

Workers of All Countries, Unite!

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

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THE IDEOLOGICAL WEAPON OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES

In the struggle against the new pretenders to world domination the Communist Parties are carrying out an honourable and historic task, they are at the head of the great anti-imperialist movement of the people, inspiring and organising the masses for a decisive rebuff to the imperialist strivings.

In the countries of Western Europe the Communists are the backbone of popular resistance to the predatory plans of American imperialism and their servitors the Bevins, Bidaults and de Gasperis.

The Communist Parties in the countries of Eastern Europe, guiding the ship of state, are using to the full their steadily growing influence to cement the masses and to direct their activities into channels that will strengthen still more their democratic gains.

More and more the masses are putting their trust and confidence in the Communist Parties and the best representatives of the workers, peasants and intelligentsia are joining the Communist ranks. Unity of the labour movement, formerly split by the agents of capitalism, is being restored; the political unity of the broad sections of the people is vividly reflected in the people's democratic fronts in a number of countries. The people see in the Communists the sole consistent, genuine and fearless champions of national sovereignty and of the vital interests of the working people.

The ever closer contacts of the Communist Parties with the popular masses and the numerical growth of the Communist Parties raises sharply the question of the theoretical training of Party members, of equipping them with Marxist-Leninist theory as the guiding principle of successful work among the masses.

“The Power of the Marxist-Leninist theory lies in the fact that it enables the Party to find the right orientation in any situation, to understand the inner connection of current events, to foresee their course and to perceive not only how and in what direction they are developing in the present, but how and in what direction they are bound to develop in the future” states Comrade Stalin.

The course of social development during the past century, the events of the inter-war years, the building of Socialism in the Soviet Union, its historic role in the war against Hitler Germany, the events of the post-war period—all is irrefutable evidence of the great and invincible might of the theory of Marx-Engels, brilliantly carried forward and concretised in the epoch of imperialism and Socialist construction by Lenin and Stalin. The power of scientific, Marxist-Leninist foresight has triumphed over the adventurist policy of the reactionary rulers in the capitalist world and their yes-men in the camp of revisionism and reformism.

It is only natural, therefore, that in some of the new democracies the workers' parties are uniting and working-class unity is being restored on the basis of Marxism-Leninism as the only theory which correctly reflects the liberation mission of the working class in each country.

The founders of Marxism-Leninism repeatedly pointed out that revolutionary theory is not a dogma but a guide to action. Lenin stressed that the theory of Marx only laid the foundation stone of the science which the Socialists **must** develop further in all directions if they do not want to be behind the times, that this theory furnishes only general **guiding** theses which are applied one way in Britain and another in France, in France differently from Germany, in Germany differently than in Russia.

The activities of the Communist Parties in the different countries during the war and in the post-war period, and especially the work of the Communist Parties in the new democracies, the accumulated experience of the revolutionary movement and the building up of the new democracy, contain rich material for making valuable theoretical generalisations and conclusions, for the further development of Marxist-Leninist theory.

It is high time to generalise theoretically the rich experience of State construction in the new democracies, to analyse the class changes that have taken place in these countries and to chart the new ways and means of strengthening the alliance of workers, peasants and intelligentsia, to analyse scientifically the changes in the economy and indicate the future path towards Socialism, to generalise the experience of the organisational structure of the Marxist parties in keeping with the specific features of their development in the new democracies.

Another important task facing the Communist Parties, apart from the theoretical generalisation of their experience, is the theoretical education of the Party members and the widespread propaganda of Marxism-Leninism.

However, practice shows that Marxist-Leninist education suffers both ideologically and organisationally, from a number of major shortcomings. Unless eliminated these shortcomings may lead to serious consequences.

For instance there are Communist newspapers, central organs of the Parties, that rarely publish anything about Marxist-Leninist theory, hardly any propaganda articles and reports about how Party members are studying Marxist theory.

Lack of interest in Marxist theory and neglect of propaganda work may lead to degeneration and to the appearance of bourgeois views. Petty bourgeois complacency and conceit inevitably come to the surface in such organisations and those Communists who ignore theory fail to see the sharpening of the class struggle, the differentiation within the class forces and the manoeuvres of the enemy; they begin to let matters slide and harbour opportunist illusions that everything will turn out alright and that one way or another Socialism will be victorious.

Party organisations whose leaders are Luke-warm propagandists of Marxist theory inevitably lose all sense of perspective, and one can expect the most extravagant and pseudo-Marxist “ideas” and

“theories”. Moreover, in these instances pseudo-Marxism is usually camouflaged by left phrase-mongering.

It is obvious that if there is no taste for Marxist theory, if theory is neglected, is not elaborated and popularised, criticism and self-criticism are relegated to the background, for the very essence of Marxism calls for open, mass Party criticism and self-criticism, regardless of individuals and not for criticism behind the scenes.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), created and educated by the great geniuses of revolutionary theory, Lenin and Stalin, serves as an example to all fraternal Communist Parties of how to approach the development of Marxist theory and its propaganda among the broad masses of the people.

Nothing could stop or divert the propaganda activity of the Bolshevik Party: neither the monstrous tsarist regime, nor the draconic measures of the puppets of world imperialism — the Mensheviks and the Socialist-Revolutionaries — who came to power after the February Revolution of 1917.

After the October Socialist Revolution the development and propaganda of Marxist-Leninist theory and the promotion of a scientific world outlook among the broad masses became the principal tasks of the Party and the State.

The success of the CPSU(B) in building Socialism would have been impossible had not the Party attached cardinal importance to the development of Marxism and the Marxist-Leninist education of its cadres.

Conscious of their shortcomings in the propaganda of Marxism-Leninism the Communist Parties are taking measures to overcome them.

The newspapers and theoretical organs of the Executive Committee of those Parties attached to the Information Bureau of the Communist and Worker's Parties are called upon to play a big role.

An important means towards raising the theoretical level of Party members is the mass publication of the classics of Marxism-Leninism Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin.

Along with the schools opened for the lower Party functionaries it is necessary in every way to improve the work of the higher schools run by the Executive Committees of the Communist Parties. By promoting the theoretical training of Party members the Communist Parties will be able to cope with the tasks facing them in the struggle for victory over the forces of reaction and in building socialism in the countries liberated from imperialism.

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FORCES FOR CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC AGAINST IMPERIALISM

INDIAN PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE

The policy of the Indian Government in collaborating with the British imperialists is proving

detrimental to the national interests of India. The Indian workers are vigorously fighting the anti-national policy of the Government.

Together with the strike movement of factory and office coker the peasant struggle is gaining momentum. The huge peasant demonstration in Potni in which some 20,000 people took part, resolutely demanded democratic liberties. In the Hyderabad province 5 million peasants have formed people's committee and set about dividing the land.

In Bombay, Agra, Calcutta and other cities thousands of factory and office workers struck work. The Dockers' strike in Karachi which began as a protest at the arrest of the workers' leaders resulted in victory.

JOINT ELECTORAL LISTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The leader of the Czechoslovak trade unions, Comrade Zapotocky, has addressed a call to the political parties for a joint list of candidates for the forthcoming general election. The parties in the National Front have expressed themselves in favour of joint lists.

The Presidium of the Czechoslovak Social-Democratic Party has decided to raise the question of the fusion of the Social-Democratic Party with the Communist Party at the forthcoming national conference of the party.

ECONOMIC CONFERENCE OF THE PEOPLE'S FRONT IN ITALY

An economic conference under the auspices of the People's Democratic Front of Italy was held in Rome at the beginning of the month. Delegates were present from the various Front organisations, Joint Production Committees, the Land Holders' Assembly and the Chamber of Labour. Prominent scientists in the field of economy were also present.

The conference discussed the economic problems facing Italy, and elaborated measures against inflation, for better trading, more production and other matters affecting the national economy.

Commenting on the conference, the Communist leader, Luigi Longo wrote in the newspaper "Unita." The People's Front convened this conference to prove scientifically and by facts that even under present conditions Italy can prosper by means of its own labour and without charity».

DEMANDS OF THE FRENCH WORKERS

The first national conference of production committee in France was attended by over 8,000 delegates. The conference was called by the General Confederation of Labour.

The delegates discussed matters connected with industry and unanimously denounced the Government's price raising policy, a policy that guarantees increased profits for capitalists.

Delegates representing the iron and steel workers, pointed out that the capital of seven companies had soared from 12 million francs in 1939 to 370 million francs in 1947. Delegates from a large leather firm in the Ysere department stated that the firm's actual profits amounted to 63 million francs while the management alleged that their profits amounted to a mere 3,260,000 francs.

According to miner delegates seven French coal mines will be closed because of coal imports from America, although a ton of French coal costs 1,500 francs less than a ton of American coal.

The congress adopted an unanimous resolution which calls upon the working people of France to defend industry from the expansion of American trusts. The resolution condemned the Marshall Plan and the reactionary policy of the Schuman Government which, it says, is a menace to French industry and is leading to mass unemployment. The resolution called upon the workers to join the Defence Committees, and demanded a 21 per cent wage increase.

MONSTER PEASANT RALLY IN HUNGARY

More than 100,000 peasants and agricultural labourers gathered in Sharoshpatak to celebrate the third anniversary of the liberation of Hungary by the Soviet Army.

Rounds of applause greeted Rakosi, the Communist Party leader when he referred to the Soviet Army's part in the liberation of the country and the assistance of the Soviet Union in the sphere of economic rehabilitation.

Dwelling on the growing influence of the Communist Party Rakosi said that the Party is being joined not only by workers and intelligentsia but also by thousands of peasants.

The peasants have turned to the Communist Party, said Rakosi, because the working people of the countryside have seen for themselves that our Party is working honestly and successfully in the interests of the people. They understand that the present democratic system is not only sound but strong and stable.

GROWTH OF STRIKE MOVEMENT IN THE US

In the United States unemployment is on the increase and working-class conditions are deteriorating. According to American newspapers, in the two months' period from January to February, the number of the unemployed increased by more than half a million. The strike movement is gaining momentum, and the workers are putting up a stubborn resistance. 400,000 Pennsylvania miners have been out for over a month. Despite a court decision taken at the request of Truman, obliging the men to resume work, 23,000 anthracite miners joined the strike.

The strike of 100,000 meat-packing workers has been on for more than a month, the five months' strike of Chicago printing workers resulted in the employers agreeing to negotiate a wage increase. A total of 600,000 workers are on strike in the US. The workers in the steel, electrical, shipbuilding and automobile industries are preparing to go on strike.

NEW CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF RUMANIA

The National Assembly of Rumania unanimously and with great enthusiasm has ratified the Constitution of the People's Republic of Rumania.

Representatives of all the political parties, workers, peasants and intelligentsia spoke at the sessions of the Assembly and approved the principles and the text of the Constitution.

In a solemn atmosphere the deputies of the National Assembly took the oath of allegiance to the Republic.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AID TO GREEK PEOPLE

The first international conference for aid to democratic Greece was held recently in Paris. Delegates from 20 countries were present. The French Government refused visas to delegates from the countries of Eastern Europe. Numerous messages of greeting and a letter from the provisional democratic government of Free Greece were received by the conference.

A strongly worded resolution adopted by the conference denounced the support accorded by the US Government to the Greek monarchists-fascists and the behaviour of the British occupation forces in Greece. The conference also called upon the peoples of the world to render material and moral support to the freedom-loving Greek people.

An international coordination committee for aid to democratic Greece was formed and will be located in Paris.

An information meeting of the representatives of the Balkan countries, attended by delegates from Yugoslavia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania and the Greek Central Confederation of Labour was held recently in Sofia.

The meeting decided to ask the World Federation of Trade Unions to discuss the question of help for the Greek people in their struggle against Anglo-American imperialism and the monarcho-fascist government; to call upon workers everywhere to accord moral and material support to the Greek people and to Greek refugees; to set up an "Aid Committee for Democratic Greece" and to ask the national trade union bodies affiliated to the WFTU to form similar committees.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET-YUGOSLAV TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

In connection with the 3rd anniversary of the Soviet-Yugoslav Treaty of friendship, mutual assistance and post-war cooperation a meeting was held in Belgrade attended by the leaders of the Yugoslav Government and prominent public figures. Addressing the gathering Mr. Bane Andreev, member of the Government, stressed the importance of Soviet-Yugoslav friendship in cementing democratic peace and in consolidating the people's democracy.

Messages of greetings were exchanged between J. V. Stalin and Marshal Tito.

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ON ROAD TO FUSION

A joint meeting of the Central Committee of the Polish Workers' Party and Polish Socialist Party was held in Warsaw earlier this month. J. Cyrankiewicz spoke on the preparations for the joint celebration of May Day and W. Gomulka on the building of headquarters for the new united workers' party.

Developing his ideas on the fusion of the two parties Cyrankiewicz emphasised that the internal and international situation of Poland urgently calls for complete unification of the Polish working-class movement. In face of the onslaught of world reaction the two trends in the working class movement are becoming more and more distinct and leave no place for centrist manoeuvring. On the one hand, the right wing of the Socialist movement has been harnessed to the chariot of American imperialism and has carried with it the vacillating centrist elements. On the other hand, in those countries, for example in Czechoslovakia and Italy, where a strenuous struggle has liberated the initiative of the working masses, the left wing in the Socialist movement has joined with another part of the working movement throwing overboard the defeated right-wing elements.

Fusion of the parties, said Cyrankiewicz, will strengthen the independence and security of Poland, consolidate the alliance between the workers and peasants-the keystone of the development of the new Poland, and promote labour enthusiasm throughout the country. At the same time fusion will be the answer of the Polish working class to the machinations of the imperialist warmongers, to their attempts to isolate the new democracies and to restore an aggressive Germany. It will also strike at the third force theory, and at the conspiracy of the right-wing Socialists with reaction.

Noting that the rank and file of two parties enthusiastically

welcomed the idea of fusion, Cyrankiewicz stressed the need for a programme based on Marxist theory, enriched by the experience of building socialism in the Soviet Union, which at the same time would take into consideration the concrete conditions in Poland.

The May Day celebrations in Poland will be conducted under the slogan of unity and fusion of the

two parties. May Day will be celebrated also under the slogan of international solidarity of the working people and firm friendship with the Soviet Union and the new democracies.

Addressing the meeting, W. Gomulka said that fusion, is the subject of lively discussion at all levels in the two workers' parties. Resolutions coming in from joint meetings and conferences speak of wholehearted support for the line of the leaders of the two parties. Gomulka said: "We are heading rapidly towards fusion." though today neither the Central Committee of the PWP, nor the Central Executive Committee of the PSP has defined the actual date. Exposing the machinations of the right-wing elements who try to depict fusion as the swallowing of the Polish Socialist Party by the Polish Workers' Party Gomulka strongly criticised the harmful attitude of some members of the Workers' Party who regard unification not as a common victory of the two workers' parties but only of their own party.

"The Polish Workers' Party does not wish to, and cannot "absorb" anyone and has no desire to compel anybody to join its ranks," said Gomulka. Fusion can be brought about only on an ideological political base and on condition that the enemies of unity are systematically exposed and removed.

In the new organisation the members of the PWP and PSP will enjoy equal right and have equal responsibilities. The united party will be a common house for all those who compose its ranks. That is why the building of headquarters by joint effort, amid the ruins of Warsaw would be, in our opinion, the best symbol of our joint contribution to the cause of building a united party. The collection of money for this purpose among the membership of the two parties will be, in a way, a vote for complete unification of the working-class movement of Poland.

The new party will rally the most conscious and selfless elements of the working class and of the entire working people — the builders of the people's democratic Poland. It will be the leading party of the Polish people. By means of cooperation with the other democratic parties it will strengthen the alliance between the workers and peasants and the unity of all democratic forces of the country. The meeting unanimously adopted resolutions on the reports of Cyrankiewicz and Gomulka. A special committee to supervise the building of headquarters for the united party was formed.

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PROBLEMS OF IDEOLOGICAL AND THEORETICAL WORK IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF HUNGARY. Matias Rakosi

In its policy the Communist Party is guided by the theory elaborated by Marx, and further developed and applied in the epoch of imperialism, proletarian revolutions and the building of

socialism by Lenin and Stalin. This theory, states Comrade Stalin, demands that the Party should be able to find at the given moment the particular link in the chain of processes which, once grasped, makes it possible to hold the entire chain and prepare the conditions for achieving strategic success. The point is, continues Comrade Stalin, to be able to judge which of the tasks facing the Party is the task of the day, the solution of which is the central issue and ensures the successful carrying out of all the other tasks.

In the light of the above a review of the work of the Communist Party of Hungary since the liberation shows that in each given period we were able to find the corresponding link in the chain. The main thing in the period immediately after the liberation was to secure the consolidation of the democratic forces. The next link in building up Hungarian democracy was the land reform, which was followed by economic rehabilitation. The elections held in 1945 showed that reaction constituted a serious threat to the foundations of our democracy not only politically but also economically by devaluating our currency. In the circumstances our Party deemed it essential to put an end to inflation and stabilise the currency considering this an important link which, to quote Lenin, must be grasped in every possible way in order to retain the whole chain and thoroughly prepare the going over to the next link. The success of stabilisation strengthened the economic foundation of our democracy, and helped to defeat reaction which had become entrenched in the Smallholders' Party. Then followed the nationalisation measures and the Three Year Plan. The economic and political successes in the development of Hungarian democracy furnished the conditions for the fusion of the two workers' parties and for consolidating the national democratic front. This is the task facing us today.

Raising the Theoretical Level of Party Members

The next link in the chain is unquestionably, that of raising the ideological and theoretical level of our Party. Lenin's teaching that only a party guided by an advanced theory can carry out the role of vanguard fighter is as true today as it was then. During the past three years the Party has been so taken up with day-to-day work that it has paid but scant attention to theoretical training. We have not, as yet, placed on the order of the day the development of Marxist theory on the basis of Lenin-Stalin methods, have not made a thorough study of the essential problems linked with the growth of Hungarian democracy. Lenin said that Communists must constantly enrich Marxist theory in all spheres if they do not want to be behind the times.

It must be acknowledged that we did not pay the necessary attention to deepening and elaborating Marxist theory. We are threatened by the danger, about which Stalin said: If for some reason or other Party propaganda begins to limp, if the Marxist-Leninist education of Party cadres begins to suffer, if the work of raising the political and theoretical level of these cadres grows weaker, and the cadres, as a result of this, cease to be interested in the perspective of the Party's forward movement, cease to understand the justice of the Party's cause and become people without perspective ... it means that all State and Party work will begin to suffer. It must be regarded as an axiom that the higher the political level and Marxist-Leninist consciousness of workers in any branch of State and Party work, the better and more fruitful the work itself, the more effective the results of the work, whereas the lower the political level and Marxist-Leninist consciousness of the workers, the greater the chances of interruptions and failure in the work ...

To avoid disruption and failure in our work we have placed on the order of the day the task of raising the theoretical level of our Party. We are devoting much more attention to political education than all the other parties taken together. Over 120,000 members have graduated various Party schools or courses. But this is absolutely inadequate, especially if it is borne in mind that the overwhelming majority of the students attended only three-weeks courses or courses of even shorter duration. The figure 120,000 shows that five-sixths of our members have not had any systematic theoretical training whatsoever. An idea of the magnitude of the task facing the Party in the sphere of education can be had from the fact that over 90 per cent of the members joined the Party after the

liberation.

Then there are other circumstances which threaten to lower the Marxist-Leninist ideological level of our Party. The exposure of the right Social-Democrats made our Social-Democratic comrades realise that the existence of rival working-class parties was altogether unnecessary, and that this inter-party rivalry was most detrimental not only to the interests of the working people but to Hungarian democracy as a whole. A spontaneous movement for the formation of a united workers' party gained ground among the working class, Thousands of Social-Democratic comrades expressed their desire to join our Party. For the time being we have stopped recruiting new members, but thousands of people are impatiently waiting for the day when entry into the Party will be renewed.

The question of the fusion of the two parties was decided at the recent congress of the Social-Democratic Party. However, as stressed by the leading Social-Democratic comrades, the ideological basis for fusion must be Marxism-Leninism. So that in a few months' time thousands of former Social-Democratic members of the united party will be fully justified in demanding that we acquaint them with the teaching of Marxism, further elaborated by Lenin and Stalin. But this is only one aspect of the tasks facing us. Apart from the Social- Democratic comrades our Party is being joined by the people from the peasant population and by the, intelligentsia. For instance, in the province of Zemplen alone 5,000 small peasants, teachers and doctors joined our ranks in the month that preceded the closing of recruitment. These peasant people have come to us not because they are acquainted with Marxist-Leninist theory but because of their convictions, which have taken shape in the course of three years observation and experience, that our Party is the most consistent and honest party, is the party that most successfully represents and defends the interests of the working people of Hungary. These peasants and representatives of the intelligentsia will bring with them not only their sentiments of sympathy for our Party but also various prejudices and mistaken conceptions. Unless we take timely measures to provide thousands of new people who will be joining our ranks during the coming weeks and months with the minimum theoretical and ideological education then the theoretical level of our Party, none too high at the moment, may be lowered still more.

Immediate Measures

Should this be so our Party will be unable to cope with the problems which the people of Hungary expect to solve. And precisely because we as the leading party of democracy, must extend, and not restrict our work, we must place on the order of the day the problem of raising the theoretical level of the Party.

The Political Bureau of the Party in discussing this matter, reached the conclusion that we have a number of shortcomings in the sphere of theoretical work. The Political Bureau, for its part, has also failed up to now to give a Marxist-Leninist interpretation of the main problems relating to the development of Hungarian democracy and the new democracy. As a result, incorrect views prevailed in our Party and even in the Political Bureau itself regarding the essence of the people's democracy, views which doubted the thesis that the people's democracy is an important stage in building socialism. Some doubted that nationalisation and State control had resulted in qualitative changes in the economic structure of our country. The Political Bureau stated that further neglect of theoretical work threatened our Party with danger. A party that fails to elaborate theoretical problems can commit serious political mistakes. The Political Bureau therefore decided to set up a permanent committee that will make a Marxist-Leninist study of the problems of our democracy, will control theoretical work and expose all inimical "theories". This Committee includes the leading theoreticians of our Party.

As we known, ever since the end of the war the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) has devoted serious attention to theoretical and ideological work, resolutely eliminating the shortcomings in this sphere. On a number of occasions the Central Committee subjected to detailed

criticism shortcomings in Soviet literature, philosophy, theatre, cinema and music, and outlined the paths for cultural development in socialist society. Similar work has been initiated in some of the new democracies. The time has come for us, Hungarian Communists, also to set about raising our theoretical level.

We must draw the daily press into this work. In the Soviet Union the newspapers widely feature Central Committee and Government decisions on ideological questions. We must see to it that the Sunday edition of the newspaper "Sabad Nep" makes a point of dealing with urgent ideological problems. Experience shows that there is considerable interest in theoretical matters and it is imperative for the future development of our Party that we satisfy this demand as best as we can. Our theoretical magazine "Tarshadalmi Semlje" should, in future, give place to theoretical articles. It should criticise in the first place works claiming to be Marxist but which frequently contain serious theoretical errors.

In order to cope with the new tasks in the sphere of Party education we are reorganising and extending our Party schools, reviewing the curriculum and the materials used in studies. Much of the material we have been using is obsolete and no longer corresponds to the developments in Hungarian democracy; often it was prepared in haste and, moreover, contains serious errors. It is necessary also to elaborate new methods of self-study since the old methods are unsatisfactory.

In view of this we shall have to reorganise the publication of theoretical literature. The job of raising the theoretical level of our members is hampered by the fact that certain Marxist works are either not available in translation or are out of print. Party members who know only the Hungarian language, have no idea whatsoever of the bulk of the works by Lenin and Stalin.

The principal task of our Party now is to master Marxist-Leninist theory and to raise our theoretical level. The successes and prestige won by our Party are due, in the first place, to the fact that the Party was guided and inspired by Marxist-Leninist theory. If we fail to raise the theoretical level of the Party, we shall freeze its development, and this will lead to major errors. We are interested that our Party in the future, too, shall march in the vanguard of the people, that it will in ever greater measure serve the cause of securing the prosperity and development of our country. That is why we must study and develop Marxist-Leninist theory—the faithful compass of our Party. Today this theory represents the main Lenin link which we must seize with all our strength.

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REVIEW OF THE PRESS

BRITISH TRADE UNIONS OPPOSE THE ATTLEE PURGE

According to "Daily Worker", the protest movement against the police measures of the Labour Government is growing.

The London District Committee of the Electrical Trades Union, which unites 57,000 members, has condemned the "Government persecution of Communists since, in the final analysis this is aimed against every active trade unionist. This is an attack on the fundamental political rights of the individual", says the electricians' resolution, "and can only lead to the creation of a police state".

A statement issued by the Executive Committee of the Association of Scientific Workers says: "When a civil servant can lose his post on the advice of secret police because of political opinions or associations, it is impossible to claim that liberty of conscience or speech exists. The freedoms proclaimed in the Atlantic Charter are being extinguished at a time when no threat of war faces our country."

The discontent with the Attlee-Bevin policy of initiating a police state in the country is increasing also inside the Labour Party.

The local branch of the Labour Party in Stevenston (Scotland) passed a resolution demanding the resignation of all Labour Ministers responsible for the witch hunt.

WORK AMONG NEW PARTY MEMBERS

Because of the growth of the Communist Parties the question of ideological, educational work among the new members assumes special importance.

The organ of the Executive Committee of the French Communist Party "France Nouvelle" notes that:

"Party prestige, which has grown thanks to a sound national policy of peace and consistent defence of the interests the working people, is attracting to our ranks people from all walks of life."

But the absence of the necessary educational work, and the fact that the new members are not drawn into Party activities, results in many of the newcomers being left, in effect, outside the Party.

"France Nouvelle" cites concrete examples showing how Party work should be conducted and the local organisations strengthened. In the township of Eymoutiers 97 lapsed members attended a meeting organised by the district committee. Thirty-three of the lapsed members rejoined the Party and 17 new recruits were made. The "France Nouvelle" points out that one of the principal tasks of the Party, which has become a mass party and is called upon to lead the people in the struggle for their freedom and national independence, is more and more educational work, to infuse more spirit into Party life in branches and to improve the leadership.

Referring to mass work and Party life "France Nouvelle" suggests that the federations and branches should arrange frequent open meetings attended by non-members of the Party. "As often as not," notes the journal "mass work is confined to one of our Parliamentary deputies making three or four speeches in his constituency in the course of a week. But we have any number of active members in the localities capable of speaking at open meetings."

Certainly, open Party meetings, as one of the forms of mass political work, consolidate the Party organisationally and ideologically, and strengthen its links with the masses.

BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

"Rude Pravo" organ of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia devotes considerable space to the

preparations for the election scheduled for May 23.

The paper published the speech delivered by the General Secretary of the Communist Party, Comrade Slansky at a regional conference in Pilsen. “The forth-coming election, unlike previous election campaigns,” stated Slansky “will not be accompanied by personal attacks and slander. During the election campaign representatives of all parties will report to the electorate concerning their service to the people and the Republic and about their future plans.

“At the time of the previous election industrial output dropped because the political atmosphere distracted people from their work. This time the picture is different—output is on the upgrade because the election campaign is accompanied by the labour enthusiasm of the people.”

EVERY COMMUNIST ACTIVE IN PARTY LIFE

“Pravda”, organ of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, devotes considerable attention to internal Party life. Every Party member, writes “Pravda” must be a leader of the non-Party people, must carry out his vanguard role and fulfil the high demands set him by the Party. The active participation of Communists in Party work and in social-political life is one of the basic rules of the statutes of the CPSU(B).

“Communists can be involved in active Party work,” writes “Pravda”, “if the individual abilities and inclinations of the member are taken into account, and not just by, knowing him “in general”. For the purpose of carrying out their vanguard role Communists must constantly master Marxist-Leninist theory, add to their knowledge, and attain political maturity. Marxist-Leninist theory is the life-giving source of the moral strength of the Bolsheviks, of their staunchness and energy in battling against difficulties. That is why our Party demands that Communists constantly enrich their ideological political outlook.”

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AGRARIAN POLICY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Antonin Nedved

The first land reform in Czechoslovakia in 1919 considerably enhanced the position of the rural bourgeoisie, especially the landlords, The Agrarian Party, then the party of the Czech rural

bourgeoisie, was able to do this at the expense of the big estates of the nobility. But after the reform it was the landlords and not the peasants who benefited most from this land. In Czechia the confiscated land was used for the purpose of creating so-called "remainder" farms totalling 137,520 hectares of the most fertile land divided among 1,429 landlords; at the same time 356,000 small and medium peasants received a mere 367-482 hectares of land. In other words, each of the landlords gained an average of 90 hectares while a smallholder received but 1.3 hectares.

By means of these "remainder" farms the agrarian bourgeoisie secured for themselves a new and solid political bulwark in the countryside. At the same time, by exercising complete control over the distribution of the land they compelled the smallholders to join the so-called "domovyny"—organisation of small peasants under the auspices of the Agrarian Party. The agrarians enmeshed the small and medium peasants in the cooperative network and in the credit and purchasing organisations.

Agricultural credit cooperatives, with the Central Agricultural Cooperative Union in Prague at the head, constituted the powerful financial base of agrarian capital. At the same time the agrarians controlled the Agrarian Bank in Prague and the Morava Bank in Brno. By means of these concerns which were in close collaboration with the biggest financial concern in Czechoslovakia—"Zinobanka"—the agrarian bourgeoisie jointly with the financial and industrial oligarchy, controlled the whole economy of Czechoslovakia. Thus, it was not accidental that the agrarian bourgeoisie became the leading force of fascism in the country, the leader of the treacherous bourgeoisie who brought Czechoslovakia to the capitulation of Munich.

After the liberation, the Agrarian Party was banned because of its leading role in the capitulation and because of its perfidy during the occupation. After that the Communist Party was faced with the difficult task of winning the small and middle peasants from the political influence of the former agrarian leaders. It should be borne in mind that the Agrarian Party was extremely well organised. The vast network of rural cooperatives remained the bulwark of the agrarian bourgeoisie even after the prohibition of the party. Moreover, former Agrarian leaders soon found a new political bulwark in certain parties of the People's Front, and chiefly in the National Socialist Party. Even in 1945 this party opened wide its doors to the former Agrarian leaders, and during the general election of May 1946 advanced the slogan of the former Agrarian Party. Other parties, too, including the Social-Democrats, remained in their agrarian policy tools of the former agrarians.

Communist Party influence in the countryside grew considerably after the confiscation of the land belonging to the Germans, collaborators and traitors. The land in the Czech border regions formerly owned by Germans was given to the peasants at rates varying from 8 to 13 hectares per household and at a price about double the amount paid for an annual crop. By the end of 1945, more than 100,000 peasant households had received land. The peasants saw for themselves that the party of the working class alone, the Communist Party was the consistent champion of the tillers of the soil. Other parties advocated that the price paid for land in the border regions should be at least 5 times the price of an annual crop and that big farms of 20—30 hectares should be established there.

As a result of the confiscation and distribution of the land of the former Czech collaborators and traitors, the small and medium peasants and land labourers received an additional 97,000 hectares of arable land.

The activities of the collaborators and traitors were investigated by special commissions formed by the people's committees and composed of an equal number of representatives from all political parties. The people saw for themselves that the majority of the parties with the exception of the Communists tried, as a rule, to retain for the collaborators and traitors their land and property and to deprive the small and medium peasants of the land they had long been waiting for.

A special price policy was another important means used by the Communist Party to win peasants from the political influence of the agrarians. In 1945 when prices were fixed for agricultural goods, the Communist Party, notwithstanding opposition from all the other parties in the People's Front, succeeded in introducing differential prices for agricultural products. The highest prices were fixed for the peasants with holdings of not more than 20 hectares and has comprised some 96 per cent of the peasantry; farmers owning from 20 to 50 hectares were paid at lower rates while the landlords

owning more than 50 hectares got the lowest prices. Simultaneously, during the reform of trade in the autumn of 1945 the Communist Party secured a new price ratio between meat and dairy products and grain in favour of the former. In pressing for this the Communist Party proceeded from the fact that cattle raising constituted the main source of income for small and medium peasants while the grain crop is the main source of income for the landlords; the Communist Party also took into consideration the fact that the grain monopoly introduced in the pre-Munich Czechoslovakia by the Agrarian Party, guaranteed the landlords against loss, while the distribution of dairy and meat products produced by the small and medium peasants remained in the hands of profiteers.

The soundness of the agrarian policy of the Communist Party was confirmed during the General election in 1946. The Communist Party became the strongest party in the Czech countryside.

This success of the Party was followed by an intensified struggle for a new agricultural policy. The Czech and Slovak bourgeoisie, ousted from industry and finance, did their best to hang onto their positions in the countryside in the hope of securing there a mass base from which they would combat democracy. That is why the struggle for new agricultural laws raged with such violence in the period following the election. This struggle became sharper shortly after the election, when the Minister of Agriculture, Comrade Durish, advanced a suggestion for 6 new agricultural laws, including a revision of the first land reform. The Communists suggested that land ownership be restricted to 50 hectares; landed estates in excess of 50 hectares should be sold and distributed among the peasants. The Communists advocated also the purchase and distribution among the peasants of all land not used as a means of existence for the owners and not cultivated by them.

The fight for the revision of the first land reform began in a rather unusual way. The Minister of Agriculture, Comrade Durish, submitted to the United Peasant League the main principles for the revision and also a draft of new agricultural laws. He called upon the peasants to consider the proposals and to express their opinion on them.

The landlords and their representatives in Parliament were furious, and of course they protested. Their protests, however, only fanned the struggle. Under pressure of the peasant masses, the landlords had to abandon their initial decision to prevent a debate of Comrade Durish's proposals. The agents of the big landlords were subjected to constant pressure and control by the peasants who literally flooded Parliament with their declarations.

The agents of big landlords knew that they had lost the antirevision campaign just as the agents of the bourgeoisie lost the campaign against the Communist motion for a special tax on millionaires in order to help the peasants suffering from the drought. They were silent when at peasant meeting held in Gradez Kralov last year, the so-called Gradez programme of new agricultural measures was promulgated, which included among other things the proposal for a new land reform.

The landlords changed their tactics, and at a meeting of the People's Front in December last year the representatives of all parties undertook to ratify the new land reform law by February 15, and that in March they would ratify the laws providing for the new agricultural tax and for releasing paying taxes, on sick benefit and social 70-75 per cent of the peasants from insurance for peasants, and for low interest credits to be provided by the Government.

But, while undertaking these obligations, the political leaders decided to stage a coup d'état. They knew that the Communists having won the battle of the countryside, would undoubtedly be victorious also in the struggle for the majority of the people. This knowledge forced reaction to take the path of desperation.

Only in the light of these events can one understand the comedy staged in the Parliamentary agricultural committee on February 10-12. The chairman of the committee, a Social-Democrat, prevented the consideration the draft laws on agriculture. This incredible behaviour meant that they simply scoffed at the demands of the peasants. The meaning of this stand became clear only on February 20 when the 12 Ministers tendered their resignations.

The peasants headed by the Communist Party rallied to defend their vital interests. Shortly before the Governmental crisis, the chairmen of the regional peasant committees gathered in Prague for the national peasant congress.

These Peasant Committees, organs of the small and medium peasants which played a decisive role

in the struggle for the revision of the first land reform, gained considerable experience and were a major guarantee that, guided by the Communist Party, the peasants would realise their demands. The peasant congress had a special significance because it was convened immediately after the impressive congress of factory councils. The congress expressed the determination of the peasantry to stand by the workers in their fight against reaction. The congress of the works councils, in its turn, demonstrated the determination of the working class to fight tooth and nail for the demands of the peasants.

Afraid of the wrath of the workers and peasants, the leaders of the three parties, in cooperation with the right-wing Social-Democratic leaders, wanted to carry out the putsch to overthrow the people's democratic order before the congresses. It is now common knowledge how the working people of town and countryside frustrated this attempt. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, headed by Comrade Gottwald, the people defeated reaction and consolidated the people's democracy. The peasant congress crowned the victory of democracy over reaction. More than a thousand peasants came to Prague to celebrate their victory. New agricultural laws were passed at a special session of Parliament on February 22. Local peasant committees were empowered to decide whether or not the landlords should possess land. There can be no doubt that the peasants will solve this question in a way that best corresponds to their own interests and to the interests of people's democracy.

During the past three years the Communist Party succeeded not only in winning the small peasants, but also in securing and consolidating their alliance with the middle peasantry. Enjoying the confidence of the working people and building up the alliance between workers and peasants, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia will fight for the onward march of people's democracy, for the victory of Socialism.

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CHANGES IN THE POLISH COUNTRYSIDE. R. Zambrowski

Three years have passed since the peasant population of Poland realised their cherished aspirations, the agrarian revolution became an accomplished fact the landlord class abolished and the land turned over to the tillers of the soil.

The people's democracy put an end to the big landed estates and the chronic land hunger of the bulk of the peasantry-the principal reason for the 150 years' backwardness of Poland, and the main cause of the poverty in the Polish countryside.

CHANGES IN THE AGRARIAN STRUCTURE OF POLAND

As a result of the agrarian reform some 4 million hectares of landed estates were expropriated including approximately 2 million hectares of forest land. About one and a half million hectares were divided among the peasants and landless labourers not to mention 875,000 hectares of former German estates in the Old Polish Area. In the Western Areas more than 4,500,000 hectares passed into the hands of the peasants.

The land reform simultaneously relieved the countryside of a heavy burden of interest and debts which, according to approximate figures, reached the enormous sum of one billion pre-war zloty annually.

The changes in the Polish countryside concern not only the distribution of land and the liquidation of debts. The reform in the Western Areas which led to the setting up of peasant households farming from 7 to 15 hectares and in special cases up to 20 hectares has decisively influenced the agrarian structure of the country.

The land policy of the new Poland has laid a sound basis for the development of the countryside. The proportion of small landholdings has decreased whereas that of medium sized households has increased. The change has improved the conditions of millions of former workers' families and landless peasants.

Two conceptions, corresponding to different class interests clashed in the process of the agrarian reform. The Right elements in the peasant movement, who later went over to the Mikolajczyk camp, held that the big estates should be divided among those peasants farming not less than 10 hectares.

It was obvious that a measure of this kind, and also the campaign to settle people on holdings of 15 hectares and upwards would have placed the agricultural labourers and small peasant households in a very difficult position. A solution of this kind would not have helped secure a steady reduction of the overpopulation of the countryside and would have hindered the rate of settlement in the Western Areas.

The class essence of the proposal was clear. It was designed so that the rural rich would step into the shoes of the expropriated landlord, so that the agricultural labourer and rural proletariat, who formerly toiled for the landlord, would work for the wealthy farmers.

The Polish Workers' Party and an overwhelming majority of the Stronnictwo Ludowe categorically rejected the solution advanced by these "amenders" of the agrarian reform. For our part we adhered to the principle of defending the peasant masses against capitalist exploitation, no matter in what form it was practised.

FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM

The entire policy of the people's Government, the PWP and the entire democratic camp during the past three years, has been devoted to extending the gains of the land reform. But the reform is not yet completed.

Problems linked with the agrarian reform include the further distribution of the land, the abolition of

overpopulation in the countryside, and the stabilisation of property relations.

Another half million hectares of land is scheduled for distribution among the peasants and the 1948 plan calls for the handing over of 190,000 hectares to the peasants.

During 1948 State credits amounting to 2 million zloty will be available to peasant households to enable them bring an extra 800,000 hectares of land under cultivation. Provision is also made for cultivating 20,000 hectares of State-owned land. The abolition of the strip field system and the introduction of ameliorative measures have greatly contributed to the wellbeing of the peasants and to a bigger output of agricultural products. A sum of 2 billion zloty has been set aside for ameliorative measures this year. The benefits of electricity will be extended to 800 villages during the current year. Whereas in 1939 only 1,200 villages had electricity, the number scheduled for 1949 will reach 9,570 with a total number of 478,500 households.

Pre-war Poland was unable to solve the problem of overpopulation. Overpopulation grew steadily despite constant emigration. Capitalist economists estimated that there were 8 million superfluous non-productive units in the pre-war Polish countryside.

As a result of the agrarian reform and the resettlement in the Western Areas, the overpopulation problem has been partly solved in People's Poland and will disappear completely during the next few years. The Three-Year Plan provides for 200,000 new households in the Western Areas and the progress made so far shows that the Plan will be carried out.

The number of persons engaged in the social sector, that is, the State and cooperative sector, will increase by 1,200,000 in 1949 compared to 1946.

The number engaged in agriculture will decrease by 200,000 persons in 1949 compared to 1946 as a result of the growth of the cooperative movement and the mechanisation of agriculture on the one hand and the development of industry on the other.

Apart from these principal measures designed to abolish overpopulation in the rural districts we are devoting much attention to other ways of utilising the superfluous labour force in the countryside, especially in the local cooperative industry.

The Three-Year Plan outlines the following increase in the sown area in 1948-49 (compared to 1944-45): sugar beet—6 per cent; flax and hemp—14 per cent; tobacco—215 per cent; beans—40 per cent.

The systematic, planful reduction, and finally, the abolition of overpopulation in the countryside will, undoubtedly, lead to further changes in the agrarian structure of Poland.

The rural proletariat and poor peasants will find employment in rural industry.

The stabilisation of property relations in the countryside constitutes a serious problem. The peasants who have received land are looking forward to receiving the title deeds to their holdings. The Polish Workers' Party is therefore interested in seeing that this process is accelerated and the matter settled.

INCREASING THE YIELD

A matter of decisive importance today is that of raising the yield and extending State aid to the countryside.

The Polish workers' Party realises the danger for our national economy of the big gap between the rapid growth in industrial output and the slow rate in the growth of agricultural output.

The average crop yield is still well below the pre-war level. In 1947, for example, we were obliged to import 7000,000 tons of grain.

This is due, above all, to the enormous devastation in agriculture and especially to the unparalleled losses in livestock and horses. By 1945 our losses in cattle reached 69 per cent, in horses—63 per cent, hogs—76 per cent and sheep—88 per cent. By 1947 things were beginning to pick up. We had an increase (compared to 1946 of 19.9 in cattle, 15.4 per cent in horses and 52.5 per cent in hogs. But we have still got a long way to go to make good the losses caused by the war and German occupation.

The Government and Polish Workers' Party therefore paid major attention to helping the peasants with credits, horses, cattle, and other animals, fertilizers and agricultural machinery.

In 1938 Polish agriculture used 126,800 tons of fertilizers. Last year 142,000 tons were used and in 1949 the figure will reach 250,000 tons.

In 1938 the Polish countryside purchased agricultural machinery and implements to the value of 18 million pre-war zloty. Last year over 401/2 million zloty were spent on machinery and in 1949 Polish agriculture will receive machines and implements to the value of 51 million pre-war zloty.

For 1948 the Government and the Polish Workers' Party have placed before agriculture the task of making the country self-supporting with grain. The 1948 State programme calls for a 25 per cent increase in the grain crop compared to last year.

The Polish Workers' Party policy of increasing the yield is meeting with a growing response from the peasantry.

Labour emulation has spread to the countryside. Only a few months ago the question of emulation in the countryside was viewed with considerable doubt by many. However, facts shows that that the movement is gaining ground, embracing entire districts. The peasants pledge themselves to bring more land under cultivation, to keep crops free from weeds, to build silos and practise agronomical measures, etc.

PRINCIPAL TASKS OF THE POLISH WORKERS' PARTY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

For the Polish Workers' Party the main task in the countryside Is to secure an increase in agricultural production. The experience of the past three years show that, under the people's democracy, agricultural rehabilitation is proceeding at a rate impossible for the capitalist system. But together with the increasing wellbeing of the rural population a certain growth of capitalist exploiting elements can be observed. The wealthy farmers are cashing in on the shortage of draught animals and agricultural equipment by hiring out horses, agricultural machinery and advancing seeds on the most onerous conditions. Consequently, in the conditions of people's democracy the job of increasing agricultural production is twofold. **While striving to increase the productive capacity of all peasant households the Polish Workers' Party, with the aim of protecting the small and medium peasants from the encroachments of the rich farmers and profiteers is endeavouring to guide the policy of the people's government along lines of all-round assistance to the actual tillers of the soil. This policy finds expression in the following measures:**

introduction of a progressive tax, which would transfer the main tax burden from the small holdings to the bigger farms;

promulgation of a decree that would compel the owners of draught animals to help those peasants who do not possess horses, at a rate fixed by the municipal bodies;

assistance to the village cooperatives, attracting to them all small and medium peasants and placing the leadership of the cooperatives in the hands of the peasants;

the allocation during 1948 of a 500 million zloty credit for the purpose of establishing 1,000 cooperative machine depots to aid in the first place the small and medium peasants.

The Polish Workers' Party is implementing its agricultural policy also by rallying the peasants to the Peasant Mutual Assistance Union, which defends the interests of the peasantry.

The Mutual Assistance Union is opening a network of cooperatives and is the agency for distributing the livestock and seed provided by the Government. From this it will be seen that the matter of improving the lot of the peasant is being tackled by the peasants themselves.

GROWING INFLUENCE OF PWP IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

There are excellent prospects for the countryside in People's Poland. The future of the rural areas

depends on the mechanisation of agriculture, on the growth of agricultural cooperatives and the cooperative processing of agricultural products, on agreements by the Peasant Mutual Assistance Union the spread of education and labour emulation.

The Polish Workers' Party advocates these measures and is active in trying to secure their realisation. Thanks to this the Workers' Party enjoys the ever growing support and confidence of the peasant masses. This is evident from the fact that last year some 63,000 peasants joined our party—an average of 5,000 peasants a month, while in January this year 12,000 peasants entered the party. The influence of the Polish Workers' Party in the countryside is also expressed in the widespread circulation of the newspaper "Chlopska Droga" ("The Peasant Path"), which now exceeds 250,000 copies.

The steady growth in the prestige of the Polish Workers' Party in the village was demonstrated in striking fashion during the recent elections in the Agricultural Workers' Union and in the Peasant Mutual Assistance Union.

Out of 1,632 delegates elected to the district conferences of the Agricultural Workers' Union 1,155 belonged to the Polish Workers' Party, 344 to the Polish Socialist Party, 58 to the Stronnictwo Ludowe, etc.

In the Peasant Mutual Assistance Union out of 28,000 delegates elected to the provincial conferences of the Union over 10,000 belonged to the Polish Workers' Party, 7,000 odd to Stronnictwo Ludowe, some 3,000 to the Polish Socialist Party, while some 6,000 were non-partisan. Out of 3,197 delegates so far elected to the national congress of the Peasant Union 1,624 are members of the Polish Workers' Party, 958 belong to the Stronnictwo Ludowe, 288 to the Polish Socialist Party, 294 are non-partisan, etc ...

By extending the influence of our Party in the countryside, by consistently increasing the level of political and organisational work and by strengthening cooperation with the fraternal democratic organisations we are cementing the main source of the power of People's Poland—the alliance between the workers and peasants.

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PARTY NEWS BRIEFS

CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

The Communist Party of India held its second congress last month in Calcutta. Of 919 delegates representing 89,260 Party members only 632 were able to attend the congress. The others were unable to be present because of the wave of arrests and persecution by the Nehru Government.

Fraternal delegates from the Communist Parties of Australia, Burma, Ceylon and Yugoslavia were present at the congress and messages of greeting were received from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), from Czechoslovakia Bulgaria, Poland, France and 17 other countries.

Congress debated the report of the Central Committee covering the activities of the Party since the first congress in 1943.

The political resolution analysed the international situation and the conditions in India. The congress stressed the need for a democratic front to combat the American and British imperialists and Indian bourgeoisie who have betrayed the national interests and who have entered into a compromise with the imperialists against the people. The democratic front programme should include the following points:

complete separation from the British Empire; the formation of a democratic government; a constitution that will guarantee universal suffrage and complete freedom and economic rights; the right of the nations to self-determination including the right to separation; formation on a voluntary basis, of an Indian federation with autonomous provinces; full democratic rights for the national

minorities; abolition of the states and feudal domination and guarantee of genuine democracy in the matter of joining Hindustan or Pakistan, The programme demands also the confiscation of the big estates without compensation and the transfer of the land to those who cultivate it; the confiscation of foreign capital; the nationalisation of large-scale industry and the banks, introduction of workers' control, a guaranteed minimum wage and an 8-hour working day.

The congress elected a new Executive Committee.

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee Comrade B. T. Ranadivi was elected general secretary of the Communist Party.

COMMUNIQUE OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY

A recent meeting of the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party, with Maurice Thorez in the chair, called upon all Party organisations to campaign vigorously for a genuine reduction in prices and for increased purchasing power for the working people, which is hampered by the Government's refusal to balance wages and prices. The Bureau stated that the sham price reduction announced by the Government will reduce family expenditures by a mere 3 per cent while the index of prices is twice that of wages (1.499 against 750).

The Bureau also exposed the American policy to bring Franco Spain into the Marshall Plan countries.

The Communiqué stated: "After Germany, which has become one of the main elements of the Western bloc, Franco Spain will be also used in the bloc. Exposing the measures to dissolve the legal Spanish Republican organisations in France, the Political Bureau resolutely protests against these measures, which but show the increasingly reactionary character of Government policy."

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRAZIL COMBATS REACTION

The Communist Party of Brazil is carrying on, despite the terror and persecution of the Dutra dictatorship. During recent years the Communist Party of Brazil registered a considerable growth and now numbers 200,000 members. In the last municipal elections in San Paola the Communists secured 20 of the 41 seats, in Santos—15 of the 30 seats, etc. Until recently the Communist Party had 1 seat in the Senate, 16 in the Federal Parliament and 86 seats in the provincial parliaments. The Dutra clique, trampling underfoot the elementary rules of democracy, annulled the Communist mandates; Communist newspaper offices were raided and the papers banned. Despite the persecution, the Communist Party continues to enjoy great influence among the masses. It is at the head of the growing resistance of the people to the fascism and enslavement of the country by American imperialism. Under pressure of popular demonstrations, the police were forced to release the Communist deputy Gregorio Viseja. In San Paulo workers are guarding the shops where the Communist newspapers are printed.

At present the working people of Brazil are preparing to celebrate the 50th birthday of the Communist leader Louis Carlos Prestes, who enjoys great prestige in the country.

CONGRESS OF THE CANADIAN PROGRESSIVE WORKERS' PARTY

The Progressive Workers' Party of Canada recently held its congress in Toronto, which was attended by 130 delegates.

Addressing the congress, Tim Buck, leader of the Progressive Workers' Party stated that the United States constituted the greatest danger to peace and security. American and British troops, he

continued, are garrisoned even in countries that have never been their enemies, and these two powers are dreaming of military bases all over the world. Tim Buck concluded by saying that anyone who today conducts propaganda for another war does so in the hope of saving capitalism and of retain, the exploitation of man by man.

In the debate the delegates sharply criticised the pro-fascist and reactionary government of Ontario and pointed out that the policy of the reactionary rulers of Canada is making the country more and more dependent on the US.

The congress adopted a resolution protesting against the attempts to outlaw the Progressive Workers' Party and against the banning of Communists from entering Canada, etc. Another resolution calls for increased old-age pensions, higher wages and price control.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRIA

Regional conferences of the Communist Party organisations in Lower Austria, Burgenland and Vienna were held recently. Addressing the Vienna Party conference Comrade Koplenig said that discontent was growing in the Socialist Party arising from the collaboration of the Party leadership with the bourgeois People's Party. Koplenig called upon the Communists to strengthen their friendship with the rank and file members of the Socialist Party for the purpose of creating a united workers' front which would fight for the working class of Austria.

The conference in Lower Austria, which noted the big increase in Party membership and influence, protested at the transfer of industrial enterprises to Western Austria.

The Burgenland conference demanded from the Government a solution of the main problem in the region by ratifying the bill for agrarian reform, which has received the unanimous approval of the Burgenland land tag.

TRAINING PERSONNEL FOR THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY

A Socialist Unity Party school, which opened this year in Klein Machnov, near Berlin, has a student body of 240. Another 600 students will be enrolled in the autumn. A special two-years' course, run by the school, is attended by 80 students ranging in age from 20 to 35. These are students who have graduated from the regional party schools. About 90 students are attending the six-months courses for branch and district committee secretaries, while another 60 are taking a course in journalism.

A research institute for the study of scientific socialism will be opened shortly.

The founding of the Karl Marx higher party school in Klein Machnov is a major achievement of the Socialist Unity Party in the matter of educating and training qualified personnel.

15TH YCL CONGRESS IN GREAT BRITAIN

The Young Communist League of Great Britain held its 15th congress recently in London. The congress was attended by YCL delegates from France, Spain, Norway, Canada, Viet-Nam and Greece.

Addressing the congress, Harry Pollitt called upon the youth to combat the war propaganda and to fight for a lasting and democratic peace.

The secretary of the British YCL, W. Brooks reported on the conditions of the British youth and on the tasks facing the YCL. Brooks quoted concrete examples to show that the Labour Government's policy of freezing wages and cutting the building programme, and especially the programme for new schools and dwelling houses, was causing unemployment, holding up the training of young workers and resulting in increased emigration.

The delegates criticised the splitting activities of the Labour youth leaders and advanced concrete

suggestions for strengthening YCL influence among the youth.

ANNUAL MEETINGS IN THE WORKERS' PARTY OF BULGARIA (COMMUNISTS)

The past few weeks have witnessed much activity in the Workers' Party of Bulgaria (Communist) in connection with the annual meetings and conferences in the branches and district committees. The meetings and conferences were distinguished by good organisation and were held in an atmosphere of active participation by rank and file members. An average of 78 per cent of the membership attended the meetings compared to 65 per cent last year.

The meetings dealt with matters concerning the organisational and ideological consolidation of the Party, the fulfilment of the Two-Year Plan, local economic problems and the question of forming a united social-political organisation of the Fatherland Front.

The report of the Sofia city party organisation stated. "The work of the organisations in the ideological-political education of Party members was on a higher level than in 1946. Study circles have become one of the principal forms of Party education and have improved their work. Self-study groups have been formed for the first time in the Party branches in Sofia. The daily sales by Party members of the newspaper "Rabotnichesko Delo" increased from 38,000 in 1947 to 44,000 copies in March 1948."

Thanks to the work of the Party organisation at the Pernik coal mine the output target was reached, and labour discipline and the productivity of labour showed improvement. Thirty-seven work brigades formed by the miners, are the first in Bulgaria to apply the system of the Soviet Stakhanovite miner, Borisov.

At their meetings and conferences the Bulgarian Party organisations, after reviewing their achievements, pledged to strengthen the Party organisationally and to fulfil the tasks raised by the Two-Year Plan.

The Party conference in Okoli, Oryakhovo district, resolved: "To promote new forms of propaganda house meetings, to link up popular propaganda with concrete tasks, with the general building up of the country and the creation of popular unity, with the education of the people in the spirit of the Constitution and the exposure of the instigators of a new war."

The recent election campaign revealed the more mature organisational experience and political consciousness of the Party members. The Party organisations have extended and strengthened their influence among the people.

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AMERICAN PARTY IN FRANCE TRAMPLES UNDERFOOT REPUBLICAN LAWS. Etienne Fajon

If in France the elementary rules of democracy had been observed the working class and the Communist Party would be playing a leading role in the Government and in all State institutions. But at any rate it is the working class and democratic movement that constitute the main obstacle to the plans of American imperialism to secure domination, and the leading force in the struggle for national independence. That is why the American party in France has been ordered by its foreign masters to attack this obstacle, to try and overcome it.

Democratic principles mean nothing to the representatives of the American party, for them law simply doesn't exist.

The French executors of the American enterprise are compelled, as Engels noted in a preface to "Class Struggle in France", to violate the laws which for them have become "fatal".

The systematic violation of democratic procedure is exercised in the first place with regard to the Communist Party, the staunch champion of the national interests and sovereignty.

It is common knowledge that although the Communist Party secured a majority in the general election, its representatives were in May 1947 excluded from the Government on orders from Washington. Later, on the eve of the municipal elections last October, the Socialist leaders, the MRP and the de Gaulle group agreed to change the electoral law. Their aim was to wrest from the Communists a maximum number of municipal councils and to divide them among themselves. The Minister of Internal Affairs arbitrarily dissolved many municipal councils where the Communists held the majority of seats, although these councils had been elected in accordance with the law. The Minister removed two Communist prefects and Communist mayors in a number of councils in the Paris region.

In Parliament Communist deputies were excluded, in violation of the Constitution, from the Bureau of the National Assembly, from the Council of the Republic and also from the main Parliamentary committees. The Parliamentary immunity of the Communist deputies is often threatened under a variety of pretexts. The regulations in the National Assembly have been changed in such a way as to suppress the voice of the Communists.

The strikes of November-December last year were used as a pretext for increased arbitrariness and unlawful actions against the working class.

Although the new French Constitution envisages the freedom of trade unions, the right to strike and freedom of opinion and demonstrations, in practice the realisation of these rights and liberties by the

working people resulted in violent interference by the repressive apparatus of the Socialist Minister, Jules Moch, in numerous arrests and victimisation and in the adoption by Parliament of such unconstitutional measures as the law providing for the mobilisation of 80,000 reserves and the severe punishment meted out to strikers and their supporters. The "Socialist" Minister of Labour subsidised the splitters in the trade unions with 40 million francs as a reward for their criminal activities.

As to the recent disastrous economic and financial measures (the Mayer plan), reflecting the economic demands of American imperialism most of these were adopted with a complete disregard for existing laws and in violation of the Constitutional rules of Parliament which, incidentally, displayed remarkable obedience. In a speech in the National Assembly on January 29, that expert in arbitrariness, the gravedigger of France, Paul Reynaud stated that even he was amazed "at the ease with which the Government manoeuvred to violate the law."

The Government is openly sabotaging nationalisation and also the Production Committees and other legal democratic bodies. It is releasing traitors and at the same time arresting and persecuting the heroes of the resistance movement. From now on jurors who refuse to keep silent about the scandalous' verdicts of not guilty passed by the Supreme Court, will be sent to prison.

What has been stated is a far from complete picture of the anti-Constitutional practices of the Government. However, it is worth recalling such facts as the criminal war in Viet-Nam, the unconstitutional practices in the French colonies, the unlawful persecution of democrats and working people of foreign origin, the suppression of the freedom of the press by means of new orders concerning price, size of papers, etc.

A close unity of the supporters of the so-called third force and the de Gaulle neo-fascists is now taking shape, a unity that transcends the secondary differences between, these forces. All are serving the same master. The Schuman-Moch—Mayer Government is paving the way for personal rule, for a fascist dictatorship, undermining at the same time the Constitution, law and democratic institutions.

In an attempt to distract the attention of public opinion from their unlawful actions, the representatives of the American party are waging a campaign of insolent falsehood and slander against the Communist Party and the new democracies.

Not a week goes by without French newspapers, published with American dollars systematically announcing plans for an alleged Communist uprising in France, on this or that date on orders from... Moscow or Belgrade. The coming to power of the present democratic government in Czechoslovakia was seized upon to unloose a slanderous campaign alleging the "end of Czechoslovak democracy," a campaign which was all the more ridiculous seeing that the Government of which Bidault is a member, does not represent even one-fourth of the French electorate.

As usual, the inspirer in chief of this false and provocative propaganda was none other than Leon Blum, lackey No. I of American imperialism.

But no smokescreen can conceal the truth from the working class and from the people of France, nor prevent them from learning the necessary lessons from the recent events.

The working class and the people of France know from experience that the safeguarding and strengthening of democracy, which is inseparable from national independence, can be secured only by themselves, by their militant unity. In view of this the democratically-elected defence committees in industry, trade, art and also the committees for defence of the Republic are called to play a decisive role in combating the Government's arbitrariness and the fascist activities of the de Gaulle adventurers.

The working class and the people are learning from experience to differentiate between the essence and form of democracy. The present events in France illustrate the limited and formal nature of bourgeois democracy. On the other hand, the example of the republics in Central and South-Eastern Europe shows that the elimination of the economic foundations of reaction, the eradication of the,

remnants of fascism and the unity of the people's power and of the working class, ensure a real, genuine democracy—a democracy that safeguards national sovereignty and the wellbeing of the country.

The Communist Party of France can, and will, convince the people that the only way by which national independence can be secured is the way of advance towards a people's democracy, towards socialism.

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AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN ITALIAN ELECTION. Pietro Rossi

In order to save their puppets de Gasperi and Saragat from defeat and thus retain their huge aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean, as Forrestal has described Italy, the ruling circles of the US have turned their entire arsenal of promises, threats and terror against the Italian electorate. The entire US State apparatus, the American press and radio have joined forces with the de Gasperi party and the Vatican against the Popular Democratic Front.

Last December Truman announced that although the United States was withdrawing its troops from Italy it would consider itself obliged to apply the necessary measures in the event of a direct or indirect threat to the freedom of Italy. Later, US ministers "explained" that a Front victory in the general election would be regarded as just such a threat.

Actually, Italy is still occupied—Taranto, Spezzia, Naples and other Italian ports have been made into naval bases for the American fleet; American aircraft-carriers, cruisers and other naval craft cruise at will in Italian territorial waters in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic. Last January a contingent of American marines were sent to Italian ports in accordance with a State Department decision. The American General Staff has equipped the Italian army and police, earlier purged of anti-fascist elements by the de Gasperi Government, with modern arms. 100,000 rifles and 20,000 machine-guns, requested by de Gasperi to... carry out the elections, are ready for shipment to Italy.

Just now Italy is the scene of police parades, liberally supplied with armoured cars, "Sherman" tanks, machine-guns and field radio equipment. On April 6, "American Army Day," American bombers carried out a demonstration flight over Italy.

All this rattling of sabres and demonstrative preparation to introduce martial law, represent something more than a psychological attack on the electorate. It is important to remember that so far de Gasperi has evaded the question asked daily by Popular Front supporters at public meetings and in the press: will he relinquish office in the event of a Popular Front victory?

There have been "raids" on military arsenals recently. a number of military officials have been caught red-handed with arms taken from the army stores. But an even greater quantity of arms finds its way to Italy via the American zone in Germany.

Every week more than ten trains, carrying arms and ammunition cross the Brenner via Insbruck. Usually, the trains are unloaded at night time under guard of American soldiers who change into civilian dress at the Italian border. What happens to the arms that "disappears" from arsenals or is transported to Italy via Bavaria? This secret was partly revealed at the beginning of April when the press published a secret circular issued by the command of the so-called Italian Liberation Army. This army is a semi-legal military formation and is headed by Marshal Messe. The circular in question was addressed to the "command of the city and zonal sectors" and contained detailed instructions ordering the "columns" and "units" of the "Liberation Army to muster on the night of the 17/18 of April in the vicinity of the polling booths where they would receive additional instructions during the counting of the votes. Provision had been made to supply the members of the organisation with forged membership cards of the Left-wing parties. The Government did not take any measures in connection with this exposure and their failure to do so has led certain newspapers to believe that there is a concerted plan of action between the Government forces and the fascist underground in the event of a Popular Front victory.

Speaking at the University of California Marshall declared that if the Front wins the election the US Government will draw the conclusion that Italy has refused the aid of the European Recovery Programme. This statement was seized upon by the American press and radio which painted a searing picture of the horrors in store for the Italian people should they refuse to vote as Marshall wants them to. A competition was announced in the United States for the best article on American "aid" by an Italian journalist. And in the scramble for dollar prizes the Italian newspapers, with the exception of the Popular Front publications, have been vying with each other during the election campaign for first place in trying to scare the people, prophesying hunger, war and all the horrors. Even de Casperi's ministers have entered the competition. So far the Minister of Transport, Corbellini, has broken all records by decorating railway carriages with the poster: "This train runs thanks to American coal". Not to be outdone the Minister of Communications, d'Aragon, a Saragat man, issued orders to stamp on all communications: "American aid means bread and work".

The State Department has sent its propaganda agents to Italy for the election. Before leaving for Italy the former AMGOT governor in Naples, Rome and Milan, Colonel Poletti stated: I shall tell the Italians that to vote for the Communists means to destroy their freedom. A few days ago, Truman's representative to the Vatican, Myron Taylor arrived in Rome to coordinate action.

The American radio has increased its broadcasts to Italy. The nature of these broadcasts can best be gathered from the following example: the American intelligence agent, General Donovan, addressing the Italians stated that in the event of the Front winning the election millions of Italian workers will ... be shipped to the USSR for forced labour.

During the campaign US ruling circles arranged for the shipment of food parcels, two million packets of cigarettes and special letters to the Italian people. There are over 8 million Italians residing in the United States. Washington instructed the Catholic church, the AF of L unions and the Hearst press to get these American Italians to send letters and telegrams to their relatives and friends advising them not to vote for the Front.

The Associated Press reported that the Under Secretary of State, Lovett and the chairman of the House of Representatives, Martin had given their approval to this campaign. More than that, the US Government assigned special planes to transport this "mail"—an action that is without parallel in

the history of international relations.

In their brazen interference in the Italian election the American imperialists did not forget to give assignments to the British Labour leaders and French Socialists. Their particular job was to stab the Popular Democratic Front in the back-to try and split the Front, break away the Socialists from the Communists and provoke a new split in the Italian Socialist Party. That was why Morgan Phillips and Denis Healey, head of the International Department of the Labour Party, visited Rome the other week. After they succeeded in persuading the leaders of the Socialist Parties to break the pact of unity with the Communist Parties, they invited Saragat representatives to the London conference of the Socialist Parties. In London the Labour leaders tried to pass judgement on the Socialist Party and when the representatives of the latter withdrew from the conference in protest, the Labour leaders proclaimed the handful of splitters, headed by Lombardo and Saragat, the "sole representatives of Italian socialism." All this was done to the accompaniment of a lot of noise, obviously calculated to create the right effect in Italy in the hope that the Popular Front would lose votes. The British Labour leaders are not in the least perturbed at the fact that the Italian workers are unanimously boycotting the Saragat party, which is on the American payroll.

After the London conference the Labour Party sent two MP's to Rome, Ivor Thomas and Shawcross, to give Saragat a helping hand, which they did by making insinuations against Nenni's party and addressing election meetings of the Saragat group. On April 2, the newspaper "Avanti" reported also that a Major Kerr had been sent from London to "help and advise the Saragat group, that is to provoke a split in the Front. Major Kerr who headed British Intelligence in Italy during the occupation is an old hand at the game.

And right on the eve of the election the Saragat men were "visited" by Leon Blum and the Minister of Labour, Daniel Mayer. The French "visitors" did not confine themselves simply to meeting with their Italian colleagues in treachery. At press conferences, in press statements and in "lectures" both Blum and Mayer tried to teach the Italian Socialist and to impart to them their "experience" in splitting activities. Once again the complete collaboration between the British and French "Socialists" with American imperialism was demonstrated—this time in plotting against Italian democracy.

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IN PREPARATION FOR THE REFERENDUM ON GERMAN UNITY

A recent meeting of the Presidium of the People's Council of Germany ratified the necessary organisational measures for collecting Signatures for the referendum on German unity.

The text of the petition forms on which the signatures will be gathered, was likewise ratified.

The text speaks of the need to restore a united Germany in which the separate lands will enjoy the rights proclaimed by the former Weimar Constitution.

In accordance with the decision of the 2nd People's Congress, the collecting of signatures will begin on May 23rd and will be continued until June 13th.

In the Soviet zone the preliminary measures are nearing completion. For example, in Thuringia 60% of the local authorities have set up their petition committees.

In the Western zones too, notwithstanding the obstacles raised by the occupation authorities, petition committees are being set up.

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THE REACTIONARY PRESS—STANDARD BEARER OF THE CAPITALIST MONOPOLIES. V. Grigoryan

The reactionary press in the United States and Britain, obeying the behests of the capitalist monopolies, is daily whipping up war psychosis, spreading alarm and unrest among the nations, thereby assisting warmongers in their adventurous and dangerous designs against world peace.

It is doubtful if ever before the class features and repulsive behaviour of the capitalist press were manifested in such a disgusting and cynical way as at present. And this is not at all accidental. The decay of the bourgeois press is conditioned by the entire development of contemporary bourgeois society.

Lenin once wrote that the slogan freedom of the press was of worldwide significance from the end of the Middle Ages right up to the nineteenth century, when it was a slogan of the progressive bourgeoisie in the struggle against Church and king, against feudal lords.

But at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, when capitalism entered its highest and last stage, it laid the imprint of historical doom on its press.

Regardless of honour, truth and conscience, mercenary newspapers are excelling themselves in falsehood and provocations presenting a picture of the unprecedented depression and decay of the capitalist press. The reactionary press is committing the latest of its many black crimes when it slanders the Soviet Union with the aim of falsifying historic truth and of injuring the international prestige of the Soviet country, the genuine and staunch champion in the struggle against aggressive and anti-democratic forces.

It is characteristic that the numerous suggestions and resolutions submitted by the US and British delegates at the Geneva Conference on Freedom of Information, serve the aim of distracting the attention of the conference from the tasks of the combating warmongers and fascism and of restricting its work to discussing and accenting technical measures that would facilitate Anglo-American penetration of the press, radio and cinema in other countries.

Countless examples of the criminal whipping up of war hysteria in the capitalist press could be quoted. Not long ago the Paris edition of the "New York Herald Tribune" featured on the front page a map with arrows pointing from the American bases in the direction of the Soviet Union, a map of a war attack on the USSR.

The "New York Times", one of the louder trumpets of unbridled war propaganda recently published an article by General Kenny, Commander-in-Chief of the strategic air forces of the US army, who painted a hair-raising picture of a sudden attack on the US with atom bombs, and of millions of victims.

American military magazines continually refer to the Arctic and Alaska as regions of future military

operations.

Falsehood, slander and misinformation in the press and radio serve as weapons of US imperialist policy. That is why the suggestions, amendments and supplements of the Soviet delegation and the delegations of the new democracies at the Geneva conference; which formulated the principles of an independent and free press, reflecting the interests of the people and not linked with capitalist monopolies, and which determined the task of truthful and honest information in the struggle for democracy and the eradication of fascism, caused uneasiness and considerable irritation among the US and British delegates. These gentlemen and their supporters who love to dilate on the "freedom of the press" are, in reality, concealing the fact that the "newspaper empires" of Hearst, Mac Cormick and the others, have long ago turned "free journalism" into a commercial enterprise.

The firm stand on principle, and the stubborn and consistent struggle of the delegates of the Soviet Union and the new democracies against whipping up war hysteria in the press and against slander and misinformation, resulted in the Geneva conference unanimously adopting, contrary to the delegations of the US, Great Britain and certain other countries, a resolution condemning war propaganda and false and slanderous information in the press.

The convincing and clear arguments advanced by the delegates of the Soviet Union and the new democracies, defeated an attempt by the US delegation to get the conference to accept a resolution that did not condemn war propaganda in the press.

Mr. Benton, who represented the US at the Geneva conference and who is a former assistant US Secretary of State, addressed a recent meeting of the Anglo-American club in Paris. It was rather paradoxical that in the course of his address this Mr. Benton, a member of the UNO conference against falsehood and slander in the press, managed to combine, in a crafty fashion, falsehood, slander and provocation.

There is no need to go over his statements which express fury and hatred of the Soviet Union and of its genuinely free press, that is closely linked with the people and expresses and safeguards their vital interests.

Evidently it is just this that upsets the composure of such "champions" of freedom of the press as Benton, who at the Geneva conference spared no effort to safeguard the interests of the warmongers.

But Mr. Benton was unsuccessful. The conference resolution condemned the warmongers and called for measures against the very falsehood and slander at which Mr. Benton is an expert.

One has only to thrust aside the hypocritical and false screen of the "free" press in America to see how the "newspaper empires" swallow one independent newspaper after another how the "press barons" control dozens of newspaper and magazines and dictate to them the will of capital and its militarist designs against the Soviet Union and the new democracies.

Perhaps the best exposure of the legend of a "free press", in the US, is that made by Britons and Americans. For example the American newspaper "News", declared that nowadays the press and radio are controlled by the dollar and the dollars in turn belong to a tiny handful of big concerns.

Two years ago, in a reply to Eddy Gilmore, the Associated Press correspondent in Moscow, Comrade Stalin suggested what should be done by the governments of the freedom-loving countries to preserve peace and tranquillity:

"It is necessary that public opinion and the ruling circles of the countries organise a wide counterpropaganda against the propagandists of a new war and for the safeguarding of peace, that not a single statement of the propagandists of a new war remain without a fitting rebuff on the part of public opinion and the press, so that in this way the warmongers are exposed in time and deprived of the opportunity to misuse free speech against the interests of peace."

However, the capitalist monopolies in the US have subordinated so-called free speech to their selfish, class interest. Every day thousand of propagandists of a new war, falsifiers of history and slanderers generously paid by the newspaper concerns, are outdoing themselves in poisoning the people with falsehood and provocation in smearing the Soviet Union and sowing unrest and nervousness.

The American information agencies are engaged in their own form of expansion trying to secure for

themselves dominant positions in the European newspaper markets. Keen competition between the American and British information agencies can be observed, for example in South America, in the Far East and in India—a competition which reflects the irreconcilable contradictions between the US and Great Britain.

A well-known British newspaperman once told London University students that British newspapers reminded one of the fashionable ladies in the West End—they were more interested in their figures than in their morals.

Recently, Mr. Francis Williams, well-known in the British newspaper world said apropos the American press that most American newspapers represented a standard product, using the same general and foreign information supplied by the two agencies, the Associated Press and the United Press, and the syndicated articles of columnists.

On this basis Mr. Williams posed the question: since the newspaper represents a standard product, is there in general any need for British newspaper to have editors.

Mr. Williams' question is not without interest, especially if one takes into consideration the fact that a bourgeois' newspaper is a capitalist enterprise blindly following the will of its master slavishly obeying him and denied the right to express any opinion contrary to that of the owner.

According to Mr. Williams, the national press in Great Britain doesn't need talented editors. What are modern newspapers but commercial enterprises. The owners need editors of the type of skilled newspaper technicians, men who can produce a lively, attractive saleable article. A modern editor is, above all, an agent for the owner of his newspaper. In the "Daily Express" one can hear the voice of Lord Beaverbrook, in the "Daily Mail" that of Lord Rothermere, in the "Daily Telegraph", that of Lord Camrose and in the "Daily Graphic" that of Camrose's brother, Lord Kemsley.

In clear and unmistakable language Williams paints the moral picture of the modern newspaper when he says that the first duty of a daily newspaper is to amuse its readers. It must bear in mind the lowest denominator of the public's interests that is, take a superficial and sensational view not only of political and economic problems but also of literature, art and music. All the elements that constitute real civilisation should be but lightly touched upon in the press. They should not be viewed seriously, sensibly and with respect.

In all these statements there is recognition of the fact that by pandering to the baser tastes and interests, and by distracting attention from burning political questions the capitalist press has the job of misinforming public opinion and of propagating ideas to the liking of the monopolies.

But people in America and Britain are becoming more conscious of the nefarious role of the reactionary press, the puppet of the dollar. More and more they are lending ear to the Communist and progressive press which despite the difficulties is carrying out its work successfully eradicating the remnants of fascism and consolidating the forces of the democratic and anti-imperialist camp.

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THE PEOPLES OF PALESTINE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. S. Mikunis

After UNO announced its decision to set up two independent states in Palestine—Jewish and Arab—the British imperialists got busy fomenting disorders in Palestine and inciting the Arabs against Jews, thus trying to demonstrate the need for a colonial regime.

The British authorities, civil as well as military, keep towns, villages and highways under fire. The British imperialists are recruiting bands from among the Arab followers of the war criminal, the Mufti of Jerusalem, among General Anders' bullies, and fascists who have fled from other countries. Gangs of adventurers, recruited with the aid of ruling reactionary circles, are given training in the Kataneh camp, are supplied with arms and then sent to Palestine.

The British police and military are no less active than the gangs formed by them. Entrenched in their fortified centres in Jerusalem, Haifa and many other places known as Bevinvilles by the population they have proclaimed martial law throughout the country. Dead and wounded, arson and the destruction of property — all this is now a daily occurrence in Palestine.

Economically Palestine is in dire straits. Due to military operations thousands of Jewish and Arab families have lost their homes and means of livelihood and are reduced to utter poverty. The Arab peasant has practically no access to the Jewish market, and cannot dispose of his produce. The same holds true for the goods produced by the Jewish manufacturer for the Arab market. The working people go hungry while merchants and speculators grow rich by raising prices. The "departing" British authorities are sabotaging the delivery of raw materials and food stocks from abroad, are holding up supplies of fuel for the factories. This policy is resulting in growing unemployment, decreased output and wage cuts.

The imperialists are undermining the administrative apparatus of the country. Thousands of office employees can not report for work since the Government is unable to guarantee their safety. The post, telegraph and telephone systems operate sporadically.

Such, in general outline, is the situation in Palestine under the domination of the Labour leaders, Attlee and Bevin.

The job facing the peoples of Palestine is that of achieving their national independence. That is why the masses welcomed the UN decision to create two independent states in Palestine, to end the mandate and to secure the withdrawal of British troops, police and administration. The stand taken by the Soviet Union and the new democracies in UN has inspired the peoples of Palestine in their struggle and strengthened their confidence in victory.

Recent years have seen British imperialism compelled to reach agreement and share her sphere of influence in the Near East with the most aggressive and dangerous imperialism—American imperialism, which aspires to world domination. The rate of American penetration can be gathered from the fact that the Americans now control over 40 per cent of the oil output in the Near East. They are encroaching on the British market, are actively interfering in all plans, be it the creation of a "great Syria" under the aegis of King Abdullah or the formation of a Turkish—Arab "Eastern bloc". They are trying hard to acquire military bases in Syria and in the Levant, air bases in Homsa and strategic positions in Haifa and Akaba.

The imperialist and anti-democratic camp, headed by the USA, regard Palestine as an important base from whence they can realise their predatory plans for a new world war, their plans to strangle democracy and suppress the peoples fighting for national independence, democracy and social progress.

Independent Jewish and Arab states in Palestine would be a serious obstacle in the way of British imperialism, and would reinforce the struggle of the peoples in the neighbouring countries for complete independence. Hence the furious British opposition to the UN decision, and American imperialism's veiled support of Bevin's policy.

In its policy Anglo-American imperialism relies on the most reactionary circles in the Arab countries, on the feudal chiefs and big bourgeoisie who are linked with foreign capital, and on the

reactionary leaders of the right-wing trade unions.

Whereas the feudal-bourgeois circles of the Mufti of Jerusalem are the rabid allies of the Anglo-American imperialists in Palestine, the industrial bourgeoisie take a more "sober" view of the Palestine problem. They take the stand that the section of Palestine earmarked for the Arab state should be incorporated into Transjordania. This attitude runs counter to the interests of an independent Arab state in Palestine.

Among the Jewish population Anglo-American imperialism relies on the big bourgeoisie which is connected with Anglo-American monopoly capital. This big bourgeoisie is represented by leading business circles, export-import societies, orange plantation owners, etc.

The Jewish terrorist organisations, which form the **private army** of the Jewish bourgeoisie, are a great help to Anglo-American imperialism. During the past four months, when it has been necessary to help the Arab masses combat the agitation and terror of imperialism the Jewish terrorist organisations "Irgun" and "Stern" committed monstrous provocations against absolutely innocent Arabs. They threw bombs into cafes and restaurants, blew up buildings in the towns and villages and killed women and children.

Jewish agencies in Jerusalem and their branches in Washington and London, which represent the coalition of the bourgeois parties with the right-wing Labour Party "Manai" show neither readiness nor determination to fight for the realisation of the UNO decisions in the spirit of complete independence for Palestine.

Years of cooperation with British imperialism, the economic interests of the bourgeoisie and its links with foreign capital dictate to these organisations the policy of compromise and capitulation to the imperialists. The Jewish agencies have forwarded to the Security Council a memorandum in which they emphasise the role of the Arab governments in the Palestine events, and at the same time whitewash the crimes of imperialism. The agencies are tolerant with regard to the arbitrariness of the British police and troops and counsel "Haganah" not to offer any resistance to the British when the latter confiscate their arms and arrest their members.

The policy of the Jewish agency has caused widespread indignation among workers and in the ranks of the "Haganah".

The Communist Party consistently favoured friendship and cooperation between the Arabs and Jews and was the first to raise the question of placing the Palestine problem before UNO.

The Communist Party, the Arab National Liberation League and all progressive elements in Palestine are fighting for the faithful carrying out of the UN decision, the establishment of independent Jewish and Arab states along democratic lines and for economic unity and cooperation between these states.

The Arab and Jewish working people, who for years have been waging a joint struggle for their vital interests, will not allow the agents of imperialism to split their ranks. Despite wide spread chauvinist agitation, the unity of the Arabs and Jews is growing stronger in the struggle for national independence.

Arab-Jewish relations have always played a paramount role in the successful solution of the main problems of Palestine. The Communist Party is fighting for the democratic development of the Arab and Jewish minorities in the future independent states and for equality before the law. The Communist Party demands that the Jewish trade unions and the Jewish Agency make a clear and unequivocal declaration to the effect that in the Jewish state where Arabs constitute 40 per cent of the population, there will be no race discrimination, that the working people be guaranteed the right to elect and be elected to Parliament, the right to work, leisure and education, and that the peasants get the land necessary for their existence.

The Communist Party is campaigning for the unity of the working class and of all progressive forces, and for a united front with the "Amalgamated Party" (Gatemor Gazair and Ahdut Avoda-Poale Zion), which represent the progressive wing in the Zionist movement in Palestine. The Communist Party aims at creating an all-embracing national democratic front which would unite those parties, organisations and groupings in the working class and among the people, generally fighting for national independence, for friendly cooperation and good neighbourly relations with the

Arabs, for democracy.

A national democratic front would spur the militant enthusiasm of the popular masses. Its establishment is an urgent task which, if solved, would make it possible to isolate the fascist and pro-imperialist circles and would facilitate the winning of independence, democracy and peace among the peoples.

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BOOK REVIEW

IN A DISTORTING MIRROR

Earl Browder, who has won doubtful fame as the bard of class harmony and a political bankrupt, has written a booklet with the significant title "World Communism and the Foreign Policy of the United States".¹⁾ Browder writes about a number of extremely important postwar international political problems. In reviewing the post-war situation in Europe the author tries to draw the contours of the new strategy and tactics of Marxism-Leninism, and to define the tasks facing Marxists in the present international situation.

Browder devotes special attention to the strategy and tactics pursued by the Communist Parties after World War I and II. He writes that Marxist strategy and tactics following world war II differ so sharply from the strategy and tactics applied after the First World War that it is imperative to revise and give a revaluation of problems concerning strategy and tactics.

Describing the character and aims of World War II Browder writes that it was an imperialist, predatory war on the part of Germany and the Axis, but a people's war for national liberation on the part of the victorious United Nations.

Taking upon himself the role of theoretician of the Marxist, that is, Communist Parties, to which he can lay no claim whatsoever, Browder gets involved in his characterisation of World War II by lumping together all the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition. He fails to perceive the differences in the aims pursued by the participants in the war.

A clear and concise answer to this question was given in the Declaration of the Polish Conference of the Nine Communist Parties, which stated: "While the war was on, the Allied States in the war against Germany and Japan went together and comprised one camp. However, in the course of the war there were differences in the Allied camp concerning the definition both of war aims and the post-war peace settlement. The Soviet Union and the other democratic countries regarded as their fundamental war aims the restoration and consolidation of democracy in Europe, the eradication of fascism and the prevention of the possibility of new aggression on the part of Germany, and the establishment of lasting, all-round cooperation among the nations of Europe. The United States and Great Britain in agreement with them, had another aim in the war: to rid themselves of competitors on the markets (Germany and Japan) and to establish their domination".

Recent events are striking confirmation of the truth of these words.

Since, according to Browder, the progressive character of the war consisted in victory over Hitlerism, the securing of victory was the "dominant aim of Marxist strategy during the war".

¹⁾ Earl Browder: "World Communism and the Foreign Policy of the United States". New York, 1948.

But victory cannot be an aim in itself. It is obvious that after the military defeat of Hitler Germany and militarist Japan the peoples enslaved by them awaited their liberation, the restoration of democratic liberties and the establishment of a firm and lasting peace.

Browder's ideas about "victory" as the "dominant aim" in the struggle against Hitlerism are not new. They can be found in his earlier speeches.

Today we know where these incorrect views led the American Communists, and above all, Browder: in 1944 the Communist Party of the United States was dissolved and replaced by the non-party "Communist Political Association". The consequences of this false step are felt to this day, notwithstanding the efforts of the American Communists to rectify their errors and to restore their party as an independent political organisation of the working class.

Browder's opportunist conception of abstract victory as the immediate "dominant aim" of World War II, for the sake of which Communist must sacrifice their convictions, arises from his liberal estimation of the Teheran Conference. He identified the Teheran Declaration of the Allied governments on international questions with the internal political problem of the different countries, contrary to common sense, and interpreted this as meaning the absence of class struggle and the existence of complete harmony between labour and capital. At a meeting of the National Committee of the US Communist Party in January 1944, Browder referring to the need of supporting the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition suggested that the hand of friendship and cooperation be stretched to all who are fighting for this coalition including Morgan. Class differences and political groups, he said at the time, are of no significance now.

In this book Browder tries to expose the reactionary, imperialist essence of US foreign policy which, in his words is the American version of Hitler's foreign policy. American imperialism, writes Browder has become a synonym for mobilising the dark forces of world reaction and imperialism to strangle the growing forces of democracy and to unleash an aggressive war against the Soviet Union and the new democracies. The author describes the "Marshall Plan" economic aid for Europe as an operation to breed rats, since this "aid" feeds all the rats of Europe and contributes to their propagation, while at the same time ruining the peoples.

Here again Browder tries to justify his pernicious capitulation conception of "class cooperation and harmony". He complains that according to the "new dogmatism that has recently taken root" among the American Marxists, to speak of anything progressive emanating from American imperialism is a crime against the Holy Ghost, the original sin of revisionism.

There is nothing accidental in Browder's non-Marxist assertion about the "progressive nature of American imperialism", which has become the world centre of political and ideological reaction, and which is trying to enslave the world. On the contrary it represents the continuation of his false conception about the "exceptionalism" of American capitalism in general. In his book "Teheran-Our Path in War and in Peace", Browder describes American capitalism as the most progressive capitalism in the world because it has raised the technique of production to a high level and because it inherited and retained but a tiny share of the pre-capitalist social, political and economic forms, American capitalism is not the "most mature" capitalism since it allegedly retains certain characteristic features of young capitalism.

In "World Communism and the Foreign Policy of the United States" Browder no longer defends the big monopolies against the "attacks" of the American Communists. This is understandable because most people know nowadays the treacherous role played by the American monopolies during the war and their present role in putting into effect the policy of imperialist expansion. It is therefore all the more strange that Browder does not even as much as hint at the organic ties between the US and German monopolies, which constitute an important factor, revealing the nature and trends of present-day US foreign policy.

Browder devotes much of his book to the role played by the late President Roosevelt during the war. He correctly describes Roosevelt as an outstanding statesman of capitalist society who wanted to save American capitalism from being dragged into the general maelstrom of capitalist bankruptcy. Roosevelt knew, writes Browder that American capitalism cannot afford another war. That is why he devoted himself to preparing a lasting peace. Roosevelt knew, continues Browder that socialism

cannot be eradicated from the world. That is why he accepted a future in which socialism and capitalism would live and cooperate. He knew that the Soviet Union and America would be the two principal forces after the war. That is why he tried to lay the foundation for a lasting peaceful alliance between the two countries.

But Browder loses all sense of realism when he credits the late President with many things that under no circumstances depended on Franklin Roosevelt.

Browder- glosses over the indisputable fact that the hammer blows of the Soviet Army which hit the German army, and the Westward sweep of the Soviet Army, forced Britain and the United States to carry out their belated promise and open the second front.

The book in part correctly characterises the role of the Soviet Union in World War II. The author acknowledges that the USSR bore the brunt of the war and emerged from it stronger than ever before. He admits that if necessary the Soviet Union could have won the war alone. But along with this the book contains clearly incorrect statements which belittle the role of the Soviet Union in securing the defeat of Germany and Japan.

Browder's book "World Communism and the Foreign Policy of the United States" contains views on important questions of contemporary policy that are alien to Marxism. The book shows that its author has not changed the old opportunist and revisionist line which placed him outside the ranks of the Communist Party of the United States.

B. VRONSKY

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THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. J. Berman

Hysteria never was an indication of confidence in one's own strength. On the contrary, it is the outcome of serious organic defects.

Political life in the capitalist countries, the bellicose ranting of Truman, the absurd threats of the American Secretary of the Air Force, Symington, the intimidation by the Secretary of the Navy, Sullivan, the explosion of the Trieste "atom bomb", the vicious crusade against the Popular Front in Italy, etc. — all this shows that the war hysteria has been whipped up of late.

The course of events has fully confirmed the correctness of the estimate of the international situation contained in the Declaration of the representatives of the nine Communist and Workers' parties.

Two different post-war worlds have taken shape. One is distinguished by calm and tranquillity, by determination to surmount all difficulties standing in the way, steady economic progress and the knowledge that it has taken the right path. The other is characterised by hysteria, adventurism and feverish turmoil.

Neither provocative gestures nor the outbursts of Truman, Marshall, Churchill, Schumacher or de Gaulle can cover up the internal helplessness of the imperialist world.

WESTERN UNION—THE STILL-BORN CHILD OF THE "MARSHALL PLAN"

Nine months have elapsed since Marshall's Harvard speech. Rivers of ink were spilt in eulogizing the "Marshall Plan", which was to "help ailing Europe". This plan has now been accorded the high-sounding name of the "European Recovery Programme".

The "myth" of the "Marshall Plan" was a costly creation. It is presented as the sole "sheet anchor" for ruined Europe and is depicted as an act of generosity and the embodiment of American disinterestedness. In America the "Marshall Plan" propagandists have succeeded in getting quite a lot of people to believe in this myth. But in Western Europe talk about the "Marshall Plan" is accompanied by the bitter taste of humiliation.

The stream of publicity released by the "enthusiasts" of this plan cannot cover up its essence and

object. Facts prove that the “Marshall Plan” in the guise of “aid”, which at most can bring temporary relief in the form of supplies and substitutes, has but one object—to conquer and subordinate the West European market, to shackle the peoples in the chains of economic slavery. The plan, if carried out, would inevitably cripple the economic structure of Europe, would retard the development of its productive forces and would mean the end of the sovereignty of the countries covered by the plan.

Steel production will decline, the volume of work in shipyards will be affected, and the output of many other industries restricted. Europe will be compelled to import American wheat and canned foods and will have to forget about its own stock-raising farms. The American trusts are stretching their tentacles out to all strategic materials that are of importance to them.

The “Marshall Plan” is a vast dumping operation which aims at complete possession of the West European market. Naturally this type of operation calls for certain expenditure and considerable risk. However, in the event of success the outlay will yield rich profits.

Europe, chloroformed by the “salutary” Marshall injections will wake up to find Itself Americanised.

Despite all the publicity the Marshall injections will not restore the strength invested in the economy of the condemned countries. On the contrary, they will aggravate its dislocation and make it more dependent on the American metropolis. Herein lies the fundamental difference between the “Marshall Plan” and the agreement signed between Poland and the Soviet Union. This agreement strengthens Poland's economic potential and her independence, and promotes the fulfilment of economic plans. The same is true of the economic agreements between Poland and Czechoslovakia, which are yielding beneficial results in the economic development of Poland.

It is no secret that the “Marshall Plan” conditions stipulate far-reaching interference in the internal affairs of the West European states (for instance, the prohibition of nationalisation measures) and, on the pretext of “planning” a regulation of commodity exchange between states so rigid as to abolish the economic sovereignty of the given countries.

And what doubts can there be about the political nature of this “planning”?

It is essentially an anti-European plan. Hence it is anti-British, anti-French and anti-Italian. But it is not anti-fascist. This plan is directed against the peace. It is the latest American version of the notorious “New Order” that held sway in Europe only some five years ago; it is an integral part of the imperialist struggle for world hegemony.

It is no accident that the Ruhr is once again the axis of the new plan.

It differs somewhat from its prototype since Silesia has been lost irretrievably and thus can no longer reckon on the Junker-Hitler bastion of Eastern Germany. Therefore, all the greater is the significance, in this combination, of the latest “creation”—Western Germany which, in the hands of the American politicians, is to become a lever for turning Western Europe into a vassal state.

It is obvious that Bevin's Western Union will, despite the attempts to maintain the semblance of independence, play but a subservient role as an auxiliary to the “Marshall Plan” and will function only when it suits the Americans to let it function. There is no doubt whatever that the Union is a political and military bloc, which has been formed not to bridle German aggression but to collaborate with it, to restore and promote it. It is an instrument which prevents the partners complementing each other economically and, if anything leads them into a blind alley because they are unable to resolve their contradictions.

The sponsors of this bloc and their American partners openly proclaim that their object is to combat the “spectre of Communism” and to suppress the popular movements which, under the leadership of the Communists and Socialists are gaining ground in Italy, France and other countries.

It is highly improbable, however, that this old standby of all warmongers will do them any good ...

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THE WAR HYSTERIA?

Nobody in Europe is any longer surprised by American newspaper trusts and broadcasting stations day after day feeding their readers and listeners with the bogey of the “red danger”, and forcing

readers and listeners to swallow a concoction of lies and “facts”. To make it easier to swallow this poison it is coated over with ostensible concern for “poor Europe” for the “American way of life,” etc.

But what is surprising is the fact that even trade union leaders who in the past were not reactionary and who boasted of their radical views are allowing themselves to be taken in by the flood of false phraseology.

They now pretend that they believe the nonsense that the Communists if you please, oppose the “Marshall Plan” because they uphold the ridiculous principle “the worse the better”!

Surely these “arguments” are daily refuted by the contribution of the USSR and the new democracies to the restoration of Europe, by their efforts to promote trade and economic cooperation and by their sincere and consistent foreign policy?

The explanation for this must be sought in the ailing American economy, despite its misleading rosy hue. The oncoming crisis and its precursor—fear of the morrow—are unbalancing the unstable elements, and driving them crazy with fear and hysteria. This is accompanied by a deepening of the political crisis which is expressed in the rapid disintegration of the Democratic Party and the sharp struggle Inside the Republican Party.

Nothing can hide the fact that the Marshall men, no matter where they are, whether in Europe, China or South America, rely on the decadent, reactionary, anti-popular forces. Inexorably they are setting Europe against themselves because Europe does not want economic and political slavery.

And caution, now on the way, is breaking through the wall of lies, through the artificially fanned war hysteria. This is evident in the quite unexpected support for a third party in the United States.

The American people are beginning to realise more and more that there is no greater threat to America than the spectres invented by the American warmongers, that the best way to serve the cause of peace is to strengthen international cooperation and to respect the sovereignty of all states.

THE USA AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Characterising the relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, Waiter Lippman used the expression “cold war”. Here it is worth noting that parallel with this “cold war”, which will bring neither success nor glory to the United States, another conflict is being waged, which at the moment may be less essential but nonetheless important. It is the “silent war” between the United States and Great Britain and the stake in this war is the British Empire with its population of 500 odd millions, that is, about one-fourth of the entire population of the world.

American penetration is accompanied by a growth of the centrifugal forces in the Empire, the result above all of the economic development of the dominions. Simultaneously, the liberation movement of the colonial peoples is gaining momentum.

The United States is steadily undermining the sterling bloc and the system of Imperial preference, the keystone of the Empire. At the same time it is pushing Great Britain out of the Western Hemisphere, out of the Far East and quite unceremoniously, is encroaching on the “jewel of the British crown”—India. This is further reflected in the recent conflicts between Great Britain and the Argentine, Chile and Guatemala, which were fanned with the tacit approval of the United States.

Commenting on this the “New Statesman and Nation” complained bitterly: Have we become such satellites of America that we agree to play the role of the first line of defence in US policy in Western Europe in the Mediterranean, in the Near East, on the African continent, in Ceylon and the Malay archipelago? The journal rightly adds that the fulfilment of all these assignments in their sum total would be a strategic absurdity.

The vassalage of Britain, which is being realised by the Right Labour leaders jointly with Churchill, is strikingly reflected in the servile role played by Britain in the American—inspired anti-Communist witch—hunt.

The Labour M. P. Crossman has even concocted a special theory regarding the division of roles between Britain and the United States in Europe. Speaking in the House of Commons he advocated

the creation of a firm socialist system against Communism which with the aid of the "Marshall Plan" and the Western Union would take the helm of Great Britain in to its hands. Crossman complained that Marshall "aid" allows only for inconsiderable expenditure for the British armed forces.

A group of Labour and Conservative MP,s go even further in their zeal and demand a parliament and government for the West European Union of 16 states taking part in the "Marshall Plan".

In this respect the "Sunday Express" comment, which reflects the opinion of the Amery-Beaverbrook group of Conservatives, is characteristic: "The Western Union will hasten dismemberment of the Empire."

Bevin and his associates, filled with the hysteria of the "red danger" have taken the path of adventure and risk. They have sold their independence for a mess of pottage and are' now assiduously building up the Western Union which, in the hands of the United States, will become a tool for enslaving the whole of Europe and at the same time, will be the battering ram which will "break- through" the British Empire and help of the Wall Street Moloch to swallow its dismembered parts. All attempts to deck this dirty work with "Socialist" feathers will lead nowhere. In paying the way for American aggression in Europe, Bevin will go down in the history of the British Empire as one of its most zealous gravediggers.

THE RIGHT SOCIALISTS—THE ACCOMPLICES OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM

Now, that the Marshallization of Europe is entering its initial stage, that Franco Spain is scheduled to join the Western Union. the Right Socialist Parties have become full-blown auxiliaries in America's aggressive policy.

The logical outcome of this was the split in the Committee of the International Socialist Conferences and the narrowing of its political base. The fact t hat the Socialist Parties who favour a united front and who broke with the Committee were replaced by pseudo-Socialist emigre cliques with a semi-fascist or fascist ideology and are in the service of the imperialist intelligence service, will hardly cover up the failure of the Committee of the International Socialist Conferences.

Such is the sorry finale of the post-war edition of the inglorious Second International whose parties have conveniently abandoned their pacifist phrases and are now an organisation of condottiere and military saboteurs in the service of American imperialism.

While fruitless attempts are being made to conceal the growing disintegration of the imperialist camp with "unions and blocs" not to mention conferences all of which are doomed to failure, the anti-imperialist camp is consolidating its forces.

It suffices to list the irrefutable facts of the last few months: the steady growth in the might of the Soviet Union, its outstanding achievements in the sphere of economy, science and technique which have scattered to the winds the myth of an American monopoly of "secrets" that are no longer secrets; the victories of the people's camp in China, the fiasco of reaction in Czechoslovakia and the consolidation of the people's democracy, the stubborn struggle of the popular masses against reaction and intervention in Greece, the successes of the people's democracy in Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Rumania and Hungary, the strengthening of the democratic movement in Germany and finally, the valiant struggle of the popular forces in Italy and France...

Surely these facts speak of the growing strength of the anti-imperialist camp?

American expansion threatens the sovereignty of the European countries. The Soviet Union and the

countries of the new democracy stand out as the bastion of till independence of the countries of Europe, as the bulwark and hope of the peoples of Western Europe in their longing to lead an independent economic and political life to build up their own culture, to liberate themselves from the vice of American expansion which retards the normal development of these countries.

Ever on our guard we are keeping close watch over the intrigues of the warmongers. The ravings of the war adventurers are countered by the powerful anti-imperialist front which disposes of forces adequate to foil any attempt on the democratic principles of peace—the basis of the Potsdam decisions.

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DOCUMENTS EXPOSING THE FALSIFIERS OF HISTORY

The State Publishing House of political literature in Moscow has published the first volume of German documents and materials relating to the period just prior to the war.¹⁾

As early as 1945 the Soviet Government suggested a joint investigation of the German archives by the Governments of the Soviet Union, US, Great Britain and France. This suggestion was rejected and the three powers published separately, collections of reports and notes by various Hitler diplomats. By juggling with facts, falsifying historic truth and by means of other machinations they tried to charge the Soviet Government with aggression.

These manoeuvres were exposed by the Soviet Information Bureau which has published the historic materials "The Falsifiers of History".

Believing that it is justified in publishing all the secret documents dealing with the relations between Hitler Germany and the Governments of the US, Great Britain and France, which were captured at the time of Germany's defeat, the Soviet Government has issued the first volume of documents which, as stated above, covers the period prior to the outbreak of World War II.

The collection contains 44 documents, including official documents such as the full text of the Munich agreement with the proposals, statements and letters of Czechoslovak and Polish diplomats. Letters and notes by a number of British statesmen and the photographic reproduction of documents, throw glaring light on the so-called appeasement policy. The book opens with the record of a conversation between Hitler and Lord Halifax in the presence of von Neurath on November 19, 1937 in Obersalzburg, when Halifax on behalf of the British Government suggested to Hitler that Great Britain and France join the Berlin—Rome "axis". The noble lord implied that the British Government would satisfy Hitler's aggressive appetite (of course at the expense of others) and of its readiness to negotiate a new division of the world and, in particular, to give Eastern Europe to Hitler.

The record of the conversation between Hitler and Sir Neville Henderson, the British Ambassador in Berlin, and also the political review of the German Ambassador in London, von Dirksen, and Churchill's memorandum on his talk with the leader of the Danzig fascists, Forster, on July 14, 1938 — all this is proof positive against whom these politicians were conspiring and whom they tried to prevent having any say in guiding the destiny of Europe. They aimed at isolating Europe from the Soviet Union. This was a conspiracy against the USSR, against peace and the freedom of the peoples.

¹⁾ Foreign Ministry of the USSR. Documents and materials of the period prior to World War II. Volume 1. November 1937-1938. From the archives of the Foreign Ministry of Germany.

Munich was the climax of this conspiracy of the Western powers with the fascist aggressors. The documents reveal the desire to isolate the Soviet Union and to direct Hitler aggression Eastward: they reveal how the despicable "Munich deal" was transacted and how the freedom and independence of the peoples of Europe were bartered and betrayed. Hitler was guaranteed a free hand. This led to the seizure of Austria and later to the cynical betrayal of Czechoslovakia in Munich where the fate of the country was decided without its representatives. They were called in only to hear the verdict.

The Munich documents reveal the immensity of the baseness of Chamberlain and Daladier, they show how they grovelled before Hitler and Mussolini and how these representatives of the powers that more than once had sworn friendship for Czechoslovakia handed that country over to German fascism.

It is all here in the book, in the text of the Munich agreement and facsimiles of these documents on which together with the signatures of Hitler and Mussolini are those of Chamberlain and Daladier. The object of the Chamberlain-Daladier policy in Munich was to turn Hitler against the Soviet Union, unleash war in Eastern Europe while they would keep out of the picture.

The book contains the joint declaration by Hitler and Chamberlain which in effect, was an Anglo-German non-aggression pact, and also a similar declaration signed in Paris in December 1938 by Bonnet and Ribbentrop.

* * *

The documents published in Volume I of the collection are of great interest for those who wish to study and understand the historical facts. They lay bare the forces that led mankind into war, the same forces that are busy now, consumed by their animal hatred of the Soviet Union and the free peoples of Eastern Europe, the forces that are sowing alarm, creating tension, poisoning relations between the nations and preparing a new slaughter.

But the forces of peace are invincible. The millions of ordinary people will see to it that there will be no repetition of Munich and no war. The published "Documents" will enable the people to expose- those who are preparing a new crusade against democracy, and who are intriguing and conspiring against peace.

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LOWER PRICES IN THE USSR

As is known, simultaneously with the Soviet currency reform effected last December, rationing and the high prices on food and manufactured goods were lowered. This was but the first step in lowering the price of food and manufactured goods.

Due to the steady progress of Soviet national economy and the increased output, the Soviet Government considered it necessary to introduce the second phase of lower prices for certain goods and thereby secure another increase in real wages for factory and office workers, increased income for the peasants and a simultaneous increase in the purchasing power of the ruble.

On April 10 the state retail prices were reduced on the average by 20 per cent on the following commodities: motor cycles, bicycles, gramophones, silver and metal articles and hardware; there was a reduction ranging on the average from 10 to 20 per cent on vodka, wines, beer, soft drinks, caviar, cigarettes and cigars, plastic goods, sewing machines, radio sets, automobiles, watches, and other articles.

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PRICES GO UP IN BRITAIN

In his budget speech in the British House of Commons the Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, Cripps, intimated the price of cigarettes, beer and other goods would be increased. To deceive the people Cripps simultaneously suggested quite a negligible tax on the profits from capital investments.

In this way the British Labour Government, while defending the interests of the capitalists, is endeavouring to solve the crisis in the balance of payments by making the working people shoulder the burden of the financial difficulties.

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CONFERENCE OF CZECH YOUTH LEAGUE

A conference of the Youth League of Czechoslovakia was recently held in Prague attended by 1,380 delegates who discussed the tasks of the youth in building and strengthening the people's democracy in Czechoslovakia.

The conference was addressed by the Minister of Education, Professor Zdenek Njedly. In a message to the conference Prime-Minister Klement Gottwald outlined the immediate tasks of the Czech youth.

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DECISIVE VICTORY OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT IN RUMANIA. I. Kishinevsky

The recent general election campaign in Rumania was transformed by the People's Democratic Front into a great political campaign to strengthen the people's democracy in the country. In the course of the campaign millions of people discussed the draft of the new constitution a fact which from the very beginning raised the campaign onto a high political level. Although the campaign lasted but a month it enabled the people to appreciate the main principles of the draft and on March 28 the people almost unanimously voted for the new constitution of the People's Republic of Rumania, which secures the people's power in the country.

The election campaign was carried out in stages. In the process of electioneering the democratic parties united in the People's Democratic Front and conducted extensive political work in town and country with the object of explaining the policy of the people's democracy. This explanatory work resulted in the overwhelming majority of the population taking part in the election, which ended in a brilliant victory for the Front. Any observer could see that the constant stream of voters to the polling booths, the high spirits of the people were, proof positive of the moral and political unity of the Rumanian people who had rallied around the People's Democratic Front.

All were deeply impressed by the orderly manner in which the election was carried out. There were no incidents, nor was there any concentration of military or police forces.

The enemies of the people's democracy knowing full well that the workers would vote unanimously for the People's Republic, had placed their last hopes on the peasantry. But they were sadly disillusioned. For the peasants, in their overwhelming majority, voted for the people's democracy, for the political system which gave them land, and for the alliance with the proletariat—the leading force of the working people, which is extending a helping hand to the peasants. Countless examples could be quoted of the enthusiasm with which the peasantry voted for the Front.

A comparison with the 1946 election gives an indication of the smashing victory won by the Front. The number of voters increased from 6,934,538 in November 1946 to 7,661,031. Of this number 6,959,936 voted for the Front as against 5,336,289 for the bloc of democratic parties in 1946 which, at the time, included the Tatarescu group and the Hungarian People's Union, which has since joined the People's Democratic Front.

This increase of one and a half million votes in favour of the Front strikingly reflects the keen interest in the political life of the people's democracy.

In reviewing these figures it is worth recalling that in 1937 during the bourgeois-landlord regime the representatives of which are now sheltered by American pseudo-democracy, only a little over

3,000,000 went to the polls, that is four and a half millions less than on March 28, 1948. In Bucharest 105,000 voted in 1937 whereas the figures for the recent election was 606,963.

This mass participation in the political life of the country puts in the shade any regime of bourgeois "democracy". The ruling circles in the bourgeois-democratic countries, try to prevent people from taking an active part in public life. This is evident from the recent statement of the US Secretary of Justice, Mr. Clark to the effect that only 39 per cent of American citizens who have the right to vote went to the polls in 1944.

What accounts for the heavy vote cast for the Front compared to 1946, when a certain section of the population did not fully support the democratic forces?

This increase is due, above all, to the steady economic progress in the country.

The proposal of the Rumanian Communist Party to promote economic progress first published in June 1947, were put into effect. In heavy industry output is at 80 per cent of the 1938 level, while in some branches the output of pig iron, steel, etc. Is in excess of the 1938 figure. Real wages are rising steadily.

The people see for themselves that there is no divergence between the words and deeds of the democratic government, that the path taken by the people's democracy leads to the gradual elimination of economic difficulties and to steady improvement in the standard of living.

The working people of town and country convinced themselves of the soundness of the call for increased output by industry and agriculture. The people realised the need to put an end to the backwardness of Rumania, which constitutes the basis of the economic policy of the people's democracy.

The unprecedented success of the Front was due also to the fact that the people know that the Government is conscious of their desires and aspirations and is doing everything possible to help not only the workers but also the peasants, handcraftsmen and small shopkeepers. In a number of letters to the EC of the workers' Party, peasants pointed to a number of unlawful measures by incompetent or reactionary elements in the State apparatus. Comrade Georgiu-Dej quoted these letters in one of his speeches and informed the meeting of the steps taken to rectify the harm. Following Gergiu-Dej's example the candidates of the Front made it a point of studying the needs of the people and of taking the necessary measures.

The knowledge that the economic measures of the Government are not accidental but represent an integral part of the programme to improve the standard of living was strengthened after the election when important new measures were introduced, including the law for a reduction in taxation.

The political achievements of the people's democracy, the broad liberties enjoyed by the people, the removal of representatives of the exploiting classes from the Government, the abolition of the monarchy which the people regarded as the chief representative of the landlords, bankers and manufacturers—the oppressor of the freedom of the people—also played a tremendous role in securing victory for the Front.

Millions of electors are convinced that the draft constitution, submitted by the Front, is not a mere proclamation of abstract principles. They realise that this draft secures the political and social changes that have come to pass in our country.

Not only members of the parties and organisations in the Front but also members of the General Confederation of Labour, the Democratic Women's Union, the Union of Working Youth, and the student democratic organisations, were active in conducting explanatory work among the population, in the struggle against the underground reactionary-fascist groups.

In this struggle close attention was paid from the very beginning to individual explanatory work. Together with the leaders of the Front and its candidates who travelled from district to district, and village to village, turning the election campaign into a real political school for the masses, valuable work was carried out also by the Front propagandists.

358,000 propagandists equipped with the draft of the new constitution canvassed among the population.

The propagandists for the most part voluntary majority carried on their electioneering after working hours. They helped secure increased output as a result of labour emulation in honour of the election

to the Great National Assembly. Thanks to this daily activity, thanks to the systematic exposure of the manoeuvres of reaction enemy propagandas failed in its object and many who had formerly kept aloof from political life were drawn into the struggle against reaction.

Anglo-American imperialist circles calculated on the apparatus got together by reactionary groups, who whispered rumours about inevitable war and who tried to foment discontent, especially in the rural areas, and thus disrupt the unity of the people. But this agitation, based on lies, was exposed by life itself. Our peasantry realised the importance of the leading role of the working class in the struggle for land and in the struggle to overcome the aftermath of two years of drought. The peasantry were conscious of the help of the working class, led by its vanguard—the Rumanian Workers' Party.

The increased industrial output has opened new perspectives for exchange between town and country. Measures recently taken make it much easier for the peasants to sell their products. These new facts show that the Rumanian Workers' Party and Government uphold the interests of the peasants against the capitalist elements in the countryside and the speculators in the towns.

Reaction utilised various religious sects, as for instance the "Jehovah Witnesses", which have afforded asylum to the enemies of peace and democracy, to the legionnaires and other fascist elements. Those agents of foreign imperialism who resorted to terror were discovered in time, thanks to the increased vigilance of the people. They tried to dampen election enthusiasm and to get the people to boycott the election by spreading the rumour that war was imminent.

These Hitler methods, aimed at intimidating people with weak nerves did not yield the expected results. Election speakers denounced the rumour mongers—former landlords, legionnaires and officers purged from the army.

The struggle to expose the agents of foreign imperialism developed into a widespread anti-imperialist campaign against the instigators of war. The masses learnt to recognise the enemies. They have learnt to appreciate and vigorously support the peace policy of the People's Republic of Rumania. Millions of men and woman in Rumania now have a better understanding of the significance of the agreements of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance that have been signed with the countries of the people's democracy, and especially with the mighty Soviet Union, which is fighting for a democratic world.

The civic consciousness of the masses and their determination to strengthen the economic and political foundations of the People's Rep public, and thus consolidate the national independence and sovereignty of the country, have grown in the process of this political struggle.

The Great National Assembly has given the country a new constitution, which registers the achievements and great changes accomplished by the people under the leadership of the Rumanian Workers' Party. Very soon the Assembly will debate and adopt important reforms, which will contribute to the further prosperity of Rumania.

The brilliant victory of the People's Democratic Front will be the starting point for new successes by the people of Rumania. This victory has once more confirmed the soundness of the political line of the Workers' Party of Rumania, which has extended and strengthened its links with the people.

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**BOOK "SECRET DOCUMENTS OF VATICAN POLICY". Telepress
Agency Comment**

Commenting on the book "Secret Documents of Vatican Diplomacy", which has just been published in Switzerland, the Telepress Agency says the anonymous author claims that the original documents were transcribed from the archives of the Vatican State Secretariat. By accident these documents fell into the hands of someone who believes it his duty to publish them in full.

The 560 pages of the book uncover the intrigues of the Vatican "the tentacles of which spread out over Italy", Italy's tie-up with the US is also laid bare. The author declares that the political activities of the Vatican are directed by the Pope personally who almost every day has meetings with Monsignor Montini, acting state secretary of the Vatican, with Father Jansens, the World Jesuit Leader, and Father McCormick, representing the American Jesuit. Since 1945 this clique plotted intervention in the domestic affairs of Italy, utilising for this purpose the Christian-Democrats and the "Catholic Action".

It is stated that one of the main pursuits of the Jesuits is espionage in the countries of Eastern Europe, the information thus obtained is handed over to the American Intelligence Service. Perhaps the most sensational material in the book is that showing how the Vatican is financing the election campaign of the Christian Democrats, Saragat's right-wing Socialist Party and even the new fascist organisations.

At a meeting of representatives of the Vatican, the Christian-Democrats, the Saragat group and the Piccardi party, agreement was reached regarding mutual financial assistance and common points in their election programmes. Saragat and the republicans will continue to receive direct help from the US.

Editorial Board

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