

Workers of All Countries, Unite!

For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy!

**Belgrade. Organ of the Information Bureau
of the Communist Parties**

No. 7 (10) THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1948

Scanning, transcription and editing:

Socialist Truth in Cyprus

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



&

Direct Democracy (Communist Party)

<http://www.directdemocracy4u.uk>



Direct Democracy (Communist) Party



July 2012

Contents

Contents 3

STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLES AGAINST AMERICAN ENSLAVEMENT 6

FOR CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES AGAINST IMPERIALISM 11

THE GROWING MOVEMENT FOR UNITY OF GERMANY AND FOR A JUST PEACE 11

WORLD YOUTH WEEK MEETINGS 12

ELECTION VICTORY OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT IN RUMANIA 14

BAN ON "FOR A LASTING PEACE, FOR A PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY" IN FRANCE 14

THE CENTENARY OF THE 1848 REVOLUTION IN HUNGARY 15

LAND REFORM IN CZECHOSLAVAKIA 16

THE POLISH, ITALIAN, CZECHOSLOVAK AND HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST PARTIES BREAK WITH THE COMMITTEE OF SOCIALIST CONFERENCES 17

The Principal Factors in the Development of the Fatherland Front 22

Bulgaria's Foreign Policy 24

Bulgaria on the Road to Economic Progress 31

The Principal Tasks of the Fatherland Front 36

The Organisational Structure of the Fatherland Front 37

PARTY NEWS BRIEFS 43

MANIFESTO OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SPAIN 43

RESOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF FRANCE 43

REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA 44

PLENUM OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRIA 45

TOWARDS FUSION OF THE WORKERS' PARTIES IN HUNGARY 47

COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONISTS RE-ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY IN GT. BRITAIN 48

DISCONTENT IN BRITISH LABOUR PARTY 50

MANIFESTO OF THE "FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM" MOVEMENT IN FRANCE 52

SWEDEN IN THE ORBIT OF THE IMPERIALIST DANGER. Sven Linderut 53

CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE UNIONS ON GUARD OVER THE PEOPLE'S UNITY. G. Climent 57

STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE'S FRONT OF ITALY. Gian Carlo Pajetta 62

NEW PHASE IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE POLISH WORKERS' PARTY AND POLISH SOCIALIST PARTY 68

From the Report of J. Cirankiewicz 68

From the Article of W. Gomulka 70

PRESS REVIEW 75

WHITHER FRANCE UNDER THE SCHUMAN GOVERNMENT? 75

CONTACT WITH THE MASSES AND THE ACTIVE 76

IMPERIALIST INTRIGUE WITH REGARD TO TRIESTE 76

CRUSADE AGAINST DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES 77

DEMOBILISATION IN THE SOVIET UNION 78

FOR THE UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS OF AUSTRIA. I. Koplénig 79

THE TREACHERY OF THE RIGHT SOCIALISTS 80

THE ACTIVITY OF THE WORKING CLASS 81

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN AUSTRIA 82

IN DEFENCE OF THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS 83

DE GASPERI THE BLESS. D. Zaslavsky 85

LEFT SOCIALISTS IN FRANCE CONDEMN RIGHT SOCIALIST LEADERS 89

POLITICAL NOTES 90

TRUMAN'S AGGRESSIVE PROGRAMME 90

HOW THE ANTI-DEMOCRATIC BLOC IS COMPOUNDED 92

CONFERENCE OF THE RIGHT SOCIALISTS IN LONDON 94

THE MUNICH TREACHERY AND 95

INTRIGUES OF NEW MUNICHITES 95

(APROPOS THE HISTORICAL MATERIAL OF THE SOVIET INFORMATION BUREAU "FALSIFIERS OF HISTORY"). D. Kraminov 95

STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLES AGAINST AMERICAN ENSLAVEMENT

At first the “Marshall Plan” was presented and advertised as the generous and disinterested desire of the United State to render material assistance to the war—devastated countries of Europe. The deliberately vague “philanthropic” formula of General Marshall greatly helped to develop the stupendous campaign of blackmail and mystification around so-called American aid to Europe.

The right-wing Socialist leaders who headed the governments in Western Europe, displayed particular zeal. They seized upon the “Marshall Plan” as the sheet anchor that would save them from the complete bankruptcy of their government policy.

The recent past is rich with events connected with the “Marshall Plan”. One after another all the “democratic” and “humanitarian” coatings of this “Plan” have been torn away, the fog of incense burned by Blum, Bevin and other acolytes of Wall Street has lifted and today the world sees the “Marshall Plan” in all its ugly reality. The ambiguous and high-sounding speeches of the Marshall men have given way to hard facts.

On March 14 the US Senate ratified the so-called European Recovery Programme. This puts an end to ten months of bluff about the “Plan” and furnishes concrete data regarding certain facts.

For ten months the governments of the 16 European countries devoted a considerable part of their activity preparing their

reports as recipients under the “Marshall Plan”. A special conference was held in Paris and the Committee of European Cooperation set up which in the course of three months gathered information and submitted a report to Washington on the needs of the 16 countries. Although this Committee had to rewrite its report like a schoolboy, at the behest of the American martinet, there was nevertheless, a semblance of the 16 countries “cooperating”, “participating” in the discussion of their vital needs. The aforementioned Committee was even preparing to control the distribution and use of American credits. This illusion has been completely shattered by the American Bill.

This Bill restricts US “aid” to 5.3 billion dollars in place of the 29.9 or even 22.4 billion dollars for four years and 8.5 billion dollars for one year as projected in the amended version of the report of the Committee of 16. The fact that 1.6 billion dollars of this sum is earmarked for Western Germany means that the total “aid” to the 16 countries will reach a mere 3.7 billion dollars which, incidentally, will be doled out of the shape of American goods. The Bill passes over in silence the question of any further appropriations for the four-year programme about which the Marshall men in Europe made so much noise.

The debate in the Senate developed into a competition among the Senators for the most onerous political and economic conditions to be imposed on the recipient countries. And while the scale of the “aid” has disillusioned the most hardened Marshall men the conditions under which it will be granted have once and for all buried the myth about the “humaneness” and “disinterestedness” of the American bankers. According to these conditions the recipient countries will have no say whatsoever in the distribution of the appropriated sum, leave alone control of the sums within the respective countries. These countries must pursue a trade and customs policy, dictated by the US, forget about nationalisation, support a “healthy” currency policy, that is, a policy advantageous to the Americans, etc.

The already existing US control on the production and trade of

the countries receiving “aid” will now be secured by the creation of funds totalling billions of francs, lira, kronas and marks in each of the given countries, which the American administrators will be able to use at will as a striking force against any branch of the national economy.

The ban on the re-export to the USSR and the new democracies of goods (even though only partly manufactured from American raw materials), which is actually a veto on any trade with these countries, and the obligatory supplies of “strategic” raw “materials” to the US, are the last links in the chain of bondage with which the 16 European countries are being shackled by Wall Street.

During recent years American imperialism, taking advantage of the post-war difficulties of the European countries—shortage of raw materials, fuel and provisions—has drained the gold and dollar reserves of the West European countries, not to mention their economy and is now out to turn these countries into a market for their capital and goods.

The European press has recently voiced a number of bitter thoughts about the second conference of the 16 countries, held in Paris in the middle of March. This second meeting of the Foreign Ministers presented a truly sorry, and at the same time, ignominious spectacle. It was a sorry spectacle because it was not for them to decide. And Washington let them know this in no uncertain terms. The Ministers merely noted that the economic and financial situation in Western Europe had, if anything, deteriorated since the time of the first conference. It was an ignominious spectacle because the conference of 16 states, which had suffered from Hitler aggression, on the instructions of the US and with the participation of the “Socialist” Ministers, automatically became the conference of “163/4” by the inclusion of Trizonia. The incredible insolence of the Portuguese, who suggested the inclusion of Franco Spain, evoked no protests.

When General Marshall announced his “plan” the American imperialists took it for granted that Europe was ready, economically and politically, to fall at their feet. And while in

the economic sense they have succeeded in thoroughly sapping the economy of the West European countries, their political and military-strategic calculations have come to nought.

Recent events show that the authors of the “Marshall Plan” overestimated their strength and the influence of their agents in Europe on whom they banked, and that they underestimated the strength of the democratic camp, and the resistance capacity of the peoples of Europe.

The Communists of Western Europe, equipped with the decisions of the Conference of the Nine Communist Parties in Poland, headed the resistance of the broad masses to American imperialism's plan to enslave their countries. The idea of resistance has long since spread beyond the confines of the more conscious section of the working class and is now taking root among the most varied social strata of the peoples of Europe. The practical results of the “Marshall Plan” have, in themselves, made the peoples of Europe acutely conscious of their national dignity. The unceremonious interference of the Americans in the internal political life of their countries, the open support for the reactionary governments in Greece, Italy and France, the disgusting blackmail to cancel “aid” even if the majority of the peoples object to following the instructions of the White House, etc.—all this is further awakening the patriotism of the masses who want to unite and resist.

As of old the growing resistance of the peoples of Greece, Italy, France and the other countries of Europe to American enslavement is being presented by the imperialists as “Cominform intrigues”. But the number of people who believe in these fairy tales is dwindling.

It is rather difficult to ascribe to the “Cominform” the fact that British and French manufacturers are protesting against American dumping, that dockers in Genoa stop ships loaded with scrap for the US, that workers in Ancona are protesting against closing down the shipyards, that the Italian and French peasant growers are protesting against the shameful import of American fruits, wines, soya flour and fats, and that British housewives refuse to buy tinned horse meat.

The haste with which the Western “holy alliance” is being hatched, the war hysteria in the speeches of Truman and Marshall, the preparations being made to suppress the will of the Italian people who are getting ready for the general election—all this bespeaks the fear of the American imperialists for their positions in Europe, their animal hatred of the steadily growing unity of the peoples of Europe in the struggle for their independence.

The instigators of a new war will not succeed in harnessing the peoples of Western Europe in battle dress and in arming them with guns manufactured according to the “Marshall Plan”; these peoples are succumbing less and less to the artificially fanned war hysteria for, despite the war crimes on the other side of the ocean, they daily see fresh evidence of the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union and the new democracies, evidence of the growing resistance of the peoples throughout the world to the aggressive plans of American imperialism.

(page 1)

FOR CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES AGAINST IMPERIALISM

THE GROWING MOVEMENT FOR UNITY OF GERMANY AND FOR A JUST PEACE

The second congress of the movement for the unity of

Germany and for a just peace was held recently in Berlin. Apart from delegates representing the Soviet zone 550 delegates from the Western zones took part in the congress, notwithstanding the prohibition of the American, British and French occupation authorities. Altogether some 2,000 delegates from the different political parties and mass organisations were present.

The chairman of the Socialist Unity Party, Otto Grotewohl, spoke on the lessons of the 1848 Revolution in Germany and on the struggle of the German people for national unity. "The social and political measures carried out in the Soviet zone," said Grotewohl, "are the only possible way to a final solution of the German problem and to preventing a new catastrophe."

Speeches were delivered by Wilhelm Kuelz, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party and by Professor Erich Fascher of the Christian-Democratic Union.

The congress decided to collect throughout the country, between May 23 and June 13 of this year, signatures in support of the demand to hold a people's referendum on the question of German unity. Special commissions of the people's congress will draft a constitution for a German republic so as to expedite the replacing of the Allied Control Council with a central German government. The congress discussed also a plan for rehabilitating the German national economy. By advancing this economic plan the people's congress is taking the lead in the struggle against hunger and economic devastation, for the wellbeing of the German people. A people's council of 400 members was formed to carry out activities between the sessions.

The congress was followed by large-scale demonstrations held in Berlin in connection with the centenary of the 1848 Revolution. Addressing the gathering Wilhelm Pieck, chairman of the Socialist Unity Party said: "The German people lost much in Hitler's war... but should we become victims at the criminal plans of the American imperialists we will lose everything." Condemning the policy of the leadership of the Schumacher Social-Democratic Party, Pieck emphasised that the split in the working-class movement after World War I led

to Hitler's dictatorship. "Only by uniting the two workers' parties will the working class be able, through the movement of the people's congress and cooperation with all democratic elements, to solve the great task of rehabilitating our country," said Pieck.

WORLD YOUTH WEEK MEETINGS

The struggle for peace, national independence and a better life for the youth was the keynote of the traditional World Youth Week held in March this year.

In Moscow and other Soviet cities meetings of solidarity with the democratic youth of the world took place.

In Yugoslavia a review voluntary was youth labour brigades. In Rumania young people have done considerable work in making the election fund of the People's Democratic Front a success, and in preparing for the construction of the Salva-Viselju railway. The newly formed League of the Secondary School pupils already has a membership of 300,000.

Hungary is well on the way towards ending disunity in the youth movement. On the initiative of the Democratic Youth League an approach has been made to the leadership of the four largest youth organisations of the country with a view to securing a unified youth organisation in the countryside. The youth committees of the Communist and Social-Democratic parties simultaneously issued a call for a union of Hungarian youth that would unite all the youth organisations of the country.

At meetings all over the country the young people of Poland expressed themselves in favour of youth unity and declared in favour of solidarity with the progressive youth movement throughout the world. The Polish youth are rallying around the newly formed "Serve Poland" organisation. A Coordination Committee of the Polish student organisations has been set up and is regarded as a big step forward towards a united student movement in Poland.

The Czechoslovak youth started World Youth Week by voluntary social labour called "victory work". The various Czech sports organisations have united into a national "Sokol" organisation, which will facilitate further unification of the Czechoslovak youth.

In France the Week began with celebrations in Paris organised by the French committee of the WFDY jointly with the French-Polish Cultural Society. This year contingents of young people from France will form special youth groups who, together with young people from other countries, will take part in social work in the new democracies.

In Italy the youth organisations affiliated to the Union of the Italian Youth are working hard for the People's Democratic Front.

ELECTION VICTORY OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT IN RUMANIA

Voting for the new National Assembly took place in Rumania on March 28. Early in the morning the working people of town and country assembled at the polling booths to demonstrate their loyalty and support for the People's Republic and the Democratic Front and their determination to strengthen the democratic system in the country.

The heavy poll, which was a record for Rumania, was an indication of the increased political interest shown by the people. Foreign press representatives who visited polling booths, both in Bucharest and in the countryside, were able to see for themselves that voting was free and democratic.

Of considerable interest are the results in fifty-nine constituencies: of a total electorate of 8,416,061, 7,600,000 went to the polls.

The preliminary returns, at time of going to press, show that the candidates of the Front were successful practically in all districts polling 90.8 per cent of the total vote. The Democratic Peasant Party secured but one seat.

BAN ON “FOR A LASTING PEACE, FOR A PEOPLE’S DEMOCRACY” IN FRANCE

The French Government is putting obstacles in the way to the circulation in the country of the newspaper “For Lasting Peace, for People's Democracy”.

According to “L’ Humanité”, the Communist deputies in Parliament failed to get any answer to questions put to the Ministry of Information and to the Home Ministry: why is it, they asked, that in Republican France the Government is trampling underfoot the elementary rules of democracy, violating traditional republican liberties and putting obstacles in the way of the democratic press.

The Ministers are silent. But they cannot compel the French people to be silent, the people who see American trusts buying up newspapers, while information agencies and thousands of American publications circulating in France, with the blessing of the “democratic” Government, are prosecuting their nefarious work of falsifiers of history, provocateurs and warmongers. The people of France realise that the newspaper “For Lasting Peace, for People's Democracy” is banned because it serves the cause of genuine democracy and peace, because it exposes the crafty designs of the American imperialists who are trying to seize hold of the French ship of state.

The hands of the Home Minister, Jules Moch, are stained with the blood of the workers. Now he is trying to suppress the newspaper “For Lasting Peace, for People's Democracy”. Truth cannot be banned. Not even “Socialist” gentlemen in the Government acting on orders from Washington can ban the truth.

THE CENTENARY OF THE 1848 REVOLUTION IN HUNGARY

The centenary of 1848 was widely celebrated throughout Hungary. Delegations from the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Albania and other countries attended the celebrations.

Over 300,000 people were present at a great meeting in Budapest. Among speakers were Zoltan Tildi, President of the Republic, Deputy Prime Minister Arpad Szakasits and Matias Rakosi, Secretary of the Communist Party. In his speech Rakosi stressed the importance of the land reform which realised the ideas of the 1848 Revolution and created the necessary conditions for stable unity between workers, peasants and progressive intelligentsia.

Addressing a special meeting of Parliament with the foreign delegations present in the visitors' gallery, deputy Revai, speaking for the Communist Party, said that now, in contrast to 1848, the Hungarian people are not alone. They have staunch friends in the great Soviet Union and the neighbouring democratic countries .

Marshal Voroshilov addressed the gathering on behalf of the Soviet delegation. He conveyed the greetings of the Soviet peoples and Generalissimo Stalin.

LAND REFORM IN CZECHOSLAVAKIA

The programme advanced by the new Government of Czechoslovakia which has been endorsed by Parliament, envisages, among other measures, the carrying out of a land reform. Recently the National Assembly ratified six laws all of which are of great significance for agriculture.

Private ownership is now restricted by law. All farms in excess of 125 acres will be purchased by the Government and the land distributed among agricultural labourers. In this way some 14,000 large land holdings will pass into the hands of the tillers of the soil.

Other laws put an end to the primitive strip system of cultivation and provide for credits to the farmers.

(page 1)

THE POLISH, ITALIAN, CZECHOSLOVAK AND HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST PARTIES BREAK WITH THE COMMITTEE OF SOCIALIST CONFERENCES

The Polish Socialist Party (PSP), the Social-Democratic Parties of Czechoslovakia and Hungary and the Italian Socialist Party recently published a statement announcing their withdrawal from the Committee of International Socialist Conferences.

The central organ of the PSP "Rabotnik" writes that the withdrawal of these parties from the Committee was a "reply to the provocative decisions of the London session of the Committee, decisions aimed against Social-Democracy in Czechoslovakia and against the policy of working-class unity, as represented in the PSP and Italian Socialist Party".

The Declaration of the PSP on its withdrawal from the Committee of International Socialist Conferences stated that as a result of the policy of splitting the working class, support for the "Marshall Plan" and active participation in organising the military alliance of the five Western powers the majority of the West European Socialist Parties have become the allies of American imperialism. This policy is aimed at regenerating German imperialism, Nazism and revisionism and is a threat to peace. The Declaration denounces the theory of the so-called third force, which is nothing other than a repetition of the old errors committed by the Second International between the two wars, errors which led the labour movement to disaster and brought about the triumph of fascism and war. The PSP, the Declaration goes on, vehemently denounces the policy of

hatred fostered by the majority of the West-European Socialist Parties against the USSR and the new democracies.

This policy has led the majority of the West-European Socialist Parties to join the campaign of the war mongers against the Soviet Union and the new democracies, a campaign that has been launched by the most unbridled circles of international reaction”.

The PSP then emphasises the uselessness of its continued participation in the Committee because “the latest events speak of the complete subordination of the policy of the Right Socialist Parties to the strategy of imperialism”. The Declaration stresses

that the underlying principle of the present leadership of the majority of the Socialist Parties of Western Europe is the desire to consolidate and deepen the split in the labour movement, to disrupt all cooperation with the Socialist Parties. which have remained loyal to the principles of Marxism and have consistently advocated and practised working class unity, and that this leadership is wholly responsible for the further split in the labour movement.

The statement of the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Social-Democratic Party notes that at International Socialist conferences the Right Socialist Parties of the West European countries , endeavour to force the working masses of Europe to serve the imperialist expansion of Wall Street, embodied in the Marshall Plan. ...The attitude of the majority of the parties, represented in the Committee of International Socialist Conferences towards the latest events in Czechoslovakia and Czechoslovak democracy merely confirm our conviction that further membership of this Committee would be tantamount to deceit and betrayal of the working people of Europe”.

The telegram of the Political Bureau of the Hungarian Social-Democratic Party, addressed to the Committee of International Socialist Conference reads: “The leadership of the Hungarian Social-Democratic Party has decided to break off relations with the London Committee of the International Socialist Conferences, since it does not want to have anything in

common with the policy of subordinating working-class interests to the interests of imperialism which is preparing for a new war, is endeavouring to colonise Europe and is combating genuine democracy”.

The decisions of the Polish, Czechoslovak, Hungarian and Italian Socialists are of the greatest political significance. They will contribute to the further growth and consolidation of the international labour movement and the anti-imperialist and democratic camp.

(page 1)

GEORGI DIMITROV. PEOPLE OF BULGARIA IN STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM

†Abridged report to the Second Congress of the Fatherland Front of

Comrade Dimitroff devoted the first part of his report to an analysis of the international situation, to the struggle of the two camps—the democratic and anti-democratic camps.

Profound changes have taken place on the international arena as a result of World War II, stated Comrade Dimitroff. Despite the expectations of world reaction the Soviet Union emerged from the war stronger than before, and with a greatly enhanced international prestige. A number of countries dropped out of the imperialist system. The people of Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Albania, with the support of the Victorious Soviet Army, overthrew fascism, abolished imperialist dependence and took their fate into their own hands. The acute crisis in the colonial and dependent countries is likewise a big factor in the further crumbling of the pillars of imperialism. And the contradictions within the imperialist camp, for instance in relation to the Marshall Plan, to the formation of a Western bloc, etc., will play no small role in the future.

Thus, the relation of forces between the imperialist and democratic camps as a result of World War II has changed sharply in favour of the democratic camp. In its struggle against reaction the democratic camp relies on the working class, on the working people of town and country, on the progressive intelligentsia, on the democratic movement in all lands, on the national-liberation movement in the colonies and dependent countries, on the new democracies. At the head of this camp stands the mighty Soviet Union. The democratic camp is a force strong enough to hold in check the imperialist robbers, to thwart their schemes and to save mankind from new and sanguinary imperialist adventures.

The imperialist system—unable to give the people anything but devastating wars, is holding back the development of the productive forces, and is a brake on progress, science and culture. Historically, it has outlived itself and its doom is inevitable.

Bulgaria held in February 1948.

The forces of peace, democracy and socialism, continued Dimitroff, are invincible. If, as pointed out in the Declaration of the conference of the nine Communist Parties in Poland, they display the necessary firmness and determination, new imperialist aggression is doomed to a complete fiasco.

We are living at a time when Socialism is on the order of the day, when it is impossible to move forward without advancing towards Socialism. The way to Socialism is not the same in all countries. It differs in keeping with the historical, national and other peculiarities of the given country, but the Socialist path is inevitable and is the only correct path for all lands and all peoples.

Comrade Dimitroff then dwelt on the historical roots of the Fatherland Front in Bulgaria. The creation of the Fatherland Front was not a chance thing; neither was it imported from abroad nor imposed from above. This salutary idea sprang from the people, crystallised as a result of the struggle of the working people against the treacherous Coburg monarchy, against the venal bourgeoisie and its anti-people's groups.

The Principal Factors in the Development of the Fatherland Front

Comrade Dimitroff described the following main factors in the development of the Fatherland Front as a movement of the people:

To begin with the Fatherland Front organised the resistance of the Bulgarian people against the German enslavers and the monarcho-fascist dictatorship. The initial programme of the Front, broadcast on July 17, 1942 by the "Hristo Botjeff" station declared that the central task was: the liberation of the country from the German yoke and monarcho-fascist dictatorship, the going over of Bulgaria to the camp of the anti-Hitler coalition and the establishment of popular democratic authority.

Guided by the Fatherland Front the resistance offered by the

people to Hitler aggression gradually spread, and the monarcho-fascist clique was unable to dispatch Bulgarian troops to the Soviet-German front. The victories of the valiant, Soviet Army, the defeats suffered by the Germans on all fronts, the capitulation of fascist Italy, the growth of the people's liberation struggle in Yugoslavia, the march of the Soviet Army on the Danube—all this stimulated the mounting struggle of the popular masses to break with Hitler Germany, to save the country from disaster and to establish a genuine people's democratic government of Bulgaria. Fatherland Front committees, headed by the National Committee, sprang up throughout the country.

An extensive partisan movement got underway. The various units united into partisan brigades and eventually into the people's liberation army with its General Headquarters.

A nation-wide anti-fascist armed uprising began to mature and was brought to a head by the appearance of the victorious Soviet Army on the north-eastern frontier of Bulgaria.

The bitter struggle of the Bulgarian people against reaction and fascism was crowned, on September 9, 1944, with complete victory. This was a people's victory, the victory of workers, peasants, handicraftsmen, progressive intelligentsia and the patriotic units of the army, in a word of all the healthy forces of our people, united under the banner of the Fatherland Front. Power was wrested from the hands of the capitalist bourgeoisie, the exploiting monarcho-fascist minority and placed in the hands of the overwhelming majority of the people under the guidance and active support of the working class.

The people's anti-fascist uprising of September 9 marked a radical turning point in the development of our country. It opened a new era in her history, an era of profound revolutionary—political, economic, social and cultural reforms, which cleared the path leading to a new social order—Socialism.

The second important element in the development of the Front was the participation of the new Bulgaria in the Patriotic War against Hitler Germany. The principal task of the Fatherland

Front at the time was: All for the front, for a speedy victory over fascism.

By taking part in the war our people, battling shoulder to shoulder with the glorious Soviet Army made their contribution to the liberation of the Balkans from the German yoke and to the complete debacle of Hitler Germany.

After the victorious conclusion of the war the Fatherland Front posed as the cardinal task the struggle for a just peace, defence of the territorial integrity and national independence of the country, rehabilitation of the national economy, the elimination of reactionary saboteurs and disruptive elements who, with the aid of foreign support, were beginning to rear their heads.

The efforts of the Fatherland Front were crowned with success. The Peace Treaty was signed and the government of the Fatherland Front was recognised also by Britain and the United States. The reactionary opposition, which, was systematically denounced and the leaders of which, as is known, were arrested in the act of preparing a coup d'état against the people's power, suffered a crushing defeat and were rendered harmless.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, adopted by the Great People's Assembly, secured the historical gains of the people's uprising of September 9 and opened the way for the further development of our country along the path of democracy and progress.

During the past five years the Fatherland Front has traversed a glorious path of struggle. It has developed and grown stronger, has purged itself of overt and covert enemies. The various democratic circles and organisations that comprise the Fatherland Front have learnt to know each other better, have established a good working relationship and appreciate that the leading role of the working class is an essential element in consolidating the Fatherland Front and the people's democracy. Today we can confidently state that there is complete unanimity, as never before in the Front on all vital questions of the internal and foreign policy of our people's republic.

Bulgaria's Foreign Policy

Although the Front's history is but five years old, this short period has been a decisive period. During these five years fundamental State-political, economic, social and cultural reforms have been introduced under the leadership of the Fatherland Front, reforms which are literally transforming our country.

As has been stressed time and again the Front saved Bulgaria from a third national disaster. The victorious people's uprising of September 9 and the arrival of the valiant Soviet troops in Bulgaria prevented the Anglo-American occupation or the country, with the possible participation of Turkish and Greek troops, **planned in Cairo with the consent of** the Muraffieff-Mushanoff-Buroff government. The Front prevented the partition of Bulgaria, which had been projected to meet the predatory claims of the Greek chauvinists and their high-ranking patrons.

Thanks to this Bulgaria was able to sign dignified armistice terms and actually secured her freedom from foreign military occupation. The Soviet units that remained in Bulgaria protected our country against degrading and brutal occupation and guaranteed the people of Bulgaria the right freely to build their State on genuine democratic foundations.

Thanks to Bulgaria's active participation in the war against fascist Germany she was able to sign in Paris a peace which, although containing a number of onerous and unjust conditions, and for the revision of which the people of Bulgaria are fighting, was the most favourable she could have reckoned on in conditions of the international situation at the time.

Our greatest achievement was that we were able, thanks to the powerful support of the Soviet Union and the fraternal Slav countries, to preserve the integrity of our country and secure our national independence.

The Fatherland Front effected a decisive turning point in the foreign policy of Bulgaria. Once and for all the Front wrested our country from the clutches of German imperialism,

resolutely opposed all attempts of the foreign imperialist circles to dictate their will to the country and, in accordance with the traditions and will of the people of Bulgaria, steered the Bulgarian ship of state into channels of peace and cooperation with all the freedom-loving and democratic peoples, and first and foremost, with our liberator, the great Soviet Union.

Rapprochement with Yugoslavia is of enormous significance for the future of our country. Our peoples, whom the German imperialists with the help of their agents incited to war against each other and divided in order to rule, found the true path leading to fraternity and unity, which was secured in the pact of friendship, cooperation and mutual aid signed by the two countries.

Thanks to the newly-established democratic systems the solidarity between the Slav states which for centuries had lived in isolation and discord, is growing into a big factor of peace, democracy and social progress. The policy of the Fatherland Front is not a racial policy and does not pursue the object of dividing Europe and the world into blocs; it is a policy of democracy and progress, a policy which aims to cooperate with all freedom-loving and democratic peoples to secure universal peace and their material and spiritual development on the basis of their national independence and in the spirit of the statutes of UNO.

We have demonstrated this in our treaties of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance, not only with Yugoslavia, but also with the non-Slav countries of Albania and Rumania, by our talks, which we negotiated for the same purpose, with Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary, and also by our readiness to cooperate with the States which respect our freedom and independence.

As in the past, so too in the future the principle of our foreign policy will continue to be joint defence against possible aggression, to secure our national independence, territorial integrity and State sovereignty. We have devoted special attention to strengthening our mutual economic and cultural ties, to mutual assistance in promoting our economy, which

must make us independent of imperialist trusts and banks.

It goes without saying, of course, that we haven't the slightest intention of creating an Eastern bloc in any shape or form, despite all the false interpretations of the initiators of the Western bloc and their agents.

The foreign press, as well as responsible and irresponsible people abroad make the absolutely unfounded allegation that Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Albania are interfering in the internal affairs of Greece and fanning civil war there. This allegation reveals the attempt of interested circles to shift the responsibility. It goes without saying that our people are vitally interested in their southern neighbour establishing a democratic regime, peace and order, for then our people can calmly continue their creative labour without being distracted by artificially-created border incidents and constant disorders. It is also natural that our people should sympathise with the struggle of the Greek people and be willing to help the victims of the terror in Greece, who are seeking asylum on our soil. But I reject categorically the charges made against the Bulgarian Government and emphatically state that responsibility for the civil war in Greece, which is causing disquiet in our country, rests wholly with the terrorist regime in Greece and with the foreign circles who are endeavouring with the aid of military force and blatant interference in the internal affairs of the country, to foist their will on the freedom-loving Greek people.

The Achievements of the Bulgarian People

The Fatherland Front has scored major successes also in the sphere of home policy.

The Front resolutely routed the monarchist clique and Hitler agents, abolished all fascist organisations, gave free rein to the initiative and activity of the masses in all spheres of State and public life. It restored, extended and guaranteed the democratic rights and liberties of the people, gave them the opportunity to be the masters of their destiny.

The women of Bulgaria were given equal rights and drawn into active public and political life. The Front gave the country's

youth, who have reached the age of 18, the right to elect and be elected. Our young people are the pride of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Their patriotic exploits on the labour front call for special mention.

Never in the past have the people of Bulgaria taken such an active and conscious part in the elections to the supreme organs of the State. In the 1945 November elections 3,862,492 citizens, that is, 86 per cent of the total number of electors went to the polls; 4,129,544 electors, that is, 91.6 per cent of the total number of electors took part in the referendum on the people's republic on September 8, 1946; 4,244,337, or 93.19 per cent of the electors cast their vote in the elections to the Great People's Assembly.

These figures speak of the giant strides made by our people's democracy, especially when compared with the elections in the past and the elections in the countries of vaunted Western democracy.

In the past the newspapers, as a rule, belonged to individual capitalists or capitalist circles, or were subsidised by doubtful sources for carrying out an anti-popular policy and propaganda. Progressive newspapers and magazines had no chance for development. Special draconic laws and censorship made it impossible for the people to express themselves. Under the people's democracy the principles of freedom of the press were brilliantly realised. The democratic political organisations of our people, their mass cultural organisations acquired the right and opportunity to publish their printed organ and freely express their opinion on all State and social matters.

Never before have the workers, peasants, intelligentsia, handicraftsmen and all progressive citizens enjoyed such freedom and opportunities to foregather, organise, to use the squares, streets, halls, print shops and radio for their political and cultural activities.

The trade unions in our country with its population of 7 million today operate freely and unhampered. There are close to 540,000 organised industrial and office workers not to mention the Peasants' union with 1,280,000 members, the Union of

Handicraftsmen with 114,000 members, the cooperative organisations with more than 2,000,000 members, the Women's League with more than 600,000 members, the Youth League with close to 1,000,000 members, the organisation of school pupils with a membership of more than 600,000, etc.

The people's democracy has fully realised the principle of freedom of conscience. Citizens can practise the religion of their choice.

The Fatherland Front has given the national minorities inhabiting the country full equality of rights. Certain Turkish newspapers have slanderously alleged that the Turkish minority in Bulgaria does not enjoy full equality. This is an out and out falsehood, for the Turkish minority has the unrestricted right to study in its native tongue and practise its national culture.

The people's democracy, which was won with the blood of thousands of valiant champions against fascism and the untold suffering of the Bulgarian people, cannot tolerate a "freedom" which would be detrimental to the interests of the Bulgarian people and would, if anything be an enemy of the people. In our country there can be no freedom for the monarcho-capitalist clique, for those responsible for national disasters, for hangmen of the people, for fascists, conspirators and for those who want to restore the old regime. Everybody knows that if prison is the place for the bandit armed with a gun the bandit wielding the pen must not be allowed to harm the people.

The Fatherland Front has democratized and consolidated our beloved people's army. In the past the army was a tool in the hands of the monarchy and reactionary fascist clique to oppress the Bulgarian people, to uphold interests and aims alien to the people. Today this army is an instrument of peace, freedom and independence of our people. Our army and our valiant border guards protect the freedom of our native land.



Bulgaria on the Road to Economic Progress

After September 9 Bulgaria was faced with serious economic tasks. In the course of the war we had to satisfy the demands of the front and later rapidly heal the wounds inflicted on our economy by the war, resolutely take the path of economic development and secure the national independence and wellbeing of our people. To accomplish this we had to marshal

our material, moral and labour resources along planned lines.

The Two-Year Economic Plan adopted in the spring of 1947 is of outstanding significance for our people. This Plan projects the new direction of Bulgaria's economic development. In the future the planned economy will embrace, on an ever wider scale, the different branches of our national economy and, once and for all, will put an end to the anarchy in production and distribution. A planned system has become possible because the leadership of the state is in the hands of the people and because under the new power the social sector—State and cooperative—is steadily expanding.

Our economic plan raises two basic tasks. The first is to surmount the difficulties we have inherited and to liquidate the consequences of the war. The second is to lay the foundation for the speedy industrialisation of our country, develop the electric power industry, increase coal output, mechanise agriculture, promote cattle breeding, improve and extend the transport system, develop and perfect the handicrafts trades, extend and promote home and foreign trade.

Our country is very backward industrially. Only 8 per cent of the gainfully employed population is engaged in industry. In this respect practically all the West European and some of the Balkan countries have left us behind. The reason for this is to be found in the harmful anti-national policy of the former bourgeois reactionary and fascist governments, which turned our country into an agrarian appendage of the German imperialists and reduced her to a semi-colony. The capitalist class in Bulgaria was not concerned with building heavy industry. It was interested, in the main, in light industry which would yield quick and big returns. However, this capitalist class preferred, above all else, to go in for trade and speculation as the shortest path to getting rich quick.

Although work had to be carried out under the most difficult conditions — the poor heritage, three years of drought, foreign trade difficulties — considerable achievements can be registered in the sphere of industry. Industrial output in 1947 was 30.5 per cent higher than the 1939 figure and 16 per cent

above the 1946 level. Coal output in particular has increased by 80 per cent compared to 1939.

The first oven of the huge “Vulkan” cement works in Dimitrovgrad went into operation in 1947 and the second is scheduled for this year. Construction work has started on the nitrogenous fertilizers plant in Dimitrovgrad which, upon completion, will produce 110,000 tons of fertilizers annually. The plant will also have a special shop which will produce sulphuric acid. An agreement has been signed with the USSR to build a liquid fuel plant.

A particularly important measure in the sphere of our economic policy which will greatly promote the further development of the economy is the nationalisation of private enterprises and the mining industry. Whereas at the end of 1946 the State and cooperative sector contributed only 30 per cent of the country's industrial output today the State sector alone accounts for more than 80 per cent of the total output. Thus, the people's State has won one of the key positions in economy, which allows for the rapid all-round industrial development of our country.

Nationalisation, which has met with the unanimous approval of the people of Bulgaria furnishes splendid opportunities for enlarging and reconstructing industry, for increasing and improving the quality of industrial output, and bringing down production costs. The new executives of the State enterprises, the workers, engineers and technical personnel are now engaged in creating large-scale industrial enterprises, by grouping together the smaller nationalised enterprises, especially in the engineering and chemical industries. Simultaneously the construction of new enterprises is proceeding apace—8,300 million lev have been appropriated for this purpose in 1948.

The people's Government is devoting considerable attention to electrification which was very backward in the past and was allowed to develop only inasmuch as it suited the commercial and speculative interest of the Bulgarian and foreign capitalists. The output of electric power rose from 313 million kilowatt hours in 1944 to 488 million kilowatt hours in 1947. “A”

number of steam and hydro-electric power stations are being built which in 1950-51 will satisfy the needs of electrification. Close to 300 towns and villages have been electrified and the 1948 plan provides for another 280 receiving electricity.

The Fatherland Front has done well in agriculture. The area under crop has increased from 43 million decares in 1940 to 48 million in 1947. As a result of the agrarian reform 127,000 families received 1,252,000 decares of land and 7,863 families holdings. 381 publicly-owned economies, and institutions received 71,000 decares of land.

An important new feature in agriculture is the producer cooperatives, of which there are 579 comprised of about 50,000 landholders. These cooperatives possess a total of 1,890,000 decares of land. Despite the difficulties caused by three years of drought in succession, the cooperatives have taken a firm foothold. The peasants are beginning to regard them as the surest way to developing our economy and enhancing the wellbeing of the rural population.

We are increasing the production of agricultural machines as a means of further promoting agriculture and in the near future will have our own agricultural machine-building industry.

We are establishing 30 machine and tractor stations to supply agriculture with the necessary implements, machines and especially tractors to cultivate the land. In all we shall have 70 machine and tractor stations this year.

Hundreds of thousands of decares of marshland have been drained and converted into first-class fertile soil by the erection of dams along the Danube. A reservoir, hundreds of kilometres of new canals, and pumping station are under construction. The Fatherland Front has embarked on extensive construction activities, the results of which will be apparent within the next few years. Millions of decares of land will be irrigated and fertility increased threefold.

Considerable efforts are being exerted to promote cattle breeding, for which purpose more than 922 cattle raising farms have been established. Fodder stocks have been increased. We have built also a number of district incubators.

The planned autumn sowing was fulfilled 101 per cent and undoubtedly the spring sowing will be carried out just as successfully.

Until September 9, 1944 Bulgaria's foreign trade was channelled exclusively in the interests of the big private firms and German imperialism and mainly catered to Germany.

September 9 found Bulgaria economically isolated. The Government took immediate measures to restore and extend trade relations with the outside world. It was able to sign a trade agreement with the Soviet state, which rendered invaluable economic aid in rehabilitating our national economy. The Soviet Union supplied us with a number of machines and basic materials for industry, rendered extensive assistance in food supplies by sending 130,000 tons of grain and fodder and 30,000 tons of hay. We will be receiving another 75,000 tons of wheat from the Soviet Union during the early part of the current year.

Apart from this the Soviet Union has granted us a trade credit of 5,000,000 dollars, has helped us in our industrialisation plans by agreeing to build, on the deferred payment system, a chemical plant with an electric power station in Dimitrovgrad and a liquid fuel plant in the Burga area.

Trade agreements have been signed also with Czechoslovakia, Poland, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungary, Austria, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Italy and Sweden.

Special import-export centres—State and mixed—have been organised which now control the whole of foreign trade. Thus, foreign trade which in the past, was a means of robbing the people of Bulgaria has become an important factor in the development of the country's national economy.

Our enemies tried to scare us by saying that the financial policy of the Fatherland Front would lead the country to disaster and the Bulgarian people would not trust the new financial institution. However, the facts tell a different story: deposits in the savings bank and in the Agricultural and Cooperative Bank of Bulgaria have considerably increased.

By nationalising the banks the people of Bulgaria have eliminated the remaining parasitic private banks from the banking system and made the State the master of credits in the country.

Whereas in the past the working people were compelled to work for the fascist state now, that they are the masters of their country they are working with great enthusiasm, despite the still unsatisfactory material conditions, and are confident that only thus will they be able to improve their life.

Labour emulation and shock-brigade work are a new impulse to labour, hitherto unknown in the history of Bulgaria. Hundreds of thousands of people are setting examples of how to work for our native land. We can say that emulation is getting to be a permanent and essential factor on the labour front. We now have innovators and rationalisers in industry who are facilitating the labour processes and increasing output. One of the best examples of the genuinely popular and democratic character of the Front is the fact that all really talented members of the intelligentsia capable of creative work are either actively participating in building up our people's republic, or are facilitating this building in every way. None can deny that there is not a single really prominent worker in the sphere of science, art and culture who is not contributing to the great constructive work of the Front.

The Principal Tasks of the Fatherland Front

The tasks which the Fatherland Front programme outlined in 1942 have, in the main, been fulfilled. The Front must now renew its programme and define its new tasks in accordance with the vital interests of the people and with the further development of the country. In short, these tasks are as follows: First, to educate the popular masses in the spirit of the people's Constitution, to inculcate and strengthen the consciousness that they are strong and that they are masters of their own destiny; to educate the masses politically, so that all citizens of the people's republic take an active part in governing the country;

to develop among the people a sense of national dignity, of patriotic duty and readiness to defend the interests of the State and people.

Second, by every means to facilitate the development of the productive forces both in industry and agriculture; to industrialise and electrify the country and thus to increase to the maximum her economic power, to transform Bulgaria into a modern industrial-agrarian country with a highly-developed industry, with an abundance of electric energy and irrigation, a well-developed transport system, and mechanised agriculture; to extend and develop the State sector, that is, the people's sector of the national economy and to set up a network of agricultural and artisan cooperatives, rendering, at the same time, all-round assistance and protection to individual agricultural producers, to handicraftsmen, etc., and to improve the material and cultural wellbeing of the people.

Third, to strengthen the defence capacity of the country by preparing the people to defend their freedom and independence from any foreign encroachment.

Fourth, to secure the carrying out of a consistent and correct foreign policy based on the principles of a lasting and democratic peace and on genuine and unbreakable friendship with the Soviet Union, which is the keystone of this policy; to secure also the policy of fraternity and friendship with the people of Yugoslavia, and cooperation with all near and distant freedom-loving peoples, based on equality and respect of national independence, on an all-round system of allied treaties of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance with all Slav and non-Slavic democratic countries for defence against imperialist aggression and for economic prosperity.

The realisation of these tasks spells the elimination of the remnants of the capitalist system of exploitation in our country.

The Organisational Structure of the Fatherland Front

The new tasks call for a reorganisation of the Fatherland Front. The Front has never been merely a party coalition, an agreement between leaders of different parties for temporary aims and tasks. From the very outset our Front was a popular movement. However, formerly due to necessity its leadership bore certain features of a party coalition—features which the Front in the process of development, is gradually abandoning. Hitherto the Front had no organisation and no elected leading organs.

The realisation of our new tasks is impossible without the maximum unity and welding together of the popular forces, without increased consciousness and active participation by the citizens of the people's republic, without the unified and authoritative guidance of the growing activity of the working people. For these reasons it is necessary to reorganise the Front into a united people's social-political organisation with rules of discipline obligatory for all its members, and possessing a unified general programme and elected leadership.

The draft statutes of the Front contain the main organisational principles of this unified people's social-political organisation.

The main principle of the new organisation of the Fatherland Front will be democratic centralism. This means that all organs of the Front, from the lowest to the highest, are elected, that they report to their corresponding organisations, that the lower organs submit to the higher, the minority to the majority, that the decisions of the leading organs are binding for all members of the Front organisations; it means also the broad development of constructive, creative criticism and self-criticism. All this guarantees that the Front will possess a sound organisation capable of guiding our people and their great work of construction.

Anyone, regardless of party membership, nationality, religion and social position, can be a member of the Front, provided he accepts the Front Statutes and programme, submits to its discipline, works in one of its organisations and pays membership dues. The doors of the Front are closed for those who serve reaction, directly or indirectly, who took part in

persecuting and murdering antifascists or who actively encouraged and supported fascist tyranny.

In this way the Fatherland Front becomes a genuine popular organisation open to all honest citizens ready to work on behalf of our country.

The transformation of the Front into a unified popular social-political body does not exclude the existence and activity of the various parties forming the Front. The idea that the time has come to liquidate the parties and that these parties have outlived their role is a harmful prejudice. There are good reasons for the existence of separate parties in the Front even in the conditions of the unified popular social-political organisation. These parties have much work before them in drawing to the Front numerous elements from the circles where they have influence and contact, and in doing so they will help strengthen the Front and hasten the complete moral and political unity of our people, which is the chief guarantee of future success. The new thing for the parties is that now they will develop their activities within the framework of the Front programme and will be obliged to submit to its discipline.

The progressive social development of our country is moving not backward, towards a multitude of parties and groupings, but towards the elimination of all remnants of the capitalist system of exploitation, and this will lead to the establishment of a unified political party that will guide the state and society.

Our people who have bitter memories of the past will never agree to the leadership of our State and society resembling the swan, crayfish and pike in Krylov's fable, who, despite their efforts could not move the cart, since the swan was pushing upward, the crayfish backward while the pike was diving into the river.

But the formation of a united political party of our people calls for hard work. A number of radical changes are necessary to eliminate completely the capitalist system of exploitation and to put an end to the existence of antagonistic classes; it is necessary also to carry out considerable work in the matter of re-educating our people. But all this will be done by the

Fatherland Front, the united social-political organisation, which our congress will set up.

There are dishonest people who will say that this is totalitarianism, dictatorship by a single party. Fascism certainly represented a totalitarian system, but as is known that system was imposed on the people from above, by means of terror and violence, and found expression in the unrestricted domination and dictatorship of a handful of big capitalists, financial magnates, businessmen and political adventurers over the vast majority of the people with the aim of plundering and enslaving the people.

The Fatherland Front bears no relation whatsoever to such a system. The Front represents the unification of the popular forces, brought about by the people and for the people. Together with the Communist Party, which is the leading party, there are four other parties in the Front—the parties that broke with the capitalist system, that adhered to the progressive principles of the Front and declared themselves for the people and for the country. Expressing the wishes of the people these parties accept the general political discipline and a unified programme that envisages constructive labour, a lasting peace and the building of a just social order which will secure for the working people the wellbeing they deserve. Clearly this is not totalitarianism. This is unified political leadership of the people's republic in the interests of peace, democracy and progress.

Internal reaction and hired imperialist agents would like to prevent the creation of a political leadership of this kind, for they are interested in dividing the people. Their slogan is: "Divide and rule!"

But the old bourgeois parties have been rejected by our people. Their existence is not, and cannot be, justified. In the new social order they have become not only superfluous but also harmful as the agency of internal and international reaction. The Fatherland Front has been called to rule the country and only the Front will rule in accordance with the expressed will of the people.

Naturally, enemies of our people's republic would like to have their fifth column in the country, which would undermine the basis of the people's democracy. But people who have taken their destinies into their own hands won't stand for any fifth column— the agency of the foreign imperialists, the tools of capitalist concerns and monopolies.

I am convinced that all the parties in the Front and the other organisations as well will, after this congress, reorganise their work along new lines, will spare no effort to make the Fatherland Front firm and unshakable, to make it a vast, unanimous, loyal, united and disciplined social-political victorious army of our people. (Applause)

Carefully and critically analysing the difficult and tortuous path traversed by our people under the leadership of the Fatherland Front we can say with confidence that the worst is behind us. No doubt in future, too, we shall encounter quite a number of difficulties but then difficulties are inevitable, are a concomitant of growth and development. At the same time the conditions and opportunities for overcoming the difficulties, exist.

With the organisation of the Fatherland Front into a united, people's social-political organisation, equipped with a new programme, the people of Bulgaria will advance more confidently towards the final triumph of their great cause, regardless of all and any difficulties and obstacles.

Our task is rendered much easier thanks to the fact that the people are inspired by, and are ready to learn from the experience of the fraternal Soviet Union, whose people, despite enormous difficulties and enormous sacrifice, have created, under the leadership of the great Bolshevik Party and of its brilliant leader Generalissimo Stalin, a new socialist society and are now confidently marching onward to Communism. (Prolonged applause)

Our people have their enemies, but the people are not alone. They have also big and small, true, and unselfish friends. By

firmly rallying around the Fatherland Front the people of Bulgaria will steer their social ship of State through the reefs to safe harbour.

Long live the indestructible and invincible Fatherland Front!

Long live the people's republic of Bulgaria! (All rise, stormy and prolonged applause.)

(page 2, 3)

PARTY NEWS BRIEFS

MANIFESTO OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SPAIN

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain has issued a Manifesto denouncing the plan to make Spain a military-strategic base of the Anglo-American imperialists, and calls upon the Spanish people to strengthen the fight against the Franco regime, for a republic and national sovereignty. The Manifesto declares that Franco and the Falange have bartered national sovereignty for American imperialist support, hoping thereby to bolster the regime.

The Communist Party calls upon all Spanish democrats and anti-Fran cists to create a **national republican-democratic front of struggle for the Republic and national independence**. This Front should bring together all Spanish patriots, including also right-wing anti-Franco forces, on a

common platform of mutual obligations and concrete programme of action.

The Manifesto calls upon the Communists and the members of the underground trade unions and resistance movement in the country to establish local, district and central resistance councils, and to inculcate among the masses the idea of struggle and unity.

RESOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF FRANCE

The recent meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of France, held under the chairmanship of Maurice Thorez, heard a report on the efforts made by the Communist group in Parliament to secure the withdrawal of the Mayer plan. The Political Bureau stated that the Schuman-Mayer-Moch Government got a majority thanks to the support of the de Gaulle group. This shows that the leaders of the Socialist Party, MRP and de Gaulle, are at one concerning the outrageous plunder measures which are causing prices to soar.

The Political Bureau expressed the opinion that since the Government refused to make any serious alternation in the Mayer plan, the tax payers—handicraftsmen, shopkeepers, small and medium industrialists, peasants and professional people—are fully justified in rallying to the Defence Committees in order to compel the Government to respect their lawful interests, which under any circumstances would be supported by the Communist Party against the enemies of French national economy and national independence.

With regard to the international situation, the Political Bureau considers the signing of the Western military pact to be a major threat to peace and democracy. The people of France observe with alarm and indignation that Western Germany is becoming an essential part of the Western bloc, while France's right to reparation is completely ignored and the basis of her security shattered.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The regional conferences of the Communists Party recently held throughout Czechoslovakia, summarised the recent events in the country and discussed measures for consolidating the people's democratic order. The conference in Kladno was addressed by the general Secretary of the Communist Party, Comrade Slansky; in Karlovy Vary one of the secretaries of the Central Committee, Comrade Svermova spoke, in Brno — Minister of Finance, Comrade Dolansky, in Olomouc — Minister of Justice, Comrade Cepicka and in Iglav — Minister of Foreign Trade, Comrade Gregor.

According to the “Rude Pravo”, between March 7 and 21, 283,730 new members joined the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

PLENUM OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRIA

At a recent meeting in Vienna of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Austria reports were made by the Chairman of the Party, Johannes Koplenig, the General Secretary, Friedl Furenberg and by Ernest Fisher, Executive member.

The meeting discussed the main question facing the Party: the struggle for the freedom and sovereignty of Austria, the speedy signing of the Peace Treaty and the need to secure the departure of the occupation troops from the country.

The Party Executive countered the policy of the Government coalition, which is striving to drag Austria into the bloc of the “Marshall Plan” countries, with proposals to restore Austria's economy with her own resources and in cooperation with the neighbouring countries.

The meeting fully supported the working-class demand for an all-round 25 per cent wage increase and also the demand for an immediate improvement in food supplies.

The resolution on the Peace Treaty states:

“The Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Austria sharply protests at the latest delay in signing the Austrian Treaty and the openly expressed intention to again postpone the long-promised sovereignty for Austria.

“The statement made by Foreign Minister Gruber, in the Parliamentary commission clearly reveals that the Western Powers are sabotaging the signing of the Austrian Treaty and that they have no intention of withdrawing their troops from Austria. While the leaders of the coalition parties talk much about the treaty, in practice they support American imperialism and its hirelings in their drive against the sovereignty of Austria. In their endeavour to involve our country in the Western capitalist bloc the foreign imperialists and their Austrian puppets would, under certain circumstances, agree even to the partition of Austria and to the uniting of her Western provinces to Western Germany.

“As distinct from the reactionary adventurers, who place the interests of capital above the freedom and independent existence of Austria, the vast majority of our people want our country to be united, free and independent. Three years of the occupation regime imposed on us, have not yielded any positive results. Allied military and political control of Austria was based on the need for complete separation from Germany, on the need of eliminating the remnants of fascism and pan-Germanism and helping our country rehabilitate her economy. The result, however, has been the very reverse. The occupation regime is not securing the national unity and independence of Austria. Under the aegis of the occupation regime neo-fascist conspirators have joined forces in the Western provinces and foreign fascists are terrorising the people. The occupation regime is not promoting economic recovery. On the contrary, it is retarding this recovery. Together with us, the people are longing for the day when the last foreign soldier, the last foreign control organ will depart from Austria ...

“Since appeals to the Allies and the Government have proved useless, the Communist Party of Austria calls upon the people to fight for freedom and independence. It is the duty of every

Communist, man and woman, to rally the people for this struggle. The working class can and will, foil the plans of reaction, which wants to turn our country into a bastion of Western capital, into an outpost of the imperialist bloc. The struggle for economic development, for social and political progress, for the great ideas of the working class are indissolubly linked with the struggle for the sovereignty of Austria. Conscious of this the Austrian Communists will spare no efforts to unite all workers into a great people's movement for freedom and independence.”

TOWARDS FUSION OF THE WORKERS' PARTIES IN HUNGARY

The Political Bureau of the Hungarian Communist Party has decided to resume admittance of new members to the Communist Party. “Regarding the branches of the Social Democratic Party,” says the Bureau resolution. “the Communists must not set themselves the aim of getting as many members of the Social-Democratic Party as possible into the Communist Party; the job is to secure the political and organisational pre-requisites for the correct carrying out of the fusion.”

A meeting of the joint Political Committee of the Communist and Social-Democratic Parties decided to convene a Unity Congress on June 12-14. A special commission was elected to prepare a draft programme for the united party. Comrade Matias Rakosi was elected chairman and Comrade Arpad Szakasits deputy chairman of the joint Political Committee.

On March 18 the leading officials of the two parties held their first joint meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Comrade Farkas, deputy general secretary of the Communist Party, stated that although the united workers' party would not be called Communist, this does not mean the abandonment of the ideology, organisational principles and practice of the Communist Party.

“The principal task,” said Farkas, “is to remove the reactionary right wing from the Socialist Party, otherwise it will be impossible to create a Marxist-Leninist revolutionary party. This should be appreciated also by those honest Social-Democrats who, influenced by the reactionary slanderers, have shown hesitation in expelling the Rights. We must create such a party that will rally the majority of the working people of Hungary and that will be able to lead the people to Socialism.”

Comrade Marosan, deputy general secretary of the Social-Democratic Party, wholeheartedly supported Comrade Farkas and stated that the ideological principles of the united workers' party would be based on the teachings of Marx — Engels— Lenin — Stalin.

COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONISTS RE-ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY IN GT. BRITAIN

Mr. Bert Whittome, well-known London Communist and Secretary of the Port of London Joint Shop Stewards Committee for the past four years, was re-elected Secretary of the Committee without any opposition.

The Committee represents some 10,000 port workers.

A woman Communist, Miss L. Wrightson won the highest number of votes when the Home Counties (London Area) Federation of Trades Councils elected 4 new members to the Executive.

The Federation represents 100,000 trade unionists affiliated to 34 Trades Councils.

Another Communist, Mr. J. Loftus was unanimously re-elected Secretary of Wembley (London) Trades Council.

(page 3)

DISCONTENT IN BRITISH LABOUR PARTY

The recently published agenda for the 1948 Labour Party

conference, scheduled for the middle of May, mirrors the discontent and uneasiness felt by the rank and file of the Party. Wages, prices and profits are the theme of no fewer than 39 separate resolutions; others are critical of Bevin's foreign policy.

The Manchester Labour Party calls for "drastic action", while Birkenhead demands "severe restriction" on prices and profits. Norwood (London), rejecting "the attempt by the Government to freeze wages while making pious appeals to Industry to reduce its profits" says "this policy has nothing in common with Socialism."

Resolutions repudiating the Government's policy on wages, prices and profits, have been submitted by the Edinburgh and Glasgow Trades Councils.

The Scottish Trades Union Congress has submitted a resolution expressing alarm at the effect on the shipbuilding industry of a reduction of steel supplies to Scotland.

The anti-Communist witch-hunt initiated by Morgan Phillips, Secretary of the Labour Party, comes in for condemnation in three separate resolutions. The Dudley Labour Party says: "We are gravely disconcerted by the campaign against Communist trade unionists conducted by Morgan Phillips and the Daily Herald. If equal energies are directed to the propagation of true

Socialist policy, the Tory Party in which are our real enemies, would be discredited forever in the eyes of the working class.”

From Newcastle-under-Lyme comes a resolution “deprecating the recent concentration of attacks on Communism and the simultaneous complacency and even deference towards fascism.”

Among the 28 resolutions on foreign policy is one from the Gateshead Divisional Labour Party calling for the “termination of all forms of Anglo-American military cooperation outside the United Nations.”

Solihull (Birmingham) denounces recent foreign policy statements by Bevin and Attlee as revealing a “subservient attitude towards American imperialistic aims in Europe, but marked hostility towards the Soviet Union and East European countries.”

The Lambeth Labour Party, obviously having in mind Czechoslovakia and the new democracies, declares “any attempt to inaugurate Socialist economies in other lands should be met with understanding and wholehearted support from all official representatives of the Labour Party.”

(page 3)

MANIFESTO OF THE “FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM” MOVEMENT IN FRANCE

A national movement for defence of the principles and rights of the French resistance, known as “Fighters for Freedom”, was recently launched in France on the initiative of prominent resistance leaders including Yves Farge, Jean Cassow and Colonel Manhes.

The Manifesto issued by the movement says: “Three years after the liberation, the Republic is threatened and a new wave of fascism is getting ready to engulf us. The country is in danger. The Republic is in danger...

“Once again the resistance movement takes to action... It calls upon all Frenchmen, irrespective of religion and political beliefs who, as was the case during the underground struggle, have but the aim of safeguarding national independence and democracy”.

The “Fighters for Freedom” movement will strive to unite all patriots and members of the resistance movement anxious to revive the spirit of the movement, to influence public opinion, the Government and local authorities in order to defend national independence, to thwart the machinations of the neo-fascists and strengthen the Republic, to prevent the re-entry into public life of traitors and collaborators, to create a genuine people's army and to end the war in the French colonies.”

The Manifesto met with an eager response throughout the country.

All over France local committees of the “Fighters for Freedom” movement are being formed.

(page 3)

SWEDEN IN THE ORBIT OF THE IMPERIALIST DANGER. Sven Linderut

During the Second World War Sweden was a “neutral” country. However, although not directly involved in military operations she allowed Hitler Germany to use, for war purposes, a considerable part of her raw materials (iron ore), industrial output and transport facilities.

This kind of “neutrality” enabled the Swedish capitalists to rake in handsome profits. By the end of the war the economic position of the country had considerably improved, its industrial potential grown while its gold and currency fund had greatly increased: at the end of May 1946 the State Bank of Sweden had a reserve fund (mostly American dollars and gold) of about 3,000 million Swedish kronas.

The American drive on the Swedish market began in 1946 and has been gaining in momentum since then. The economic and political offensive against the country coincided with the Signing of the Swedish-Soviet trade agreement in the middle of 1946.

At the time this treaty was being negotiated the US interfered in the domestic affairs of Sweden by sending the Government a note in which it expressed its displeasure with the negotiations. The Government at the time resisted American interference in the country's domestic affairs. But that was the first and last gesture of the government in defence of Sweden's independence against US encroachment.

Up to March 15 of last year the Government gave free access to foreign trade with the result that American capitalism was able to launch its offensive unhampered in this field, an offensive which later developed into a political attack directed primarily against the Swedish-Soviet trade agreement. The Swedish agents of American imperialism openly announced their intention of preventing this agreement being carried out. The agreement provides for the exchange of commodities between the two countries to the sum of 2.000 million kroner over a 5-year period. Moreover, Sweden pledges credits to the

sum of 1,000 million kroner.

To dwell on the different methods applied by the financiers of Sweden and the US to impose a “fine” on the Swedes for their attempts to act independently would take up too much space. Suffice it to say that when the Social-Democratic government discovered that the foreign currency fund was at a dangerously low level and decided on Government control of imports, the USA on March 15 last year actually nullified this measure. In 1935 Sweden and the United States signed a trade agreement, which is automatically extended every year. Taking advantage of this agreement the American delegation, which arrived in Stockholm immediately after the Government's decision to regulate imports, categorically demanded that Sweden should refrain from any restrictions on US imports. Furthermore, the Americans demanded that Sweden pay for all US deliveries provided for in agreements signed up to March 15 between private Swedish importers and American suppliers and that these importers be given preference when issuing government licenses.

The Swedish Government submitted to these monstrous demands, thus opening the flood-gates. The Swedish market was swamped with American goods, most of them nonessential (fruits, stockings, etc.). The country's foreign currency reserves are practically exhausted. In 1946 US exports to Sweden totalled 800 million kroner; in 1947 this sum rose to 1,630 million kroner whereas Swedish exports to the USA in 1947 reached a mere 348 million kroner. Having achieved this, the US is now suggesting a dollar credit to Sweden which would give the United States complete control of the country's trade and economic life. Thus, the trade policy of the Swedish Government has very nearly lost the country its economic independence.

This economic pressure has been accompanied by an intensified offensive in the political field. The US won its first big political victory when the Swedish Government sent a delegation to the Paris Conference of 16 countries, which discussed the “Marshall Plan”. Since then Sweden has aligned

itself with the countries affected by this “Plan”. The Government tried to belittle the grave consequences of this measure by declaring that it was merely a matter of “aid to restore” Europe and by no means a question of policy and certainly not a question of a war policy. On February 4 Foreign Minister Uden, reporting to Parliament on foreign policy said the Government was opposed to the policy of blocs.

And yet, two weeks later Uden attended the conference of foreign ministers of the Northern countries in Oslo where he supported the decision to appoint a coordinating economic organ for the Scandinavian countries which, incidentally, projected the Northern customs union. This union is simply an attempt to lead Sweden along the “circuitous Northern route” and bring her into the Western bloc, which will be a weapon in American imperialism's expansionist drive in Europe.

Such is the state of affairs in the sphere of official policy. Reaction is waging simultaneously an ideological battle against the Soviet Union and the new democracies in Eastern Europe. Influential Swedish newspapers are, in veiled form advocating war against the Soviet Union and military alliances with the Western Powers. Thus, for instance the “Dagens Nyheter” wrote on February 29: “It is time to put an end to illusions and accord the warmest welcome to the finest guarantors of world peace and the freedom of nations (meaning the USA). The fear which today paralyses the mind and will of the Northern states can become the passiveness of death.”

Other newspapers are more guarded, but the entire capitalist and social-democratic press champion the “Marshall Plan” and the Northern bloc which with time can become a military bloc. How are the anti-imperialist and democratic forces of Sweden combating the measures of American imperialism to harness Sweden to its war chariot? It must be admitted that the resistance offered imperialist penetration is still weak. We have not yet opened the eyes of the people to what is taking place around them. The people still regard the “Marshall Plan” as a “generous American gesture”, to quote the Foreign Minister in the Riksdag on February 4.

The Bevin plan for a military political Western union is presented as a “spiritual union” and collaboration between the Northern states is depicted in the capitalist and social-democratic press as a fine thing.

The Communist Party is denouncing these manoeuvres of the enemies of peace and democracy, is fighting against subservience to the imperialist forces. The Party's 18 members in the Riksdag are vigorously opposing the pro-American policy. The Communist Party is taking measures to extend its influence among the masses, to increase its membership, which today numbers 60,000. It is also taking steps to get the masses to resist the bartering away of their country's independence.

This policy is being opposed also by some of the leaders of other parties. For example, the leader of the Stockholm organisation of the Social-Democratic Party, Heglund in his official report protested against American penetration. The foreign policy of the Government was sharply criticised in the Riksdag by the well-known Social-Democrat Branting.

The Party considers its main task today to expose the double dealing of the Right Social-Democrats, and to explain to the people that, as a result of this ill-starred policy, Sweden is now within the orbit of the imperialist danger and that its independence is seriously threatened by American imperialism.

(page 4)_____

CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE UNIONS ON GUARD OVER THE PEOPLE'S UNITY.

G. Climent

Whereas under the former capitalist regime the trade unions were, in the main restricted to the struggle for decent conditions for the working people, now in the people's democratic state they are taking a direct part in economic upbuilding and in the gradual creation of the prerequisites for the final elimination of the exploitation of man by man.

This historic change in trade union functions was the outcome of the nationalisation of industry, the banks and insurance societies. As is known all enterprises employing more than 500 workers came under nationalisation. This measure wrested the bulk of industry from the capitalists the Germans, traitors and collaborators and placed it in the hands of the people. Heavy industry, the banks and insurance societies were fully nationalised. Although private capital retained quite a significant part of industry the power of the capitalists was seriously undermined.

Nationalisation confronted the Revolutionary United Trade Union Movement of Czechoslovakia with new tasks. The unions used their influence to strengthen labour discipline and explained to the workers that their wellbeing depended not so much on the amount of money in circulation but mainly on the amount of goods, new wealth, good harvest, etc. Production Committees—hitherto unknown in the Czechoslovak trade union movement—were formed in the factories. These committees became schools for the workers and set about battling for increased production.

The unions organised labour emulation, supported the idea of a planned economy and included in their programmes the Two-Year Plan, initiated by the Communist Party. Despite the difficulties encountered in the course of restoring the national economy, the Plan is being carried out successfully. During the first three months of the Plan the prices of prime commodities went down, while a lowering of the tax on wages was the equivalent of a 10 per cent wage increase. Food consumption exceeded the pre-war level, the workers were able to buy more than they did prior to the occupation. These measures facilitated an improvement in labour discipline.

Together with the Communist Party, the trade unions played a decisive role in bringing to a successful outcome the struggle imposed on the working people of our country by internal and international reaction.

Reaction was fully aware that the united trade unions were a major obstacle in the way of their crafty designs. Consequently

they tried every means in their power in an attempt to split the trade union movement. The National-Socialist Party launched a demagogic campaign for increased wages, regardless of the difficult situation caused by the drought and subsequent crop failure. It was obvious that this demand aimed at bringing about inflation and economic chaos. The National-Socialists were supported by the People's Party, the Slovak Democratic Party and also by the right-wing Social-Democrats.

It was clear that this was the beginning of a general offensive by reaction against the people's democratic order, against the foreign policy of our Government and the alliance with the Soviet Union and the Slav peoples. It was clear also that the reactionaries aimed at detaching Czechoslovakia from her Slav friends and at replacing the people's democratic order with a reactionary regime that would make the Republic dependent on the US and would lead to a new Munich.

In these circumstances a congress of works' councils and trade union functionaries was held in Prague attended by 8,000 delegates from all over the country. They had met to exchange views on matters of trade union policy.

The congress discussed ways and means of strengthening the people's democracy and of ensuring the development towards socialism. The treacherous activities of reaction were answered by a unanimous decision, which says:

"We will not permit any destruction. We will not allow the reactionary forces to menace our future. Our independence and freedom can be guaranteed only by weeding out the parasites, by moving steadfastly towards socialism and by a firm alliance with the Slav countries and with the Socialist Soviet Union.

"Since the remaining capitalist sector in our economy has become a centre for anti-Republican, economic and political conspiracies, and in these times of crop failure and economic difficulties swallows millions in the form of excess profits, which could be used to regulate wages, to promote national Insurance and eliminate the remaining social injustices, the congress demands the nationalisation of the entire wholesale

trade, the whole of foreign trade, the big commercial houses, and production of alcohol, production and distribution of medical supplies and also the nationalisation of all enterprises employing over 50 workers. We demand that nationalisation cover also the building enterprises, print shops, health resorts medical institutions and hospitals.”

The congress insisted on a law on social insurance, a new constitution, the regulation of salaries of public and state employees, a revised land reform and a reduction in taxation for peasants and handicraftsmen.

Especially important was the decision that the Central Council of the Trade Unions should, as the supreme organ of the Revolutionary United Trade Union Movement, take the initiative in organising action committees of the National Front, which would be barred to reactionary elements. This measure was carried out in the shortest possible period of time and today there is not a town or village its National Front Action Committee. In this way the National Front, regenerated through the Action Committees, is becoming a bulwark of unbreakable unity.

Another congress decision provided for the setting up of national administrative bodies in the enterprises.

Ten days after the congress such bodies were functioning at 4,000 industrial and wholesale trade enterprises.

The trade unions are active in purging the State apparatus and are promoting to responsible posts skilled workers known for their democratic convictions. The unions took part in reorganising the bureaucratic system of general directorates in the nationalised enterprises. This measure brought loyal democrats and patriots to the leadership of the enterprises. The membership of the trade unions is growing steadily and their prestige has gone up.

The working class did not forget its duty towards its peasant ally. Thousands of voluntary brigades helped the peasants to repair agricultural machines free of charge; the trade unions got the engineering workers to raise the output of tractors and other agricultural machines. These measures convinced the peasants

of the genuineness of the cooperation on the part of the workers and facilitated the establishment of close contact between town and countryside. The trade unions helped secure higher price for agricultural goods and supported the peasants in their demands for a new land reform and agricultural tax reform. This assistance was noted with gratitude by the peasant delegation to the congress of works councils.

This unity of workers and peasants proved capable of breaking and defeating the onslaught of reaction. This unity was strikingly demonstrated at the impressive congress of Peasant Committees, which was attended by 100,000 peasants and by thousands of workers. And it was emphasised at the peasant congress that the common struggle and common victory over reaction had brought about lasting friendship between the working people of town and countryside. This unity was extended by the participation of small and medium employers and shopkeepers whose conditions had improved considerably thanks to the successful fulfilment of the Two-Year Plan and to the policy of the Communist Party.

Although reaction has suffered a crushing defeat the united trade unions are remaining on the alert. They will make short shrift of any attempt by reaction to stage a comeback and will carry out their production tasks. All over the country the workers are undertaking the obligation to fulfil the Two-Year Plan by October 28, 1948. This will be another blow against internal and foreign reaction, another victory for the people's democracy.

(page 4)

STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE'S FRONT OF ITALY. Gian Carlo Paietta

The People's Democratic Front is a great movement of the Italian people for unity and freedom for national independence and for improving the welfare of the people. The Front is the bearer of the traditions of the resistance days and partisan struggle. It was then that the spirit of unity took deep root among the masses, among the different social strata. National Liberation Committees grew out of the agreement reached between the political parties and groups engaged in the struggle against fascism. But the movement for the setting up of the National Liberation Committees very quickly spread beyond the framework of agreement between the parties and, particularly in the North, grew into a people's movement. When Northern Italy was liberated there already was in existence a broad popular movement which, through the medium of its democratic organs drew the people into the political life of the country.

It was for this reason that Italian reaction, relying on the Right parties of the Liberals and Christian Democrats and backed by the Anglo-American occupation authorities did all in their power to hinder the growth and consolidation of the movement for National Liberation Committees. They took advantage of the fact that in Southern Italy and on the islands the Committees were for the most part, organs of agreement between the different parties. Unfortunately the more progressive democratic forces were unable at the time systematically and consistently to combat these manoeuvres. As the result of a combined onslaught by the occupation authorities, State apparatus and right-wing parties the National

Liberation Committees gradually lost their strength and finally ceased to exist.

Following this de Gasperi provoked crisis after crisis in the Government until he finally succeeded, with the help of Saragat, in carrying out the assignment of the US state Department to remove the Socialists and Communists from the Government. The position of the democratic and progressive forces were weakened and this enabled Italian reaction to prevent the democratization of the State apparatus and the introduction of structural reforms.

The further course of events revealed, however, that reaction had overestimated its strength and underestimated the strength of Italian democracy.

The two workers' parties—the ved their unity of action, defended trade union unity against the danger of a split and headed the resistance of the working people against the offensive of reaction. The women's and youth organisations and the National Association of Partisans also successfully combated the efforts to bring about a split.

To the provocations of the reactionaries, their splitting activities, and to the increasingly open interference of the Americans in the internal life of the country, the working people retaliated by rallying more closely around their organisations. "People's Councils" ("Consulta Popolari"), representing all sections of the urban population and mass organisations, sprang up in the towns. The movement for a united front of all patriotic forces gained momentum. From the very beginning this movement was in the nature of a genuine people's movement as distinct from "diplomatic combinations" between the different parties.

That is why the People's Democratic Front, created in Italy at the beginning of February, represents a new and higher stage in the development of the people's movement. The Front has inherited from the National Liberation Committees the traditions of struggle the spirit of national unity and the striving to bring about the social regeneration of Italy and to unite all genuine patriots. As an organised movement the Front has

been, right from the outset, a stable alliance of the masses and not a coalition of party leaders.

The formation of the Front is not an election stunt (although the present election campaign is a decisive factor). It is the outcome of a sweeping movement of the masses for the realisation of concrete demands. The first call for a united front was issued by the congress of Production Councils, which was attended by 7,000 delegates. This was followed by the "Land Workers' Constituent Assembly", which called upon the peasants to fight for an agrarian reform; by the Congress of the South, the conference of representatives of democratic municipalities, etc. The result of these congresses was the formation of permanent committees at national and local levels. The movement for the creation of the Front embraced men and women irrespective of party allegiance and included members of parties which had not joined the Front or were opposed to it.

Apart from the Socialists and Communists the People's Democratic Front was joined by the Democratic Labour Party and the Social-Christian Party. A group of deputies broke away from the Republican Party, which collaborates with de Gasperi, and formed the "People's Democratic Alliance". Another group withdrew from the Saragat party and formed the "Socialist Movement of Proletarian Unity". Both these organisations merged with the People's Democratic Front. The Front was joined also by the "Christian Movement for Peace", which is headed by the well-known Left Catholic Guido Miglioli, and Ada Alessandrini. Italian public opinion is greatly impressed by the fact that the membership of the Front includes several prominent representatives of science, culture and science who do not belong to any political party. Among them are the writer Alvaro, Professor Floriano del Secolo, the journalist Tommazo Smith, not to mention a number of others.

The Front has demonstrated its ability not only vigorously to champion the demand for structural reforms, so ignominiously rejected by the Christian Democrats, but also consistently to guide the daily struggle of the different social strata whose

national. material and moral interests are grossly violated by the de Gasperi Government. This ability is a guarantee of the growth of the People's Democratic Front; this ability contributes to the varied forms of its organisation.

The inaugural congress of the Front in Rome and the election of its leading organs, were followed by the rapid spread of Front Committees all over the country. Almost everywhere members of the various parties and mass organisations, cooperative, ex-servicemen, women and youth organisations got down to the job of forming local committees which at once began to take an active part in social and political life. Provincial, district, and in the big towns even street committees were established. Factory and office production committees are headed for the most part by non-party people and enjoy the support of engineers, technicians and managerial personnel. At some of the smaller enterprises even the owners are members of the committees.

Together with committees organised on the territorial principle, a vast network of trade or profession committees have developed all over the country and these in turn have led to a new kind of provincial and district committees. For example, in Milan there are committees catering for office employees, pensioners, representatives of small and medium industry, shopkeepers, theatre and cinema workers, railwaymen, post and telegraph workers, the medical and legal professions, etc. The Front committees hold conferences on economic subjects drawing to them the representatives of all strata of the population who have Buffered from the anti-popular, pro-American policy of the de Gasperi Government. Small shareholders, small employers, merchants, technicians and managerial personnel discuss and work out programmes of economic activity. Production Defence Committees have been set up in a number of towns which apart from defining the policy of the future Front Government also advance concrete measures for solving present economic problems and call upon the people to struggle for the realisation of these measures. A nation-wide conference, to be held shortly in Rome, will

summarise the results of the work carried out by the local Front committees.

The present election struggle is acquiring new features and not only in the organisational sense. This campaign is not just a repetition of the election campaigns of the past. Everywhere the electorate, with the participation of vast masses of people are elaborating programmes of struggle and are setting out to realise these programmes. Office workers, pensioners, handicraftsmen and similar groups of people who hardly ever showed any interest in political life, are now actively participating in powerful demonstrations throughout the country.

At present the Front is waging a bitter struggle against the united forces of the clericals-fascists headed by de Gasperi and Schelba, against the betrayers of the national interests who have merged their forces with the Vatican and American imperialism. All the political, material and “spiritual” force of American imperialism have been brought into action against the People’s Democratic Front and the Italian people.

All Italian democrats welcomed the initiative of the Socialist Party, which at its congress in Rome decided to fight the election with unified lists of the People’s Democratic Front.

April 18 will be a historic date for Italy. The Front has moved into action to secure a decisive victory in the election. All forms of bribery and blackmail are being resorted to, such as the sending of gift packages to electors, letters of “instruction” to Italian citizens and provocative promises concerning Trieste. However, afraid to rely solely on promises, church anathema and threats to starve the people, the American and Italian reactionaries are preparing to apply naked force against the will of the Italian people. Fear of a People’s Front victory is driving the reactionaries frantic and they are planning to impose a clerical dictatorship on the people with the aid of terror and force. De Gasperi has threatened to use the power in the hands of his party.

Useless effort! “Italy is not a Papuan island!” The Italian people will not allow themselves to be intimidated by the

American colonisers and on April 18 will pass judgement on the American party of de Gasperi and Saragat. The democratic forces of the country, rebuffing the attacks of provocateurs and traitors, are taking to the path of national unity and are welding a body that will secure freedom and open the way for the democratisation of the country and for reforms. Neither the frenzy of the Christian-Democrats and renegades of the Saragat and Piccardi type, nor the increasingly insolent pressure of the American imperialists and the Princes of the Catholic Church can prevent the extension and consolidation of the people's unity or halt its onward march.

(page 4)

NEW PHASE IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE POLISH WORKERS' PARTY AND POLISH SOCIALIST PARTY

In a report to the Warsaw Council of the Polish Socialist Party the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the PSP, J. Cyrankiewicz, and the General Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Polish Workers' Party, W. Gomulka, in an article published on March 20, raised the question of the all-round preparation for the fusion of the two parties as the cardinal and pressing task of the day.

From the Report of J. Cirankiewicz

Denouncing the efforts of the American imperialists who are raising a reactionary barrier against democracy in the form of a “Western Union”, Cyrankiewicz stated:

“American imperialism would never have succeeded in accomplishing this without the helping hand of West European socialism. Blinded by their hatred of the Soviet Union, nurtured in the traditions of revisionism and reform, which are absolutely alien to the revolutionary spirit, infected with petty-bourgeois opportunism the reactionary leaders of the West European Right Socialists disrupted working-class unity, built up during the war and the occupation; they have passed into the service of international reaction thus disarming the working class and crushing the resistance of the people to the intervention of foreign capitalism. They not only pursue a policy hostile to the interests of progress and democracy but, like the Right trend in French socialism, openly oppose the national interests of their country by supporting US policy. They have made their countries economically dependent on the United States and consequently have become the political vassals of Washington. They sponsored the Socialist Party conference in London at which the British Labour Party tried to turn the rest of the West European Socialist movement into an outpost of the American offensive against Socialism and social progress.”

Cirankiewicz stated that the gulf between the Left and Right trends in the Socialist camp was widening and stressed the need to intensify the struggle to win over the Socialist masses and to combat Right social-democracy.

Concerning the situation in the Polish labour movement and characterising the right wing in the PSP, Cyrankiewicz continued:

“As I stated earlier at the congress some of our comrades viewed the united front from the tactical and not ideological aspect, regarded it as an inevitable evil in an opportunist way, they regarded it as a possible tactic or a stock exchange buying

and selling” transaction. This became particularly apparent after the elections. As pointed out in the June decision of the Council our attitude enabled irresponsible elements to play on the Philistine feelings of certain members and leaders of the party, whose political immaturity accounted for these feelings.” Discussing the matter of fusion Cyrankiewicz quoted the Left theoretician. Adam Prochnik, killed by the Germans, who as early as 1935 proved the need for working-class unity.

“It can be stated”, continued Cyrankiewicz, “that having gone beyond the phase of united action we are now on the way to complete fusion.

“The momentum of the movement is determined by a number of factors: firstly, the closer ideological rapprochement of the two trends in the working-class; secondly, the need to counter the new attempts to split the working class on the instigation of international reaction and thirdly, the momentum of the movement depends on how soon the gulf will widen between Right social-democracy, which is betraying the interests of the international proletariat and international peace, and the revolutionary left wing of socialism.”

Summarising the positive experience of the united front Cyrankiewicz concluded: “The united front slogan against which the Rights waged a bitter struggle in the early period was used later as a cover to undermine the united front from within. This called for closer and better cooperation. We are now passing through the phase known as unity of action of the working-class and are entering the phase of working-class unity.”

From the Article of W. Gomulka

“The problem of the organic unity of the PWP and PSP is entering a new phase of development”, writes W. Gomulka. “The idea of uniting the two organisations into a single party of the working class is maturing with every passing day.”

Gomulka continues: “It is common knowledge that the Polish

Workers' Party was the initiator of organic unity. We were and remain staunch champions and organisers of PWP and PSP unity. When advancing this slogan we simultaneously stressed and proved in practice that we do not aspire to mechanical unity. As we understand it fusion can come about only in the process of purging the labour movement of bourgeois-liberal weeds and alien elements, only if the two parties base themselves on the principles of Marxist ideology.

“The experience of the past shows that the process of purging the labour movement of alien bourgeois ideology and of eliminating inter-party differences has made great headway.”

In support of this contention Gomulka quoted concrete examples showing how differences between the PWP and PSP were settled by a Marxist approach: the elimination of the Polish version of the so-called third force “theory” regarded as the “golden medium”, the differences on State trade, etc.

Gomulka stressed that “the process of friendship with the peoples of the Soviet Union, which is making remarkable progress among the Polish people, is the best indicator of the ideological evolution of the Polish Socialist Party as well as of other parties of the democratic blocs”.

A serious factor promoting the desire for unity of the Polish working class is the success of this unity in the other countries of the people's democracy.

“Two big factors have contributed to the highly positive process of healing the split in the labour movement. The first is the growth of the class consciousness of the working mass, who recognise more and more clearly the harm of an ideological-political split in their ranks and also realise that the united front no longer suffices as a weapon in the struggle for socialism; the second is the passing over of the Right leaders of social democracy into the service of capital and imperialism to bolster the decaying and disintegrating system of capitalist economy. In view of this the workers of Europe are insisting more and more on a new democracy. It is no longer necessary to refer only to abstract, theoretical and scientific theses, to the principles of Marxism when demonstrating to the working

class and the people as a whole the superiority of the socialist order over the capitalist order. The concrete reality—economic, political, cultural, educational — of the countries which have thrown off the yoke of capitalist oppression confirms the superiority of socialism and the people's democracy. It is precisely in these countries that working-class unity has reached its peak, throwing overboard Right social-democracy and its leaders”.

Analysing the situation in the Polish Socialist Party Gomulka states that “the PSP of today as distinct from the pre-war PSP and WRN has become a party of the united front. This, of course, does not mean that it is without a right-wing group, that it has fully rid itself of the harmful traditions of social-democracy”.

Summarising the results of the development of the united front in Poland Gomulka stressed that “the division of the labour movement into two separate ideological-political trends indicated the pressure and influence of bourgeois-capitalist ideology on the working class. The united front sets itself the aim of eliminating this ideology but is not in a position to do so completely. By means of the united front the working class surmounts its weaknesses, the outcome of the split, and rallies its forces to combat the class enemy. However, not even the very best united front can present as powerful a force as organic unity. Given two parties in the labour movement no matter how closely they cooperate, it means without a shadow of doubt that this movement is still influenced by bourgeois ideology and that it has not purged its ranks of representatives and exponents of bourgeois ideology.

The process of ideological changes that have taken place inside the PSP during nearly four years of united front cooperation, the decreasing differences between the lower PWP and PSP organisations, as strikingly reflected in the mass action of PSP functionaries, favouring a united party — all this proves that the various forms of united front hitherto practised no longer suffice, are losing their dynamic power, are beginning to bear the imprint of reactionary influence. The time has come to

extend the united front from top to bottom and thus bring fusion closer”.

The Right elements, who represent the pernicious traditions of social-democracy are opposed to fusion.

“Organic unity grows out of the united front based on the ideological principles of Marxism, as the ultimate result of the inner laws which guide the development of the united front. Had the united front not been based on Marxism, its development would have proceeded in the opposite direction, that is, would have led to another split in the working class and not to fusion. Thus, only Marxist parties can contribute to the ideological power of the united front. The Right elements in the social-democratic parties, which have joined the united front, and who uphold the liberal-bourgeois ideology, regard the united front as a tactical manoeuvre on the political chess board. For them unity is an alien and hostile idea. Their political play on the united front instrument cannot last long. They will go over ultimately to an open struggle against the united front and Marxist parties”.

In conclusion Gomulka dwelt on the main principles of the new united party. This party must be based on the principles of Marxism.

“The PWP has always agreed with the view point of the PSP that a mechanical fusion of the two parties is harmful. The strength of a party lies in the unity of its ranks, in the unanimity of political thought, arising from correct ideology. The strength of the united workers' party must be greater than the existing strength of the PWP and PSP taken together. Assuming that fusion of the two organisations should give rise to a faction in one of the parties then it is much better not to unite. A united party must be based on the principles of democratic centralism.

“The creation of a united workers' party will be the biggest victory in the history of the Polish labour movement. Both the PWP and PSP must fight to win this victory. The sword of their common struggle must be aimed at the remnants of bourgeois ideology still clinging to the Polish labour movement and at the bearers of this ideology, for they constitute on Polish soil the

same potential menace to the vital interests of the working people as the Right leaders of social-democracy in the West, who have betrayed these interests.

“There are no two Socialist ideas—that of the PWP and PSP, that of the East and West. There is only one kind of socialism that is neither Polish, Russian, British nor Scandinavian. It is the socialism of the international working class—Marxist socialism. American imperialism, foaming at the mouth and threatening mankind with its mailed fist, is rattling the sabres at this socialism.”

Gomulka concludes his article with the following words:

“The spirit of the times and the prevailing sentiment in the two parties for fusion demand that the content of the united front slogan be concretised and deepened. The Polish Workers' Party is of the opinion that the new stage in the development of the Polish labour movement can best be expressed by the two parties in the new slogan:

Long live the united front leading to the fusion of the PWP and PSP into a united party of the working class”.

(page 5)

PRESS REVIEW

WHITHER FRANCE UNDER THE SCHUMAN GOVERNMENT?

Economically the situation in France is steadily deteriorating. In March, after a 3 months' interval, the index of the French Bank was published, which shows that the amount of money in circulation increased from 77,000 million francs in January to the record sum of 963,000 million at present.

"The Government is aggravating inflation", writes the newspaper "**L'Humanité**". It refuses to carry out a democratic tax reform, refuses to cut unjustified expenditure, especially military credits. The Government is turning the army into a weapon of the aggressive Truman policy. That is why the deficit is growing daily."

CONTACT WITH THE MASSES AND THE ACTIVE

The newspaper "**Chlopska Droga**", organ of the Polish Workers' Party, devotes special attention to party educational work in the countryside. The paper has a sale of 250,000 copies, that is, ten times the circulation it had a year ago. The paper relies on village correspondents for news and reports. Thousands of letters reach the editorial offices of the "**Chlopska Droga**" while the number of permanent village correspondents is in the region of 600. In addition to members of the Polish Workers' Party, the paper correspondents include members of the "Stronnictwo Ludowe" party, members of the Peasant Mutual Assistance Union, village teachers, etc.

A recent meeting of the permanent village correspondents of the "Chlopska Droga" was attended by over 300 people. Comrade Zambrowski, one of the leaders of the Polish Workers' Party, called upon the village correspondents to help secure increased agricultural production, to further the work of

the cooperatives and to campaign for more political activity by the peasants. Zambrowski mentioned cases of timely messages from village correspondents helping to overcome shortcomings and to combat machinations of alien elements. He also stressed the role of rural correspondents in publicising the labour emulation in the countryside and in furthering cultural life.

IMPERIALIST INTRIGUE WITH REGARD TO TRIESTE

Commenting on the matter of handing over Trieste to Italy, the Socialist organ “**Avanti**” writes: “It is not difficult to understand that Truman’s statement about Trieste is part of the plan of political pressure concocted in the cabinets of the so-called Western democracies.

“Alternating threats and promises remind Italians of the notorious Churchill phrase about the stick and carrot. This, unfortunately, is not just a threat, it is the main political usage of the Western victors towards us.

“Yesterday Marshall threatened us with starvation, today he promises us Trieste ...

“This spectacular suggestion is at best an election stunt and at the worst—a provocation against Yugoslavia.

“Why as it that Britain, who is always ready to sell the chickens before they are hatched, rejects the Soviet suggestion to give us a mandate over our former colonies? Moreover to return to us our colonies she would not need to ask anybody’s permission... Why doesn’t the US exert pressure on London and why is it maintaining a silence on the colonies that is unworthy of a great power?”

“The people of Italy,” says the paper, “have suffered enough from adventurers and adventures in the sphere of foreign policy to get involved in any new ones.”

CRUSADE AGAINST DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES

Complying with the dictates of its Washington masters, the Labour Government in Britain has redoubled the anti-Communist campaign by purging the Civil Service of “Communists” and their “fellow-travellers”.

The “**Daily Worker**” had this to say about Attlee's purge:

“This is the beginning of a process which will ultimately lead to the creation of the British Police State.

“None of the Communists who are to be transferred or dismissed have been found guilty of any crimes and no charges are brought against them except the familiar Japanese charge of harbouring dangerous thoughts. Indeed, investigation might well reveal that these civil servants are carrying out their duties in exemplary fashion.

“The anti-Communist witch-hunt in the trade unions, which Morgan Phillips opened in December last, has now been extended to the Civil Service by the Cabinet”.

However, the facts show that the view of the British workers concerning the Communist Party, are somewhat different from those of the Attlee witch-hunters.

The “Daily Worker” reports that at a mass meeting in Manchester on March 21, which denounced Attlee’s fascist touch measures, 100 members of the audience applied for membership of the Communist Party.

DEMOBILISATION IN THE SOVIET UNION

By decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR all older age groups will be released from the Soviet Army.

A “**Pravda**” report says that 99.9 per cent of Moscow's demobilised war veterans are at work in factories and offices, studying at institutes and technical colleges. In the Soviet Union demobilised men are surrounded by care and solicitude. This large-scale Soviet demobilisation contrasts with the recent

speech by Truman who openly called for mobilisation of the army. It will be recalled that Senator Taylor, commenting on Truman's measures said: they spell the end of freedom and the Setting up of a military state in America.

These facts reveal the true face of the warmongers who scream about the “danger of war on the part of the USSR”.

(page 5)

FOR THE UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS OF AUSTRIA. I. Kopenig

The events in Czechoslovakia, which led to the victory of the people's democracy over reaction, spread fear and panic among the ruling clique of the two Government parties in Austria. True, this fear has been evoked not so much by the events in Prague as by the knowledge that the people of Austria are losing what little remains of their confidence in the Government, which has failed to honour its many promises. The reactionary policy of the Government parties, which forced the Communists to withdraw their representative from the Government, is becoming increasingly clear to the broad masses of the people.

THE TREACHERY OF THE RIGHT SOCIALISTS

The right-wing leaders of the Socialist Party have learnt nothing from the past. If anything they have forgotten many of the traditions of the Austrian labour movement. They have established still closer links with capitalism and are trying to use the Socialist Party to fully restore capitalist privilege in Austria.

Driven by their fear of the working-class struggle for wage increases the leadership of the Austrian Socialist Party concluded an agreement on wages and prices with the employers' association and, in collaboration with the People's Party, hastened to adopt the so-called law on currency protection which is sheer robbery of small depositors; this same fear of the organised action of the workers is forcing the leadership of the Socialist Party to go all out to prevent, at all costs, the new struggle of the workers for wage increases. The close contact between the leading clique of the Socialist Party and the forces of capitalism, as represented by the People's Party, make it difficult for the Socialists to take advantage of the favourable situation to improve the conditions of the working people and to satisfy their pressing demands.

Step by step the Socialist Party leadership is ceding to the demands of the People's Party. The employers insist on free enterprise and the Socialist Party consents to abolish control on the distribution of building materials thus threatening rehabilitation. The employers demand higher prices and lower wages and the Socialist Party leadership signs an agreement on wages and prices. The employers are displeased with the law on the taxation of property and the Socialist Party leaders reject this law. Thus on all decisive issues the Socialist Party yields to the demands of the People's Party.

The Right leaders of the Socialist Party are intimidating the workers with the bogey that a united front with the Communists would result in the Socialist Party losing its independence.

THE ACTIVITY OF THE WORKING CLASS

Events show, however, that the working class of Austria is reacting altogether differently to the anti-Communist slander than was expected by the right-wing Socialist leaders and their masters. This is proved by the election returns in the production councils. Despite the efforts of the Socialist leaders, despite the ignominious slander and American bribes the Communists successfully upheld the idea of unity at the enterprises during the elections. The Communist lists polled more votes than was the case in the Parliamentary elections in November 1945, although the number of electors this time was considerably smaller. The elections to the production councils was a big victory for working-class unity.

The workers have had more than enough of the anti-Communist slogans. They are more concerned with facts than words. And the facts show that the Communists were right when they refused to recognise the agreement on wages and prices, when they denounced the currency reform as a measure that robbed the small depositors. With every passing day the workers are beginning to realise that the Communists are right when they declare that the American orientation is leading Austria into a blind alley.

There would be nothing to these hysterical outbursts if they did not conceal something more serious. They are designed to distract the attention of the workers from the fact that the Socialist Party leadership is indifferent to the demands of the working class and that it is capitulating to the People's Party on all decisive issues. On the other hand the right-wing leaders know full well that they can carry out the orders of America only if they balk the workers. And this can be achieved by the Socialist leadership only through the medium of anti-democratic methods. By their hysteria they have admitted what they have been trying to conceal hitherto, namely, that the Communist Party constitutes a considerable and steadily

growing force among the working class of Austria.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN AUSTRIA

Austria is on the threshold of a turning point in her political development. Ever wider sections of the people are disillusioned and dissatisfied with the policy of the Government coalition. The intolerable conditions of the workers and office employees and the utter inability of the Government to regulate supplies are strongly affecting the feelings of the masses. Apart from this it should be remembered that the victory of the people's democracy in the neighbouring countries has greatly influenced the broad masses in Austria. The working class and all democratic elements know that the Americans will eventually leave and that the people's democracies will remain.

The new element in the political situation in the country is also to be found in the fact that the struggle for the independence of Austria is entering a new phase: the unwillingness of the internal and foreign reactionary forces to give Austria her sovereignty is becoming more and more apparent. Hence the sabotage of the Peace Agreement.

It is obvious from the statement made by Gruber to the chief Parliamentary commission that the Figl-Schaerff Government does not want a Peace Treaty, that it is interested in prolonging, the occupation of Austria by foreign troops. The people however, want to put an end as soon as possible to foreign occupation. They do not want military governments, or military police. They want to live in peace, in friendship with their neighbours and not in an American barracks. **It is a cardinal task of the Communist Party to promote the people's movement for the complete independence and freedom of Austria, for the signing of a Peace Treaty.**

Of course we must not harbour the illusion that a Peace Treaty spells complete freedom and independence for the people of Austria, and that once this agreement is signed the struggle

must cease. But, such an treaty would afford favourable conditions for the unrestricted development of the forces of the Austrian people. The struggle for a Peace Treaty is closely linked with the struggle against capitalist reaction in the country. Austria must not become a bastion of international reaction. To prevent this the Communists must apply all their efforts to unite the democratic forces in struggle against internal reaction, which is in the service of foreign capital.

IN DEFENCE OF THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS

Unification of the working class, the struggle to remedy the present situation and to change the Food supply policy, remains an important task of the Austrian Communist Party.

The coalition parties are holding back the workers from fighting for better conditions with the constant threat of inflation. In this respect it is relevant to recall the words of Marx that wage increases do not necessarily lead to high prices and inflation. Wage increases are possible at the expense of manufacturers' profits. Marx wrote that the worker's plate is filled with the products of national labour. And if anything prevents the worker from taking more from this plate, it is not because of its size or its contents, but simply because the worker's spoon is too small.

The trade unions must see to it that the workers receive the appropriate share of the national income and that the capitalists don't make profits at the expense of the workers. However, the united trade unions of Austria differ from the trade union organisations of the other countries in that instead of waging a daily struggle in the interests of the workers the trade union leaders are pursuing a policy of close cooperation with the employers representatives. They are deaf to the demands of the union members and are blind to the growing discontent in the Austrian Trade Union Federation. There is the danger that the trade unions may cease to be the organisers of the class

struggle as a result of the closely intertwined policy of the Trade Union Federation and the coalition policy of the right-wing Socialist leaders. The consequences of such action were apparent when the agreement on wages and prices was signed, when the law on production councils and collective agreements was adopted. The consequences are obvious in the increasing insolence of the employers. This policy of collaboration was likewise reflected in the fact that the Trade Union Federation agreed to take an active part in carrying out the Marshall Plan. The realisation of this Plan would paralyse Austria's industry, add to the profits of the capitalists, increase the working day and lower the standard of living.

The Communist Party is countering the enslavement of Austria under the Marshall Plan by calling upon the people to fight for democratic recovery, for improving the material well-being of the working people.

The Communist Party has set itself the task of organising a movement of the people to combat the sabotage of the Austrian treaty, for the freedom and complete sovereignty of Austria.

Only a genuine mass movement can guide Austria along the path of a people's democracy. It is the task of the Communists to head this movement organisationally and to strengthen it ideologically, to draw all genuinely democratic strata of the people into this movement. This requires, above all, militant unity of the working class, and the cooperation of all truly democratic and progressive forces.

All the prerequisites for the success of this struggle are to hand. The achievements of the international democratic camp show that the forces of progress are growing and that reaction is losing one position after another. It is panic stricken for it is aware of its own weakness. The time has come for the working class and forces of progress in Austria to go over to the offensive.

DE GASPERI THE BLESS. D. Zaslavsky

Mr. de Gasperi recently delivered himself of an election speech in Bologna.

De Gasperi went out of his way to smear the People's Democratic Front in the eyes of the electorate. In his election struggle against the People's Democratic Front, de Gasperi has not hesitated to use the most shameless methods. He trotted out the familiar charges against the democratic forces, alleging that they work on orders from abroad—orders emanating from secret and sinister foreign circles. Lacking the slightest shred of evidence for his wild assertions de Gasperi resorted to the realm of absolutely fantastic fabrication. In doing so he spoke not just like an ordinary mortal but like someone who in some queer, supernatural way had become transfigured. Before the audience stood not Mr de Gasperi but de Gasperi the Blessed, the performer of miracles.

De Gasperi held forth about the conference of the nine Communist Parties in Poland. But he didn't consider it necessary to refer to what had taken place and is known to all. Oh no! He ranted about things unknown. He spoke as if he had been there himself. He saw what nobody else had seen, heard what nobody else had heard. He learned of things that had never come to pass. For instance he “discovered” that a special “secret committee” had allegedly been formed, which, issues orders to Italian Communists. Since de Gasperi was not among those invited to the conference of the nine Communist Parties we must assume that he managed to get there in broomstick fashion. In other words, de Gasperi performed a miracle.

But this is only half the miracle. Blissfully, de Gasperi mentioned a certain super hush—hush conference held somewhere “near Belostock” attended, if you please, by five representatives (CPSU, the Yugoslav, Italian, French and Rumanian Communist Parties), and what's more de Gasperi

knows their names. It would seem that this very hush conference had the unseen presence of a sixth person—the miracle maker, de Gasperi himself. At any rate, he descanted on the very, very secret conference as if he had been there.

This is indeed a miracle of the transfiguration.

Such miracles happen in mythology, theology and fairy tales. In order to penetrate to places of temptation the unseen Jupiter became a bull or swan. Other miracle men became doves or deer. Devils became swine. Prince Guidon penetrated to the conference chamber of Tsar Saltan in the shape of a fly, bumble bee and gnat.

De Gasperi, the Blessed, did not inform his listeners in what shape he penetrated the conference.

Inscrutable are the secrets of Italian reaction. The bankrupt politician will resort to any and every miracle in an attempt to save his position in the election. The trouble is that even the Vatican is conscious that the people no longer believe in miracles and only the most backward voters will fall for the bait offered by de Gasperi, the Blessed. Moreover, it would seem that there are not as many of these in Italy as Mr. de Gasperi would like. The ungrateful audience even booed the orator. It wasn't the first time he's been booed of late.—in fact he is getting so used to it that he cocks his ear at the familiar sound.

Now, if de Gasperi did not perform a miracle, it means simply that he lied.

Why did Mr. de Gasperi concoct this story about a “secret committee,” about a “hush hush conference”, etc.?

De Gasperi and his ilk are trying to smear the Italian Communists, the Left Socialists and all honest democrats with innuendos and fairy tales about their “subordination” to orders from unknown and secret “foreign” circles.

The very idea of a powerful popular movement being subservient to orders from some unknown foreign committee is too ridiculous for words. It is an idea worthy only of an ignorant monk who is convinced that the sun moves around the earth and who to this day denounces Galileo as a heretic.

The great strength of the popular movement in Italy lies in its desire to get rid of all foreign interference in internal affairs. And it is just this that is causing the American imperialists extreme alarm. The Communists and Socialists enjoy the greatest influence in Italy because they favour the complete independence of their country from foreign imperialism. The popular front in Italy is profoundly patriotic, a fact which makes the American agents in Italy furious.

This explains the shaky position of the de Gasperi clique, whom the Italians regard as a menace to their national independence. The Americanisation of Italy spells the end of a free Italy. This is clear to millions of Italians. There is no need to have recourse to secret committees. Everybody sees the White House in Washington and the ante-chamber where de Gasperi, and other lackeys, wait in docile servility for crumbs from the table of their American master.

De Gasperi tries to justify himself to the people. In Bologna he tried to convince the audience that his behaviour in the United States “was beyond reproach”. The audience replied by booing and hissing. He listed America's “generosity,” thus sealing his reputation as an American salesman.

His nonsense about a “highly secret committee” is but an attempt to cover up the real dependence of the ruling circles of Italy on their American masters by slandering the Popular Democratic Front, alleging its dependence on foreign Communists.

Fable against fact is a poor weapon. The fabrication of a secret “committee” proves that the hullabaloo raised by the reactionaries around the conference of the nine Communist Parties has ended in a complete fiasco. The hysteria of the capitalist press failed to do the trick. That's why new fables are making the rounds, such as the one about the committee “for France and Italy,” and the “conference of five”. It sounds more effective — a committee of five members. It conveys the idea of something far more mysterious than the conference of the nine Communist Parties... What incredible rubbish! There is nothing surprising in the fact that this party of the Italian

Middle Ages is going down in the struggle against the people who have fought fascism and who are anxious to finish with everything smelling of political decay.

(page 6)

LEFT SOCIALISTS IN FRANCE CONDEMN RIGH SOCIALIST LEADERS

The “Socialist Movement for Unity and Democracy” (“Bataille Socialiste”), which unites the Left Socialist supporters of united action with the Communists, recently held a meeting in Paris.

The speakers, among them Michel Morin, Pierre Stibbe, Andree Marty-Capgras, Marcel Fourier, condemned the anti-Communist policy of the French Socialist leaders and greeted the people’s republic of Czechoslovakia, the popular democratic front in Italy and the fighters for Greek democracy.

Jean Guignebert, member of the Paris City Council, denounced the policy of American imperialism and its French hirelings, which aims to turn Western Germany into a military base for operations against the Soviet Union and the new democracies. Elie Bloncourt, former Socialist deputy, dwelt on the treachery of the Socialist Party and its leader. Leon Blum, whose name was hissed by those in the hall, and added: “The working people of France have two representative organisations: the General Confederation of Labour in the trade union field and the Communist Party in the political sphere. We shall work in loyal and fraternal cooperation with these two organisations.”

(page 6)

POLITICAL NOTES

TRUMAN'S AGGRESSIVE PROGRAMME

Addressing a joint session of the United States Congress on March 17, President Truman called for urgent “aid” to the allegedly threatened countries of Europe,

Truman's speech somewhat crystallises the theses expounded by his salesman, Bevin, two months earlier in the British House of Commons. Truman delivered his speech shortly after the military and economic treaty was signed in Brussels between Great Britain, France and the Benelux states, and on the opening day of the second conference of the 16 countries in Paris.

Truman is obviously dissatisfied with the results attained by

Bevin and Bidault in building up the “anti-Communist bloc” in Europe. His speech was designed to bring pressure to bear on the countries represented at the Paris conference, who are not over anxious to play the role of American imperialism's military outpost in Europe.

Truman asked Congress to complete the European Recovery Programme legislation, to re-enact conscription temporarily and to establish universal military training.

It is obvious that the impending economic crisis in the United State. was the real reason for Truman's speech. The “New York Times” recently wrote that a crisis is inevitable unless there is a special demand which will boost the sale of accumulated goods. This “special demand” depends on whether the existing supplies earmarked by the Marshall Plan, are considerably increased, or on an “emergency situation in international relations,” that is, on war.

This explains the viciousness of Truman's speech, which was not only a repetition of the Metternich “theory of interference”, but also an enumeration of all the reasons listed by Hitler ten years ago to justify his crime against the people of Spain, his provocation against. Czechoslovakia and later the treacherous attack on Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

Truman proclaimed the right of the United States to interfere in the internal affairs of any country, to oppose “internal aggression” and to impose regimes which would secure the American imperialists uncontrolled sway in the country. Truman refers to the election victories of the democratic forces, to the struggle of the people against the undermining activities of the agents and spies of Anglo-American imperialism, to the removal from power of persons who, with outside help, want to impose the hated old order on the peoples as “internal aggression”.

Truman launched an unprecedented attack on the Soviet Union, the “only nation which is to blame for the fact that the American imperialists have not been able to fully realise their great dream of world conquest. True enough the Soviet Union is the chief obstacle in the way to turning the United Nations

into an obedient tool of the predatory policy of US ruling circles. But the peoples of the world consider this a great merit of the Soviet Union. Truman does not like the peace-loving and just policy of the USSR. He prefers threats and war hysteria to justify the aggressive and imperialist policy of the United States.

Truman's speech is a new attack on the principles of international cooperation, outlined in the Charter of the United Nations; his speech justifies the aggressive foreign policy of the United States completely negates the principles of democracy in home and foreign policy.

HOW THE ANTI-DEMOCRATIC BLOC IS COMPOUNDED

With Truman's speech ringing in their ears the lackeys of Wall Street in Europe are exerting themselves to speed up the formation of a new "holy alliance" against the democratic movement of the peoples.

Article 3 of the Treaty between Great Britain, France and the Benelux states, which was first decided upon in London with the direct participation of the US Secretary of State, provides for joint action which will lead their peoples towards a better understanding of the principles which form the basis of their common civilisation. To quote the well-informed United Press of March 11 this means the obligation to defend each other against "internal aggression", it means mutual support to suppress the democratic movement.

The same spirit permeates the speech of Bidault delivered in Turin on March 20 when he signed the agreement for a customs union between France and Italy. The Paris newspaper "Intransigent" stresses that the "main topic discussed by Bidault and de Gasperi was the question of joint action by France and Italy in the event of a Communist putsch in Northern Italy".

Summarising the events of the past two weeks the "New York

Times” wrote on March 22 that the United States, Great Britain and France had decided to revise a number of decisions and agreements concerning the vanquished countries of the fascist axis Germany, Japan and Italy. The purpose of this step is to restore at least some points of support against Communism and the Russian danger. The danger of Communism and here the reactionaries of all countries and of all shades mean the anti-imperialist movement of the popular masses, has, in the opinion of the New York Times reached such dimensions that all other matters must be subordinated to it and an elements prepared to take part in the struggle must unite.

Six weeks ago the American oppressors of freedom with the object of uniting all who are ready to take part in the struggle for the world domination of Wall Street, acquitted the German war criminals in Nurenberg, the predecessors of the men who are today exterminating people in Greece. The Hitler principles of warfare have been made the inalienable right of the American invaders. Out to unite the forces of reaction the American imperialists and their hirelings are insisting that Western Germany be included in the anti-democratic bloc. For this same reason Marshall, Bevin and Bidault are trying to “rehabilitate” the Hitler puppet and hangman, Franco and to make him a member of the union in “defence of civilisation and democracy”.

CONFERENCE OF THE RIGHT SOCIALISTS IN LONDON

The right-wing Socialists, headed by Attlee and Blum, are in the forefront of those who have offered their services in the struggle against the democratic aspirations of the people.

In a report to Congress on January 14, the State Department stressed that the Right Socialists constitute one of the strongest bulwarks against Communism in Europe.

The events of the past few weeks show that the Blums, Saragats, Spaaks and other betrayers of the working-class are

doing everything to justify the “trust” placed in them by the State Department. To prove that they are keeping abreast with the times, and that they are in complete solidarity with the plans of the anti-democratic military bloc the Right Socialists called a conference of the Committee of International Socialist Conferences on March 20 in London to discuss the Marshall Plan.

The first point on the agenda was a resolution denouncing the cooperation of the Polish and Italian Socialist Parties with the Communists. The delegation of the Italian Socialist Party replied to this by withdrawing from the conference. Following this the Right Socialists resolved to expel the Czechoslovak Socialist Party from the Committee and to hear a report by a former functionary of the Party, Wilim who together with other foreign agents, had fled from Czechoslovakia.

Withdrawing from the conference the Italian delegation declared that the Socialist Party of Italy would withdraw from the Committee and that they fully supported the corresponding decisions of the Hungarian, Polish and Czechoslovak Socialist Parties, to the effect that these parties would not take part in the Committee of the International Socialist Conferences.

The statement of the Italian delegation exposes the intrigues of the Committee organisers as an attempt to oppose the Italian Socialist Party on the eve of the elections.

Discussion of the Marshall Plan took place behind closed doors. This fear of publicity merely proves that the Right Socialists are the most bitter enemies of the working class and the mercenary agents of world imperialism.

The decision of the Italian, Hungarian, Polish and Czechoslovak Socialist Parties which is supported by the Bulgarian Socialist Party, is a heavy blow to the traitors of the working class—the Attlees and Blums.

JAN MAREK

THE MUNICH TREACHERY AND INTRIGUES OF NEW MUNICHITES

(APROPOS THE HISTORICAL MATERIAL OF THE SOVIET INFORMATION BUREAU “FALSIFIERS OF HISTORY”). D. Kraminov

The American political gangsters and their Labour and Right Socialist accomplices in Europe, infuriated at the fiasco of the reactionary conspiracy in Czechoslovakia, are now screaming about a “second Munich”. Distorting the facts and events they would have people believe that the replacement with genuine patriots of the handful of traitors and Anglo-American spies, who had wormed their way into the Czechoslovak Government, is the prelude to a third world war. They are echoed by the discordant chorus of capitalist, Labour, Catholic and other venal press crying “Munich! Munich!”

The rubbish about a “second Munich” can be ascribed only to the mental impoverishment of the bourgeoisie in general and, in particular, to the abysmal ignorance of the military men and bankers who today rule the United States. Historical analogies, it is said are dangerous. And to see any analogy between the events of September 1938 and the latest events in Czechoslovakia, which is what the State Department and the Foreign Office are doing, is more than dangerous for it hits back, in the first place, at the sorry inventors of the “second Munich” and their masters — the British and American bankers and industrialists. It is these gentlemen who were the inspirers and creators of the first, and to date most ignominious and criminal “Munich”.

What was “Munich”?

The Soviet Information Bureau’s “Falsifiers of History” in its scientifically documented picture of the period leading up to World War II, distorted by various falsifiers and bourgeois propagandists, furnishes a clear and concise answer to this

question. The historical materials, which are based on numerous documents and are of enormous scientific value, irrefutably prove that “Munich” goes far beyond the framework of the agreement signed on September 30, 1938, whereby Britain and France banded over Czechoslovakia to Hitler. “Munich” signifies the policy of the Anglo-French bourgeoisie, supported by Wall Street, the policy of appeasing fascist Germany and clearing the way for her unrestrained economic and political sway over South-eastern and Eastern Europe. By means of this policy the ruling cliques of Britain and France wanted to secure the Eastward expansion of German imperialism, which they had helped to build up economically and financially, by setting fascist, militarist Germany against the first socialist state in the world—the Soviet Union. In the Same way that the present hysteria about a “second Munich” is a by-product of the animal hatred of the American imperialists for the peoples of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, who have taken the fate of their countries into their own hands, so, too, the Munich policy of the Anglo-French bourgeoisie was inspired by their animal hatred for the peoples of the Soviet Union.

The embryo of this policy, as proved in the “Historical Materials” made its appearance soon after Hitler came to power. At the very time when world progressive public opinion was raising its voice against the terror and Jewish pogroms in fascist Germany, the British and French governments hastened to sign in Rome the “Pact of Accord and Cooperation” with Hitler. This pact gave the ringleader of the German Brown Shirts access to the world arena and signified that the “British and French governments had reached agreement with German and Italian fascism who even then made no secret of their aggressive intentions.”

The reactionary ruling cliques in Britain, France and the United States, which rained credits on German war industry, did not deem it necessary to prevent Hitler’s rearmament programme. On the contrary, they openly countenanced his violation of the Versailles Peace Treaty, which restricted the German armed

forces to a definite number and their armaments to definite types. Instead of compelling Hitler to get out of the demilitarised Rhine zone, occupied by his troops, despite Germany's peace obligations, and to desist from increasing the Reichswehr beyond 100,000, as stipulated by the Versailles Treaty, the British Government proposed to Hitler a revision of the naval articles of the Treaty with a view to ultimately making the German navy second in Europe to the British navy. Following the rebirth of Germany's military power, made possible by the active support of the capitalist concerns of Britain, France and the US, the Anglo-French ruling circles, as pointed out in the "Historical Materials", began vigorously to encourage Germany to take the path of seizures. London and Paris gave their blessing to the Hitler-Mussolini military-political bloc known as the "Berlin-Rome Axis". As alike as peas in a pod the "Berlin-Rome Axis", just like the "Five-Power Pact", — the recent creation of the "Socialist" Bevin and the Catholic Bidault — was also directed against the "Communist menace in Europe" invented by them.

The British ruling circles became so enamoured with the idea of an armed crusade against Communism that they decided to join it. According to German documents captured by Soviet troops in Germany and published in the "Historical Materials" of the Soviet Information Bureau, the British Government as early as 1937 proposed, through its Minister, Halifax, joining the "Berlin-Rome Axis" together with France. In order to turn Germany into a "Western bastion against Bolshevism" to quote the words of Halifax, the representative of the British Government agreed to "change the order of Europe" in favour of Germany. The British Government agreed to give Hitler Danzig, Austria and Czechoslovakia on condition that the "Fuehrer" would not stop at that but would move Eastward—against the Soviet Union.

With obsequious servility the British Government put itself out to help Hitler accomplish his aggressive plans. When Hitler prepared to seize Austria the British Government hastened to eliminate any possibility of resistance on the part of Austria.

On February 21, 1938 the British Minister, Simon loudly proclaimed that Britain had not guaranteed the independence of Austria. Hence, Britain had no intention of helping Austria should, she think of resisting the Hitler invasion. And to make doubly sure that Austria relinquished all hope of international interference in her favour the British Prime Minister Chamberlain announced that she had better not reckon on the support of the League of Nations where Britain held sway.

On the eve of the seizure of Austria the British Government, through its ambassador in Berlin, Henderson, proposed that Hitler establish the “basis for true and sincere friendship”, and they would agree to Hitler’s demands for territorial changes in Europe. The British Government did not even think it necessary to lodge a formal protest at Hitler’s act of seizure, and rejected a Soviet proposal to discuss practical measures to arrest further aggression.

This attitude of the reactionary British ruling clique was not accidental. They were not interested in collective measures against aggression. As Henderson told Hitler, Chamberlain had rejected all collective measures in order, together with Germany, to eliminate the Soviet Union from solving the destiny of Europe.

The German ambassador in London, Dirksen, confirming Henderson’s words, wrote in a dispatch dated July 10, 1938, that the British Government “is beginning to understand the salient points of the essential demands made by Germany with regard to eliminating the Soviet Union from deciding the destiny of Europe, the elimination of the League of Nations in the same sense, the expedience of bilateral negotiations and agreements.”

Subsequent events showed that the British Government “was beginning to understand” Hitler’s demands so well that it responded to his every wish like a faithful servant. The British Government prevented the Soviet Union from discussing the matter of Czechoslovakia, which was vitally important, above all, for Eastern Europe. It prevented the League of Nations from discussing German-Czechoslovak relations. It embarked

on bilateral negotiations with Hitler, leaving its old ally France out in the cold.

The British Government, eager to satisfy the aggressive claims of German fascism, pursued the policy of isolating the Soviet Union and facilitating Hitler's crusade against Eastern Europe. It is not at all accidental that the present Labour Government has set itself the same anti-Soviet goal upheld by Chamberlain and Halifax ten years ago. Like the pro-Hitler Munichites the Labour leaders are busy setting up a military-political bloc directed against the countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe. Following in the footsteps of Hitler, Chamberlain and Halifax Bevin is trying to prevent the Soviet Union from solving the destiny of Europe.

After Chamberlain's talks with Hitler the British and French governments demanded that Czechoslovakia hand over the Sudeten area to Germany. When the Czechoslovak Government, not wanting to sign its own death warrant, refused to do so, the British Government openly threatened to give Hitler a free hand in Czechoslovakia. The Foreign Office virtually became the transmitter of Germany's ultimatums to the Czechoslovak Government.

At the conference between Hitler, Mussolini, Chamberlain and Daladier in Munich 10 September, 1938, the deal between Hitler and Chamberlain was crowned with an agreement which gave Germany the territory containing most of Czechoslovakia's border fortifications. Czechoslovakia was betrayed and sold to Hitler. And it was all done without as much as consulting the Czechoslovak people, leave alone the Czechoslovak Government. The representatives of the Czechoslovak Government were not even allowed into the conference hall. They were informed of Hitler's decision, which had the blessing of Chamberlain and Daladier, only after Czechoslovakia's fate had been sealed.

The real essence of Munich states the "Historical Materials" was exposed by J. Stalin when he said at the time that "the Germans were given Czechoslovak territory as a reward for their promise to go to war against the Soviet Union."

The Soviet Government denounced “Munich” as a deliberate undertaking designed to create the preconditions for a new world war, and consistently and tirelessly fought to prevent the outbreak of war. The Soviet Union strove to organise collective resistance to the fascist aggressor. But the efforts of the USSR were undermined by the Anglo-French imperialists who brought the Munich policy to its logical conclusion—to war by fascist Germany against Poland, a war which soon grew into a world war.

Such is the meaning of Munich”. What have the American politicians and their Labour and Catholic hirelings found in common between “Munich” and the February events in Czechoslovakia? In 1938 “Munich” opened the gates to Hitler aggression in the East and South-East of Europe, and unleashed World War II. The February events in Czechoslovakia on the contrary, closed the gates through which aggressive American imperialism, aspiring to world domination, hoped to penetrate into South-Eastern and Eastern Europe in order to prevent the peoples there from peacefully reorganising their life without the German, British and American imperialists.

The war hysteria, sander, lies and rabid anti-Czechoslovak and anti-Soviet propaganda unleashed in America and in the countries of its European satellites, on the orders of Washington show that the closing of the Czechoslovak “gates” dealt a heavy blow to the warmongers. Their cries about a “second Munich” have laid bare the innermost designs of the American war adventurers and their Labour, right-wing Socialist and Catholic landsknechts in Europe to use Czechoslovakia in their aggressive plans against Eastern Europe and the USSR, just as it was used by Hitler, inspired and armed with the money of the City of London and Wall Street.

But history does not repeat itself!

Editorial Board

Printed and Published in Yugoslavia. The 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 Iovana Risticha, No 21, Telephone of the Editorial Office: 28-424; of the Publishing House: 29-891