "Notatnik Referenta" ("Lecturer's Notebook"), of which 15 issues have already appeared, is a big help.

The shortage of teaching personnel is a big obstacle in developing Party education. Although over 3,000 Party functionaries are teaching in the educational system we nevertheless must take energetic measures to train new cadres and are now organising special courses for comrades assigned to this work.

Organising the education of the rural "active" presents a special problem. Last winter the provincial Party schools were solely concerned with refresher courses for the rural functionaries. The Party journal "Chlopska Droga" devotes a special supplement to Party education. However, all these measures are as yet insufficient to satisfy the growing demands in this field. Together with the development of inner Party studies, the Polish Workers' Party (PWP) and the Socialist Party (PSP) have inaugurated joint study. This joint study is necessitated by the growing unity between the two parties.

Local Party organisations notwithstanding numerous difficulties and obstacles, began long ago on their own initiative to organise mutual study courses. The Warsaw organisations, which took the lead in this matter, organised such courses as early as 1946. By last autumn these inter-Party courses had spread throughout the country and catered for thousands of members of both Parties.

The experience of joint study showed that it is an excellent means of securing ideological rapprochement between the members of the two parties. It helps to overcome many

disagreements and misunderstandings, all of which is most valuable at the present stage.

The joint plenum of the Executive Committees of the PWP and PSP in April 1948 raised the question of organic unity and indicated the measures by which fusion could be achieved.

Joint studies on a large scale are one of 'the decisive measures in this respect. The central bodies of the two parties agreed on the programme and organisational principles of the mass joint party studies. The joint educational network will be on a much wider scale than the present network of the two parties combined. Joint study commissions have been appointed in all provinces and regions, and conferences between the commissions and teachers are taking place. Teachers are acquainting the PWP and PSP "active" with the programme and methods of studies.

What is the nature of these joint studies?

Our main aim is to raise the political and ideological level of the members of the two parties, to inculcate the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism — the ideological basis of the future united party. Special attention is devoted to the experience and achievements of the great October Socialist Revolution and to the 30 years experience of building socialism in the Soviet Union.

We seek to overcome in the process of joint study the ideological differences that still exist between the members of the two parties. The programme is designed to get the students to approach Poland's present day problems in a Marxist way. One of the main aims of Party education is to link up party ideology with the struggle for national sovereignty.

We utilise the progressive democratic traditions of Polish history and stress that Poland's independence and development are bound up with the struggle of the democratic, anti-imperialist camp headed by the Soviet Union against the imperialist camp. At the moment our educational work is determined, above all, by considerations of securing organic unity.

Approaching problems first and foremost in the light of the present and future tasks of the people's Poland, we consider it imperative also to pose certain questions concerning the history of the Polish and international working class movement. This is necessary in order to get rid of the ballast of the last which is still felt in the Polish working class movement, and to facilitate by means of friendly discussion, criticism and self-criticism, the elimination of the existing ideological differences and to equip the members of the two parties for further struggle and work in the united party.

The organisation of large-scale joint studies is accompanied by growing cooperation between the schools run by the two parties which are working separately. The schools exchange programmes and teachers and organise joint meetings of students and teachers. This mutual exchange of experience will facilitate the setting up of the new type of school needed for the united party.

The achievement of each party, branch in developing educational work inside our own party and also in the PSP, its efforts and initiative, in this field, will promote the building up of a system of joint studies. At the same time there will be a significant contribution to the cause of uniting the working class movement in Poland uniting it ideologically, politically, and organisationally.

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POLITICAL NOTES

PAN—AMERICAN CONFERENCE IN BOGOTA

On April 30th, after a month's work, the Bogota conference of the American countries called by the United States came to an end.

The Conference was used by the Wall Street financial oligarchy for the purpose of completing the enslavement of the American

countries. The organisation of the American states set up at the Conference is fully dominated by the US imperialists. According to a US Foreign Ministry bulletin, the strengthening of the pan-American system was one of the main aims of the Conference. This means that the Conference elaborated the main ways by which the American countries could be drawn wholly into the US economic orbit. The pan-American economic conference which is scheduled to be held this year, will work out these methods in detail.

Reviewing the results of the Bogota Conference, the "Baltimore Sun" points out that it was held in an atmosphere of unreality.

At the beginning, the Conference was interrupted by an event delegates certainly did not expect, and which made them adjourn for a week. Indignant at the assassination of a liberal leader by US hirelings, the people of Bogota rose in arms against their government. The frightened delegates began to leave Bogota in a hurry. Only by bringing up new military forces could the government quell the uprising. The Conference proceeded with its work, protected by tanks and armoured cars.

Guarded like this, the Conference looked rather symbolic. It was a vivid warning to the US imperialist bosses and to their lackeys who were selling out, the independence of the American countries, that there is another factor which the reactionary, anti-people's conspirators in Bogota would have to take into consideration, **the people** of the American countries.

The popular action in Bogota was all the more significant since it took place in America itself where the US imperialists consider themselves to be the absolute masters and unceremoniously oust their junior British colleagues in imperialist plunder from all parts of Central and South America, from the Falkland Isles to British Honduras.

To soften the unfavourable impression created by the popular uprising, the Columbian Government, chivvied by its Northern masters, resorted to a new anti-Soviet provocation.

It took the well-known way of all scoundrels who, incapable and chary of considering the will and desires of the people, are always ready to shift responsibility on to the Bolsheviks and the Soviet Union.

The Columbian police raided the Soviet Embassy in Bogota. The Soviet note of protest exposes the real meaning of this foul provocation. The Columbian Government on Wall Street orders tagged behind those ,South American countries which, accepting complete political and economic US trusteeship, had even before this showed their abandonment of all in dependent foreign policy.

The events that accompanied the pan-American Conference in Bogota are proof positive that the position of the US imperialists is not very strong even in this Wall Street preserve.

CHURCHILL'S UNITED EUROPE

A United Europe congress was held recently at the Hague on the initiative of Mr. Churchill.

This congress of the builders of the Churchill Europe was attended by men of Munich of all shades. Daladier and Reynaud were there, ex-prime ministers of the Ramadier and van Zeeland breed and, of course, representatives of the Right Socialists.

Summoned to elaborate plans for the complete enslavement of the peoples of Western Europe and to put an end to their national sovereignty, the congress met in the same hall where eight years ago the notorious Seyss Inquart became German gauleiter of Holland.

Churchill's Speech was a repetition of the old anti-democratic and anti-Soviet tirades delivered, at Fulton and Zurich. Although the congress, in the words of "L' Humanité", was simply an attempt to weld together the American colonies in Western Europe, Churchill went out of his way to emphasise that the dominant role in "uniting" Europe belongs to Great Britain. The post-war United Europe "movement" of the

European salesmen of Wall Street was described by Churchill as a British movement for a united Europe.

Lauding with fulsome Praise the great transatlantic patron and master, “the nation that is leading the world”, Churchill trotted out his old tune of building the world on the basis of three great empires: the United States empire, covering the western hemisphere; the “European empire” headed by Great Britain and embracing not only the overseas possessions of Britain and other European capitalist countries, but also the countries of eastern and south-eastern Europe which after World War II freed themselves from the imperialist yoke.

The “third empire”, according to the malignant slanderer Churchill, is the Soviet Union, enclosed within its pre-war frontiers.

Churchill devoted special attention to Germany, demanding the restoration of the “former glory of the German race”.

Churchill called upon the French to take a “courageous decision”, that is, to agree to the restoration of German war industry. He went out of his way to welcome the French Munichmen who in their desire to do the new pretender to world domination a favour, are ready once more to sacrifice the national interests of their country. At the same time Churchill spoke against the creation of a united democratic Germany recommending instead the setting up of several separate German states which would be subordinate to Anglo-American imperialism.

The political report expressed the striving of the organisers of United Europe to demonstrate before the US and in the interests of Great Britain, the strength and might of the Marshall countries in Europe with their immense wealth, industrial potential and 250 million people who are the “most civilised and intelligent in the world”.

Along with these racial ravings, the political report advocated the formation of an “Emergency European Council”, similar to that contained in the Brussels Pact which, as is known, bears the character not only of a military-political alliance directed

against the Soviet Union and the new democracies but of an alliance for mutual counter-revolutionary intervention. Should the Council consider it necessary, says the political resolution, it could use mixed European armed forces for the purpose of ensuring free elections and the return of a Parliament that would restore freedom.

And freedom, as interpreted in the resolutions and speeches delivered at the Hague, is the freedom of the Anglo-American imperialist oppressors and exploiters.

All the speeches and discussion and resolutions of the United Europe congress clearly reflected the physiognomy of the rabid imperialist and interventionist, the inspirer of the congress, Winston Churchill.

Despite the ravings of some of the people at the congress, for example Paul Reynaud, who wanted an immediate Parliament of Europe not unlike a European Frankfurt, elected by an all-European election with the participation of the citizens of all the countries of Europe, the Churchill congress represented the latest attempt by international reaction to concoct a West European military bloc directed against the USSR and the new democracies.

Even the French conservative newspaper "Ordre" commented that one of those chiefly responsible for the Greek tragedy had convened the pan-European congress at a time when the mercenaries of Western democracy in Greece were behaving atrociously towards the fighters for the freedom and independence of the Greek people.

The pan-European congress at the Hague was yet another demonstration of the complete unity of the Labour leaders now carrying out the foreign policy of British imperialism, with the Churchill conservatives; a demonstration of the unity between the Right Socialists and their imperialist masters.

M. Kovac

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MEETING OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF NORTH KOREA

On April 28 and 29 a special session of the People's Assembly of North Korea' was held which debated the draft Constitution of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

Two hundred and nineteen Assembly deputies and 90 representatives of various public bodies, including 40 representatives from South Korea, took part in the work of the session.

Speaking of the significance of the draft Constitution for the future of the country and of the people, the Chairman of the Constitution Commission, Kim Du Bon, said that notwithstanding the oppression of the American authorities in the South, all sections of the Korean population, both in the North and the South, took an active part in discussing the draft. The Commission received 57,000 letters, approving the draft Constitution.

Speaking of the principle of people's democracy on which the draft Constitution was based, the chairman denounced the attempts of the reactionaries in South Korea to deprive the people of their democratic rights by adopting a Constitution which was not in the people's interests.

The people of Korea, said Kim Du Bon, wanted freedom, democracy, land, an eight-hour working day and nationalisation of key industries. All this could be provided only by the will of

the people.

During their thousand year long history, the Korean people had had no such democratic rights and liberties as were now provided by the draft Constitution.

The eighteen deputies who took part in the debate, wholeheartedly supported the draft and stressed that the people had taken an active part in discussing it. After an article by article discussion and voting on it, the People's Assembly unanimously endorsed the draft as amended and decided to submit it for approval to the future all-Korean Constitutional Assembly.

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MEETING OF “ACTIVE” OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE RUMANIAN WORKERS' PARTY

In connection with the editorial article in No. II of the newspaper “For Lasting Peace, For a People's, Democracy” headed, “Ideological Weapon of the Communist Parties”, the Propaganda Department of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Rumania summoned a meeting of the “active” to discuss matters connected with ideological work. The meeting decided on a number of measures for improving the work.

Among other measures it was decided to resume the “ideological problem” column in the newspapers””Scanteia” and “Libertata”; to devote a special column in “Scanteia” to “Party Life”; to publish more of the Marxist-Leninist classics, and, in particular, to speed up the preparation of a new edition of the Short History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Other measures provide for the publication of booklets dealing with various aspects of Marxism-Leninism, the theoretical elaboration of questions relating to the growth of the people's democracy in Rumania, for improving the programmes in use in Party schools and brief courses for the district “actives”.

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REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA MEET

A joint meeting of delegates from North and South Korea was held at the end of April in Pyongyang. It was attended by some 600 delegates and visitors representing democratic opinion in the two zones.

There were two items on the agenda: the political situation in Korea; measures to stop the holding of separate elections and the formation of a separate government in South Korea.

The leader of the North Korean Labour Party, Kim Ir Sen, emphasised that Korea is still artificially divided into two parts because of the US expansionist policy.

He denounced this policy of the imperialists and of their lackeys, the Korean traitors, which is aimed at dividing and enslaving the country.

Referring to the successful way democracy was being built in the North, he said this was because the Soviet authorities insistently kept to the Moscow agreement on North Korea and encouraged initiative among the people.

Concluding, Kim Ir Sen emphasised that the people of Korea unanimously and resolutely opposed separate elections in South Korea. He called for a united Korean state set up on a broad democratic basis by the Korean people themselves.

Peck Nam Un, a leader of the People's Labour Party (a centrist party in South Korea) spoke on the political situation in South Korea.

Grave danger confronted the people of Korea, he said. American ruling circles, with the help of the United Nations Commission and of the Korean traitors, were preparing separate elections in the South with the object of dividing the country into two parts. In South Korea, Japanese imperialism had been replaced by American imperialism which deprived

the people of elementary democratic liberties, protected the pro-Japanese and reactionary elements and caused a decline in economy and culture.

Peck Nam Un went on to say that the Korean people wholeheartedly supported the Soviet Union's suggestion for the simultaneous withdrawal of foreign troops' from Korea and demanded that the United Nations Commission which backed the American plan of partitioning Korea should be removed from the country.

The leader of the Democratic National Front in South Korea, Pak Hen En, enumerated fact after fact exposing the real aims of the American expansionists.

Both in the political and economic sphere, he said, American policy was aimed at maintaining and strengthening the pro-Japanese elements, suppressing the democratic forces and paving the way for turning South Korea into a United States colony. He spoke also of the unbridled terror, of how the American authorities dispersed the People's Committees set up after the liberation and had driven underground all democratic parties and organisations of South Korea. These organisations had a membership of over six million.

During the discussion, delegates spoke highly of the work of the People's Committees in North Korea and the democratic reforms they had carried out. They expressed their gratitude to the Soviet Union for the aid given to North Korea in rebuilding its economy and national culture.

They denounced the policy of the American authorities and their plan for a phony election as an insolent encroachment on the national interests and independence of the Korean people which would lead to South Korea being turned into an American colony under a puppet government.

In their speeches the representatives of the two zones expressed the desire of the people to achieve a united, independent national state.

The representative of the North Korean Labour Party, Kim Du Bon, said that by holding a separate election in the South the

American authorities, basing themselves on reactionaries of the Ly Syn Man type, intended to turn Korea into another Greece. The conference decided to send a note to the USSR and the US governments calling for the withdrawal of troops from Korea. Replying to a request received from the joint meeting of the representatives of North and South Korea concerning the withdrawal of foreign troops from Korea, the Soviet Government, through the Commander of the Soviet troops in North Korea, Lieutenant-General Korotkov, declared its readiness to withdraw its troops from North Korea provided that the United States Government would simultaneously withdraw its troops from South Korea.

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ELECTION IN SOUTH KOREA

With the assistance of the UNO “Inter-session Council” the US Government, contrary to the will of the people of Korea dictated a separate election to the people of South Korea. This degrading measure was enforced on May 10th despite

mass opposition and protests on the part of the people of both Southern and Northern Korea. Big protest demonstrations against the dictated election were dispersed and the organisers jailed. On May 10, 123 people were arrested.

For the purpose of executing their “selfless” idea—the separate election in South Korea—the US authorities, according to foreign correspondents, mobilised a force of 6,000 police, and large number of “volunteers”, while the America occupation forces stood by in a state of military preparedness. Police cars, armoured vehicles and armed soldiers patrolled the streets and the vicinity of the polling booths.

41 people were killed on “election” day in the Vimsan Nando province, while the number of killed in the course of the “election campaign” is well over the 100 mark. And all this took place before the eyes of a UNO Commission.

This then, is the way this instrument of peace—the UN “Inter-session Commission—a product of America foreign policy, conducts elections in South Korea.

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BOOK REVIEW

“DE GAULLE AND HIS ASSOCIATES”. Pierre Hentgés

In an article published in “Life” last June, Truman's agent, William Bullitt, stated that in its strategic plan to enslave

France the United States had assigned to the coalition government of Socialists and Catholics the role of vanguard, with the de Gaulle forces held in reserve.

In Compiègne de Gaulle declared that he regarded it as his “duty and an honour” to be the “centre and key” of the military coalition of American satellites against the USSR. Since then the General has been waging his offensive with the aim of seizing power. And the proposal to form an anti-Communist coalition comprised of the Socialist Party and extreme Right, made by his representatives Palewski and Pleven indicate that the RPF has become more definite in its demands and more insistent.

In this connection Andre Wurmser's book “De Gaulle and His Associates”[†] is most timely. Brought up in a Catholic and monarchist environment de Gaulle made his career as an officer under the patronage of Weygand (in Poland) and later served under Petain whom he saved from execution.

Incidentally, de Gaulle attracts the attention of the historian not so much by the battles, which he never fought, but by his books in which he expounds military theories identical with those elaborated by the Germans, theories which were refuted by the victories of the Soviet Army.

In his books “At the Point of the Sword (1932)” and “The Formation of Professional Army (1934)”, de Gaulle presents the conception of a special caste army which has no contact with the people, is incapable of guarding the security of the country, and is always ready in the hands of adventurers to be used as an instrument for a coup d'état.

In his arrogance, misanthropy and perfidy de Gaulle strongly reminds one of the German super-man theories and their Fuehrer principle.

“Nothing can be done without great men, and they become great because they want to”. This “great” man who, in de

[†]Andre Wurmser “De Gaulle and His Associates” Published by “Raison d'être”, Paris.

Gaulle's mind must be “an egoist, proud, cruel and crafty” is a twin brother of Nietzsche's hero. But when de Gaulle scornfully refers to the “mob”, when he claims that “in order to become the master” the politician must apply “all his art of inducement, dissembling in accordance with circumstances, promising anything at the opportune moment”, we are face to face with the monstrous cynicism of “Mein Kampf”.

De Gaulle's “doctrine” is the ideological reflection of the ruling classes of France who, in their overwhelming majority, supported the policy of appeasing the fascist aggressors and later collaborated with them.

In this connection Andre Wurmser shows the capitalist environment of de Gaulle.

His brother, who is the chairman of the Paris municipal council, heads the board of directors of the “Union Parisienne” bank which formerly belonged to Creusot Schneider.

This bank was at one time headed by the first Minister of Finance in the de Gaulle government, Lepercq, while his former War Minister Diethelm is the director of the “Urbaine-Vie” bank and a member of the board of directors of the “Credit Colonial” Bank. Another de Gaullist, the deputy Livry-Leve, was a member of the Board of Directors of the Pichiney chemical trust, and sat on the boards of a large number of colonial companies.

The documents quoted by Wurmser prove that the de Gaulle movement is functioning in the service of the monopolies and international reaction, that it has been formed in order to overthrow the Republican order and to turn France into a bridgehead within the framework of the aggressive plans of the American imperialists.

In June 1940 de Gaulle was appointed Assistant Secretary of State for National Defence in the Reynaud Government and went to London where he conferred with Churchill. Together they elaborated the project for an “indissoluble alliance” in which they stressed that “henceforth France and Great Britain will no longer be two separate nations. They will now

constitute one nation". The man who wanted to go down in history as the saviour of his country was prepared to have France swallowed by the British Empire at the very time of France's debacle. The future leader of the "Union of French People" (RPF) could hardly have given more striking proof of his contempt for the national interests. In London de Gaulle set up headquarters where the Cagoulaards and fascist terrorists set the pace.

The main link in the de Gaulle apparatus was his Central Bureau of Investigation and Action. (BCRA). This Bureau, a branch of the Intelligence Service, in every way hampered the development of the liberation movement in France of which the Communist Party was the actual inspirer.

Wurmser recalls that the BCRA refused to supply the Franc-tireurs and partisans with arms, allowed the partisans to be destroyed in Vercors and later conducted armistice negotiations with the Hitlerites in Paris at the very height of the uprising.

When the German army was hastily retreating, pursued by the partisans, de Gaulle, alarmed at the scale of the popular uprising instructed General Koenig to send the following telegram: "Obstruct partisan activity to maximum, repeat, to maximum".

The DGER (general intelligence and Investigation board), the successor of BCRA is brazenly inciting civil war (especially since the withdrawal of de Gaulle from the government in January 1946). The embezzlement scandal, which was partly exposed by the Passy affair, the establishment of arms depots, the training of defence groups along the lines of the SS, contact with spies abroad—all his speaks of the existence of a fascist plot against democracy and peace.

In a letter to de Gaulle in August 1946 the head of the French military delegation to the United Nations, General Billotte, writes that in Truman's aggressive militarist plans, de Gaulle's task is to whip up war hysteria in France which will make it possible to unite all the anti-democratic forces, including the de Gaullists and Right Socialists.

Billotte avers that the United States is “the only great power” and that “consequently it will act more and more openly”. On de Gaulle's request Billotte contacted Catholics among the MRP and Socialists. To quote him, he endeavoured to “sow panic”, that is, tried, by whipping up the war scare to get his companions to agree to the dictatorship of de Gaulle and to recognise him as the man best suited to mobilise the French and to sacrifice them to the American capitalists.

“I have spoken to Schumann and will speak to Bidault.” writes Billotte. “They are worried about the internal and international situation and realise the need for your return.

“Socialists Naturally, they are much more reserved, but they are sensible to my arguments. They stress the expediency of certain Republican gestures on your part. They could be won over by just one step forward, which need only be a matter of form. They were terrorised by my information. They appreciate your importance in the country and now understand what it means to have you for the only great power.”

After the book had gone to press fresh facts came to light which still further exposed the de Gaullists as hirelings of the American imperialists on French soil.

De Gaulle assumes that the Brussels Pact will give him the opportunity to ask for the supreme command of the military forces of the Western bloc. At meetings in Compiègne and Marseilles he demanded that a “precise and explicit” allied agreement be signed with the US. Fully supporting the plan of the State Department he claims that the German chauvinists and imperialists should be given an “outlet, a role and a chance,” thus offering them every inducement to take revenge.

As for the Right Socialist leaders they made it clear during the municipal elections and at the time of the strike last November that they will join forces with de Gaulle to fight the working class and the Communists. The recently published memoirs of the de Gaulle agent, Soustelle, reveal that during the war Blum had suggested de Gaulle as head of the “holy alliance” and that he should set up a strong executive organ of power.

However, the hopes of the de Gaullists to form a monolithic bloc around their general, a bloc including the third force, is encountering serious obstacles.

One of the RPF leaders told a “New Chronicle” correspondent that: “General de Gaulle will return to power only after the backbone of the CGT has been broken.”

It is now clear that neither the draconic measures during the strike nor the split in the CGT, engineered by the Right Socialists, succeeded in breaking the militant spirit, or in disrupting the ranks of the French working class. which continues to head the people as a whole and is the bulwark of democracy.

The Government's policy of plunder and impoverishment is causing discontent among the peasants and urban middle classes. The totalitarian claims of de Gaulle, his bellicose outbursts and his anti-parliamentarism and strivings to become dictator are giving rise to growing alarm among the French people. Delegate to the “small congress” of Radicals in Normandy voted against the dissolution of Parliament. During the election in Epernay the local Radicals refused to figure in the de Gaulle lists. Opposition is growing in the Socialist Party and MRP to the electoral law projects of the RPF which was able, thanks to the majority voting system to absorb the remnants of the “third force”.

These pre-election apprehensions reflect the profound alarm of the French at the thought of the disaster, that may befall the country as a result of the machinations of the anti-Republican conspirators headed by de Gaulle, and their adventurous foreign policy.

In this respect Wurmser's book is instructive for all democrats, for Socialists and Catholics loyal to the ideas of progress, for the men of the Resistance who do not approve of the Petain—de Gaulle alliance, for all those to whom the French Communist Party offered its programme of salvation on April 15 and “who share one and the same concern, one and the same alarm and one and the same desire to serve well the common

cause of France, the Republic and the peace”.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Printed and Published in Yugoslavia. Journal “For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy! appears on the 1st and 15th of every month Address of the Editorial Office and of the Publishing House: Belgrade, ulitsa Ivana Risticha. No 21. Telephone of the Editor's Office 28-424; of the Publishing House: 29-891