

Workers of All Countries, Unite!

For a Lasting Peace, for a Peoples Democracy!

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LONG LIVE MAY DAY—THE REVIEW OF FIGHTING FORCES OF THE WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES!

Towards New Victories in the Struggle for Peace and Democracy!

On May 1st the international working class holiday, the working people of the world and all friends of peace and democracy will recall with pride that the path which they have traversed is rich with great victories and with vast experience of struggle for their liberation, for peace, democracy and socialism.

On this day, all the freedom-loving peoples, all enemies of imperialism and slavery will rally together and mobilise their forces for renewed struggle against the instigators of a new war, against the enslavers.

Fundamental changes have been recorded in the historical development of the peoples. Ever since the working people emerged victorious over one sixth of the earth's surface, with the building up of a socialist society in the USSR, the world has been divided into two camps: the camp of socialism and the camp of capitalism. The history of the struggle for and the victory of socialism in the USSR shows that notwithstanding incredible difficulties and despite the fact that all the

reactionary forces of world capitalism were lined up against the USSR, socialism steadily marched forward and triumphed over all enemies.

World War II was the supreme trial for the land of socialism. In the course of the war all the main anti-Soviet and anti-Communist forces of East and West were bent on bringing about the military debacle of the USSR.

But this test, too, was passed with honour. The USSR, fighting practically single handed against the German fascist hordes, won complete victory. This victory was possible because the socialist system secured the strength of the Soviet state.

The armed victory of the USSR was possible also because the struggle of the Soviet people against fascism found support among the working people of the world. The working people knew that liberation would come only with the victory of the Soviet Army; they believed in the USSR as an invincible force, as the bulwark of peace, freedom and progress.

World War II and post-war history have demonstrated that socialism is now on the order of the day in many lands. Everywhere, Socialism is gaining ground. The peoples of different countries realise more and more that their only salvation lies in the transition to a socialist life, that capitalism can no longer secure peace or democratic liberties.

In the countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe, who were liberated from fascism with the help of the Soviet Army, and in consequence of which the fascist-imperialist elements in these countries were decisively routed, the people took the helm of state into their own hands.

The success achieved by the peoples of these countries in restoring their economy and in state administration, confirm the truth that henceforth progress and democracy are on the highroad only in those countries where the peoples have taken the path of socialism.

The experience of history teaches that the working class and its political vanguard—the Marxist parties—are the consistent champions of national independence and democratic liberties.

But the bourgeoisie, and above all the bourgeoisie in the European countries, is no longer a class interested in the sovereignty and independence of the respective countries. It has become the enemy even of bourgeois liberties and no longer represents the interests of the nation.

The example of national betrayal by the leaders of the bourgeois parties in Czechoslovakia, and the more recent example of the ruling circles in Italy who allowed the American imperialists to run the Italian election as if it were taking place in some impoverished American colony, merely proves that the bourgeoisie is no longer interested in or for that matter, cannot defend the national interests of the country.

The economy of even major powers like Britain, France and Italy are dependent on, and controlled by American imperialism.

The governments of Britain, Italy and France cannot make a single move in their internal or foreign policy without first getting the benediction of the White House. These countries have become in the literal sense, the satellites of American imperialism.

The Right Socialist parties have gone over completely to the path of national betrayal. Theirs is, indeed, an ignominious role. They are exploiting the sympathies and confidence of the workers in socialism. The predatory plans of American imperialism, such as the “Marshall Plan” are portrayed by them as plans for the socialist reorganisation of Europe.

But no matter how the American imperialists and their European agents strive to enslave Europe, and no matter what verbiage they use as camouflage, their plans have been exposed to the peoples of Europe and the workers are vigorously resisting these aggressive plans.

A striking example of this resistance was the strike movement which gripped France at the end of 1947. The Italian election was another. The election in Italy showed, firstly, that the party of the Italian bourgeoisie—the Christian Democratic Party and the party of the Right Socialists—have become completely

anti-national and anti-democratic parties and, without any compunction, have placed themselves at the disposal of American imperialism. Secondly, despite stringent police measures and military terror, despite the combined efforts of the American imperialists, and the governments and Right wing Socialists in Britain and France to isolate the Communists and Left Socialists from the people and to destroy the Popular Front—they failed to achieve this. Despite the blackmail, intimidation, provocation and faked votes, practised on a wide scale, the Communists and Left Socialists polled more than a third of the total vote.

This shows that the anti-imperialist, democratic front is stable and stands as a bulwark against reaction, that it is fully determined to continue the struggle for national independence and democratic liberties.

The events that have taken place since the conference of the nine Communist Parties in Poland show that not only has the democratic camp consolidated its ranks, it has also launched an offensive against the imperialist camp and taken the initiative on all decisive questions of the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

In most of the new democracies changes of historic significance have taken place during this period. The forces of the new democracies have scored decisive victories over the anti-popular and anti-national forces, and these countries have been saved from enslavement by American imperialism. They hold with firm grasp the standard of national independence, democracy and socialism.

The fusion of the workers' parties in a number of countries is an outstanding event, it marks a big step forward toward the political development of the working class and all progressive sections of the people.

In Italy and France the Communist Parties have become a powerful force. They are leading forward the majority of the working class and the over-whelming mass of the rural toilers and the intelligentsia. The Communist parties firmly hold the

initiative of struggle for national independence and democratic liberties.

In China the Communist Party is waging a titanic struggle against the corrupt, anti-national Chiang Kai-shek government, and is inflicting heavy military defeat on its armies. More than a third of China's population is living in the districts freed by the People's Liberation Army.

In Greece the People's Democratic Army has liberated more than half of the country from the monarchist-fascist and American troops.

The working people, of the world boldly face the future for the future is theirs.

On May Day the working people can say with justifiable pride that their efforts and struggle have not been in vain. The imperialist and all instigators of a new war and enslavers of the nations have suffered serious reverses.

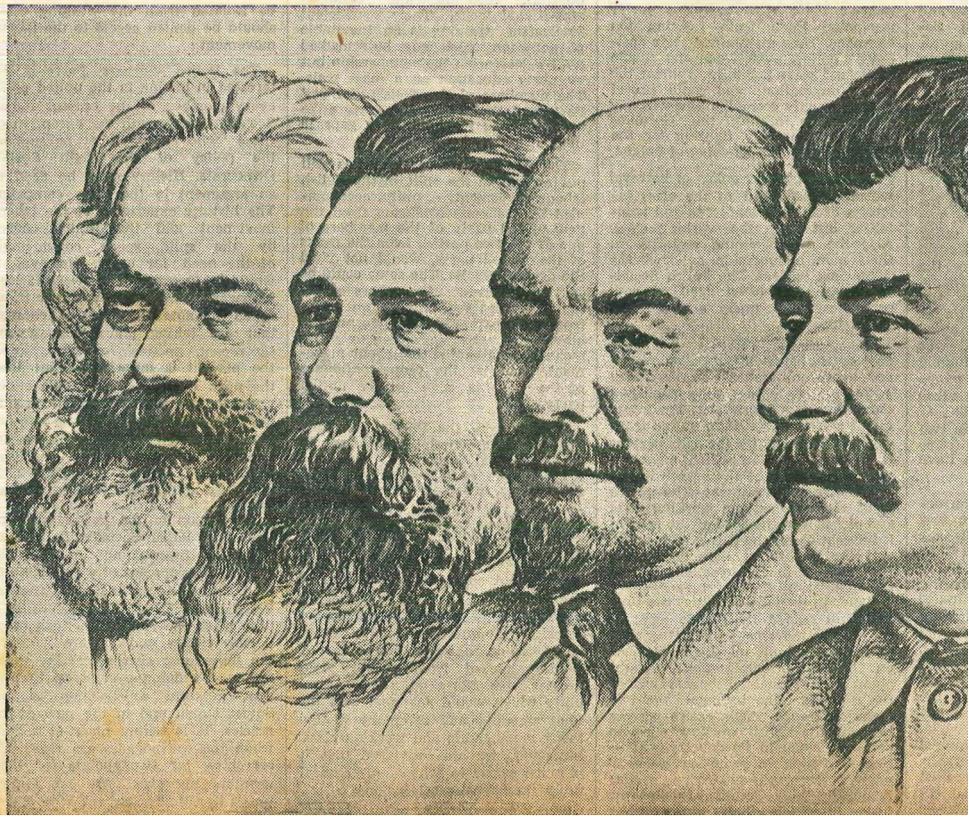
But we must not rest on our achievements. The enemy is by no means vanquished, he will attack and counter— attack again and again.

The Communist and workers' parties and all progressive forces, enriched with the experience of struggle, equipped with a clear understanding of their tasks, will redouble their efforts and achieve new successes in the struggle for peace, democracy and socialism.

Long live peace, democracy and socialism!

Long live the international holiday of the working people—the First of May!

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TOWARDS MAY DAY

DEMANDS OF THE FRENCH TRADE UNIONS

The working people of France greet May Day this year as a day of struggle for their demands, for lower prices, in defence of freedom and peace and against American expansionism.

The Trade Union Federation of the Paris region wants reports on the national conference of production committees to be made at all factories, offices and construction sites, and that a campaign be started by work shifts, brigades and departments for a revision of wages, taking the subsistence minimum of 12,900 francs as a basis.

The trade unions call upon all workers to submit their demands by April 30 and to elect delegations which will present these demands to the respective Government organs.

It is worth nothing that the “Socialist” Minister Jules Moch has withheld permission for the May Day demonstration in Paris to march along the Place de la Republique and Place de la Concorde since this route passes the American, Embassy.

PEOPLE'S UNITY IN HUNGARY

For the first time since the liberation May Day in Hungary will be a real people's holiday. The fusion of the two workers' parties has been followed by increased labour enthusiasm and a desire for unity among the people. The party organisations in the Budapest factories will take part in the May Day demonstration as united bodies. The slogan “The Three-Years Plan in Two and a half Years” will be one of the main May Day slogans.

Unity of the working people is the keynote of the May Day preparations also of the other democratic parties. The leaders of

the Smallholders Party and National Peasant Party have called upon their members to take an active part in the May Day celebrations. The conference of the Smallholders Party adopted a resolution calling for active participation in the People's Front. The decision of the various youth societies to merge into a united national organisation represents a major step towards the unity of the democratic camp. The women's democratic organisations have announced their intention of joining the Democratic Women's Union.

The rallying of the mass organisations around the new workers' party is accompanied by wide-spread labour emulation movement.

STRENGTHENING THE RANKS OF THE WORKING CLASS OF POLAND

The workers of Poland are celebrating May Day under the slogan of mobilisation of the working masses for strengthening working class unity. The Workers' Party and the Socialist Party, celebrating May Day jointly, have issued a message which says: "In view of the growing pressure of aggressive American imperialism and international reaction against the progressive forces and the sovereign rights of nations, the May Day celebration will be held under the banner of safeguarding peace, struggle against the warmongers, against international reaction and imperialism and against the attempts to restore an aggressive Germany."

The Workers' and Socialist Parties emphasise the solidarity of the working people of Poland with the people in all countries fighting for national and social freedom and for closer cooperation with the Soviet Union and the new democracies.

The resolution of the Central Council of the Polish trade unions notes the great successes achieved in rehabilitating and building up the country.

NEW LABOUR OBLIGATIONS

The peoples of Yugoslavia are celebrating May First as the day of mobilisation of all forces for the building of socialism. The call of the Communist Party has further stimulated the labour initiative of the workers, peasants and intelligentsia and on the eve of the holiday, work has begun on the new Belgrade, on the “Brotherhood and Unity” highway, which will link the capital with the three people's republics of Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia.

The Communist Party calls upon the working people to be on guard against the intrigues of the hirelings of foreign imperialism. Guided by the victorious ideas of Marxism-Leninism, the Communist Party is leading the working people to new victories in the building of socialism.

The powerful political organisation—the People's Front, which has displayed outstanding examples of selfless work, meets May Day with new labour obligations.

The peoples of the Federative People's Republic of Yugoslavia salute the Soviet Union, the mighty bulwark of freedom loving mankind, the friendly countries of the new democracy and all peoples fighting for peace, democracy and national liberation.

FOR A UNITED DEMOCRATIC GERMANY

In its May Day message to the working people of Germany the Socialist Unity Party notes that the Potsdam decision on German unity has not been fulfilled.

“Contrary to the plans for enslavement hatched by imperialism”, says the message, “we demand a free expression of the will of the German people on this question, a people's referendum on German unity. On May Day we will demonstrate our firm determination to struggle for the aims of the people's congress, for unity and a just peace”.

It continues: The task of the people in the Eastern zone which has been cleared of Junkers and monopolists and where war criminals have been punished and the building of a new economy started, is “maximum production, just distribution of goods and a better life”.

In the Western zones where the Junkers, monopolists and war criminals occupy leading positions and hamper the democratisation of the country, the Socialist Unity Party is demanding “a democratic land reform, punishment of war criminals and monopolists, the right of the trade unions to have a decisive say in economic life and a democratic educational reform throughout Germany”.

LABOUR ENTHUSIASM GROWING IN RUMANIA

Labour emulation is steadily gaining ground throughout Rumania. The emulation movement reflects the profound changes that have taken place in the social structure of the country over the past six months. The removal of the exploiting classes from state leadership, the proclaiming of the people's republic and the Constitutional guarantee of the rights of the working people have firmly convinced the workers and peasants that now they are running the state and are working for a higher material and cultural level of the people.

Characteristic in this respect is the labour emulation between the Hunedor iron and steel works and another metallurgical factory: the iron and steel workers pledge themselves to economise with raw materials, fuel, to cut down running expenses, reduce waste, lateness and absenteeism.

For their May Day obligations the working people of Rumania pledge to increase output, to introduce new methods of labour and to improve the quality of production.

TOWARDS NEW SUCCESSES

In a May Day call to the working people of Bulgaria, the Bulgarian trade unions state that this year the working class of the country will meet May Day with new labour achievements, and with increased determination to fulfil the Two-Year Plan and to build socialism.

On this day of the great festival of labour, continues the May Day call, the working people of Bulgaria will demonstrate the nation's deep satisfaction with the signing of the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual aid with the fraternal Soviet Union.

May Day is celebrated as a demonstration of the indissoluble ties of the Bulgarian people with the new democracies and their solidarity with all the other freedom-loving peoples who are fighting for national independence, for peace and democracy.

The appeal calls upon the working people to increase production, to promote labour emulation, shock-brigade work, rationalisation and innovation in industry as important conditions for realising the program of the Fatherland Front.

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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE POLISH LABOUR MOVEMENT. W. Gomulka- Weslaw

The Polish labour movement has entered the period of its political fusion, the period of healing the split in the Polish working class which existed since 1892.

The political unity of the Polish working class is being effected by eliminating the main reasons for this split, by overcoming the reformist and Pilsudski ideologies and the Luxemburg conceptions.

The historical errors committed by the Social-Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania and the Polish Socialist Party at the time the people of Poland were deprived of independence, gravely affected the subsequent development of the Polish labour movement. The Communist Party, formed in 1918 following the fusion of the Social-Democratic Party of Poland and Lithuania and the left group of the Polish Socialist Party imbibed many pernicious Luxemburg traditions. Even though hostile elements managed to infiltrate into its leading bodies,

which was one of the reasons for its dissolution in 1938, the Communist Party of Poland, driven underground from the very first day of its existence, trained fighting champions of the Polish working people, thousands of whose numbers passed through the prisons of Polish fascist reaction. The Polish Socialist Party, on the other hand, saturated with the Pilsudski traditions was notorious among the parties of the Second International for its bitter struggle against the Communists and the Soviet Union. Its left wing, which did not agree with the leadership's policy, was comparatively weak and was unable seriously to influence the development of the party. During the years of the independence of the II Polish Republic, the split in the two trends in the labour movement deepened and the struggle between them intensified.

It was only during the German occupation that a decisive turn was made toward fusion of the labour movement. It became clear to a large number of the Polish Socialist Party membership that the policy of hostility towards the Soviet Union, pursued by the Party leadership, was largely responsible for the defeat of Poland and the loss of her independence. This caused a split in the Socialist Party and the formation of two separate parties — the Left and the Right. At the same time, on the left wing of the labour movement which after the dissolution of the Communist Party was without party leadership, the members of the former Communist Party of Poland formed several organisations to fight for independence. These organisations were the source of the Polish Workers' Party which was formed in 1942. The members of the PWP and Left Socialists began to cooperate and this cooperation ultimately developed into the united front of the working class. The Polish Workers' Party did not repeat the errors made by the workers' parties of Poland in the past. It raised aloft the banner of struggle for Polish independence and led the people in the armed struggle against the German occupation. Nor did the Polish Workers' Party lose sight of the need to organise and prepare the people to fight for fundamental social reforms and

the reorganisation of the State, after the liberation of Poland, Thanks to the fact that it was able to combine the national-liberation struggle with the struggle for social liberation the Polish Workers' Party soon became a powerful force, its influence spread among the working class and it won the confidence of the people. As for the right-wing leaders of the Polish Socialist Party who had learnt nothing ,from the military defeat of Poland and who, following old traditions, collaborated with the camp of Polish reaction, they suffered complete defeat. All their phrase mongering about independence, with which they hoped to mask their real face, could not replace the struggle for independence. Their “two enemies” theory prevented them from fighting the Germans. They maintained their anti-Soviet policy, even when the people of Poland were languishing under the Hitler occupation and could expect liberation only from the Soviet Army which while fighting the Germans was simultaneously fighting for the liberation and independence of Poland.

This anti-popular policy of betrayal which corresponded to the class interests of the big landlords and capitalists lost them the working class. Also the overwhelming majority of their own membership rejected the right-wing leaders. The Polish Socialist Party reorganised itself on new principles and under a new Left leadership.

Cooperation on a united front basis first begun between the Polish Workers' Party and Polish Socialist Party during the occupation, fully developed only after the liberation. The subsequent period was rich in united front work carried out by the two parties. It was a period in which measures were taken to close the breach in the Polish Labour movement. The united front strengthened the working class and placed it at the head of the people; it brought about the defeat of reaction and the victory of the democratic bloc parties in the election; it laid the foundation of the future People's Poland. In its daily activities the United front guided the development of the labour movement along the path to socialism, bum up this movement

on Marxist principles and brought about the gradual disappearance of the dividing line between the two opposing trends. This entire process brought the Polish working class to the next stage in its development—organic fusion in a united workers' party. A few weeks ago the two parties launched their joint campaign for fusion in which all the organisations of the parties are taking part. May Day in Poland this year will be celebrated under the slogan of fusion.

Fusion of the labour movement means ideological, political and organisational unity. This unity can be attained only on the basis of Marxist ideology, the keystone is the doctrine of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin. This is the fundamental, and at the same time, the most difficult task.

The Polish Workers' Party and the Polish Socialist Party, built up the greater part of their membership during the past three years. Over a million members joined the two parties after the liberation. To the bulk of the membership is insufficient. The question may be asked: would it not be more expedient to decrease the membership of the united party and in order to secure the necessary ideological level, place more rigid demands when accepting people into the party.

The answer of the Polish Workers' Party is in the negative. The mass influx into the workers' parties reflects the growing activity of the working class and the people and shows that these masses are breaking with the old and aspiring to the new. In conditions of the new democracy the mass workers' parties are the best weapon in the struggle against the class enemy, and in political, economic and cultural-educational work. Their insufficient ideological training is an inevitable phenomenon which must be remedied not by decreasing the membership but by party education on a mass scale. The members of the Polish Workers' Party and Polish Socialist Party alike need training for both have gaps in their ideological preparation.

The fusion of the two parties will put an end to the split in the Polish labour movement. A unity, accompanied by the mass exclusion from the new united party of the members of one of

the two parties from the ranks of the united party, would not yield the desired results. The same could be said in the event of members of the united parties withdrawing en masse from their party. Neither one nor the other can take place. Labour unity means strengthening the labour movement, that is, the deep confidence of the working class in the united party.

That is why the Polish Workers' Party attached special significance to the ideological aspect of unity, and rejected the idea of mechanical fusion. The Polish Workers' Party, ardent supporter of the fusion of the two workers' parties, has always adhered to the point that as long as the great mass of the members of the two parties are not conscious of the idea of organic unity, as long as they are divided by ideological differences of principle, the question of unity cannot be placed on the order of the day. A genuine united front would yield greater benefits than a mechanical unity which would not meet with the understanding and sympathy of the Party membership and working class. Moreover, we are convinced that it is much easier to achieve mechanical unity than ideological fusion.

Of course we should not wait to unite until **all** the members of the party see the need for it, until **all** ideological differences disappear between the two parties. Such a viewpoint and such a policy would be senseless. The split in the labour movement is the outcome of the influence of bourgeois ideology on the working class. Long years of work are needed to eradicate this ideology from the minds of the working class, even when state power is in the hands of the working class.

There is a certain number of social-democratic leaders — fortunately the number is small and they are no longer able to influence the working class—who will never agree to unity of the labour movement. On the other hand not a Single working-class Marxist functionary would want to be in the same party with Kwapinski, Zaremba, Prager and other Right Social-Democrats. These people have nothing in common with Marxist ideology, they do not represent the progressive aspirations of the working class.

They are men of the bourgeois type who in order to maintain the old, capitalist social relations, operated in the labour movement. They passed into the service of imperialism in the struggle against the progressive, revolutionary workers. It would be ridiculous even to think of uniting with them. Such individuals should be isolated from the working class, should be denied access to the labour movement.

The Polish Workers' Party is interested in having in the united party every member of the present Polish Socialist Party, with the exception of those who oppose unity or support the policy of the Right Social-Democrats. History must be used as an argument in the unity campaign. The historic experience of the labour movement and the injury caused by the split, speak convincingly of the need for unity. However, it would be incorrect if we were to look backwards only, and especially if we failed to note the positive changes that are taking place even among the recent opponents of unity. Today the present is more important than the past. Bearing in mind the experience of the past, we must look into the future and devote all our energies to it. The tasks confronting us demand an organisationally consolidated and ideologically monolithic united party of the Polish working class.

The fusion of the Polish Workers' Party and Polish Socialist Party is of great significance not only for the further development of a People's Poland. Our fusion is also of European Significance. It is taking place at a time when the Anglo-American reactionary circles, and above all, American imperialist circles utilising every means are doing everything to prevent peaceful construction in the Soviet Union and in the new democracies. It is taking place at a time when the warmongers are feverishly searching for strong points for their criminal activities. We are joining forces at a time when the West European governments are trying to divide Europe, to set its peoples against each other, when world reaction is mobilising all its forces to fight the labour movement.

By uniting the Polish Workers' Party and Polish Socialist Party

we are strengthening the might of the European democratic camp, strengthening Poland's position in the camp of freedom and democracy, in the camp of struggle against the war plans of the American imperialist circles and thereby strengthening the foundations of freedom, democracy and independence of the Polish people.

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TOWARDS NEW TASKS. Klement Gottwald

Last May Day we vowed that we would remain loyal to the principles of people's democracy, that we would safeguard our new system from reactionary intrigues and that we would do our utmost to travel farther along the road to Socialism.

Today, May 1, 1948, we can say that we have redeemed our pledge. Despite the difficulties we have a considerable amount of positive work to our credit. First of all we won the battle with reaction which launched an all-out attempt to stage a comeback and restore the pre-Munch capitalist order. The Significance of the February days, when this struggle took place, is great. This was a real, deep-going regeneration of our political and social life; working people rid themselves of the saboteurs and wreckers who constituted a grave threat to our peaceful labour. Our people resolutely declared that they would not allow reactionaries and subversive elements to play with the destiny of the Republic. In other words, we cleared our way and, as a result, we are moving forward much more quickly. Whereas, for, a few months prior to February the work of the Government and Parliament was practically at a standstill, in March and April we literally leaped forward in Governmental work. We passed a number of important bills and measures which otherwise might have taken months and probably years. All sections of the population have embarked upon the work with new enthusiasm.

The February events can be compared to a spring thunderstorm which clears and purifies the atmosphere, and causes all nature to bloom. It is an historic fact, recognised now with gratitude by all people, that during this severe trial, at the helm of the Republic, at the head of the great movement of regeneration stood the Communist Party, a far-sighted, resolute and careful leader, the saviour of the Republic and of its peaceful development.

That is why May Day, 1948, is both the joyful celebration of a new and great victory for the working people led by the Communists, and a festival of enthusiastic labour in building our country.

At the same time May Day will be a great review of the healthy democratic forces of our people, a review held on the eve of the Parliamentary election when the people will freely express their opinion on the present path and development of the Republic. There can be no doubt — and the May Day demonstrations will prove this — that the people will again say “**yes**”. May Day will be a joyful festival for our friends abroad and an answer to the malignant campaign of our enemies. That is why it is necessary that this “yes” should serve as a stimulus to the further development of the popular forces, fill our people with creative enthusiasm and inspire them for further persistent, selfless and constructive labour.

In the historical test to which we were subjected this year, the entire Party, its old and numerous new members acted as the leading element of the nation and carried out a great task. We shall rally all our people around the Communist Party which bears in its firm grasp the standard of the Republic and of its happy future, and shall carry out the new tasks facing the Party.

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AGAINST THE INTRIGUES OF THE WARMONGERS. Harry Pollit

May Day 1948 will be celebrated by the working people of the

world at the height of the Anglo-American war preparations and offensive against the democratic rights and living standards of the people of Europe. At the same time the occasion will be one to celebrate signal advances of the democratic camp against the imperialists, the further economic and political advance of the Soviet Union, the people's victory in Czechoslovakia, and the invincible fight of the Greek people.

Above all, the May Day demonstrations will represent a great mobilisation of all working people against the warmongers and for the preservation of peace.

It is a remarkable tribute to the political understanding of the working class in every capitalist country, that despite the unprecedented campaign of calumny against the Soviet Union and the new democracies, the masses refuse to be swept off their feet.

This fact provides the basis on which the fight for peace needs now to be organised. The struggle for peace and the fight for social progress and socialism are two sides of the same medal. Military expenditure for Bevin's foreign policy is steadily crippling the entire social life of the workers in Britain.

Because of all this, the Communist Party in Britain is making the development of a mass movement for peace a central feature of its immediate political aims. The "Daily Worker" has taken the initiative and has called a great National Peace Conference for London on July 18. Our Party is giving this Conference every support, confident it will arouse a widespread echo among all the peace loving people of Britain. More and more the workers are realising what the real aims of American imperialism are.

There may still be many illusions in Britain about the real aims of the Marshall Plan, but there are few illusions about the role which Britain would occupy in a future war. That is why the British workers in particular will never allow Britain to become America's advanced base for a war against the Soviet Union or the New Democracies.

The British working class which actively obstructed

intervention against the Soviet Union after the October Revolution, will never be a party to allowing a new war to be organised against the Soviet Union.

The fight for a lasting peace, for a decisive struggle against capitalism is not easy in Britain to-day, but it is going on, and will receive increasing support as more and more the masses come to see the positive role in world affairs being played by the Soviet Union. We are confident that the May Day demonstrations will have as their central theme the maintenance of peace, war on the warmongers, and friendship of an indestructible character between the peace-loving and progressive forces of the world.

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THE ITALIAN ELECTION. Pietro Rossi

HOW THE “MAJORITY” WAS SECURED

The Italian election of 1948 will go down in the history of parliamentarism as an example of an election which was neither free nor democratic. World public opinion witnessed insolent and unceremonious interference by the State Department, Minister Army official, US senators and by the

leaders of the ruling parties in Britain and France in the domestic affairs of Italy, and in the inner party affairs of the Popular Front opponents.

Over a period of months the Italian people were the object of utterly disgusting, intrigues on the part of international reaction, they were subjected to moral, religious and police terror, to all manner of threats. And false hypocritical promises were dished out ad lib.

Sparing no means and without any scruples as to methods, international reaction headed by the American imperialist and the Vatican, used against the Italian people the entire arsenal or coercion built up by American experts in international blackmail and force against the weaker nations.

American naval units and squadrons of flying fortresses, atom bomb and military occupation blackmail, diplomatic intrigues around the peace treaty, the mailing of 10 million letters of instruction to the Italian electorate, of millions of food packages and cigarettes, etc.,—all these measures were used to intimidate and bribe the voters. According to the United Press the US spent four million dollars on the Italian election campaign. Nor is it any secret that the “lire fund”, amounting to billions of lire acquired from the sales of American goods in Italy and of which the US was the sole administrator, was handed over to the de Gasperi party to finance the election campaign, to buy up election blanks, to bribe the poor and politically backward sections of the population.

The election was greatly influenced by the interference of the Vatican. The facts are known: under the slogan of “resist Communism”, the Pope, followed by the archbishops, bishops and vicars, declared all supporters of the Popular Front enemies of religion. Four hundred thousand monks and nuns, and 70,000 priests spread religious terror throughout the country: the people were threatened with denial of absolution, marriage ceremony and burial rites, for belonging to the Front, for attending Front meetings, and for reading Front newspapers, etc. The significance and effect of religious terror in Italy

should not be underestimated: the clergy, the powerful “Azione Cattolica” and the Christian-Democrats took full advantage of the traditional religiousness of the Italian masses, of the superstition and fanaticism of the politically-backward sections, and especially of the peasantry and the women of whom according to official figures only 50 percent are literate. On April 21, de Gasperi, addressing the members of his party, expressed his gratitude to the Church. “Our victory”, he stated, “would have been impossible without the aid of Providence”. In other words this Jesuit admission means that the Christian-Democratic Party would have been defeated without the backing of the Catholic church apparatus. It is particularly noteworthy that the clergy were involved in the majority of the forgeries, swindles and coercion of voters during the election, reported in the Italian press.

Long before polling day it was clear that the Vatican and Italian reaction was preparing for “victory at all cost”«. This task, formulated by de Gasperi himself, was carried out with the aid of a detailed system of bribery and forgery. Matters were made easier by the fact that as distinct from the 1946 election, the entire administrative apparatus was entirely in the hands of the de Gasperi party.

On the eve of the voting a specially selected group of officials was formed in the Ministry of Home Affairs, which was to count in complete secrecy, the voting results in 41,647 wards. And when protests came pouring in to Rome from all parts of the country at the forgeries, all the henchmen of de Gasperi and Scelba could think of was to blame the... calculating machines,

The figures later published disconcerted even those in the know; clearly, Scelba's agents had been over zealous. In their zeal they overlooked the fact that in a number of towns there were more ballot papers than voters, whereas in others the Christian-Democrats were “victorious”, despite positive proof of the dominant influence of the Popular Front. The truth of the matter is that the figures announced by Scelba do not reflect

the true will of the Italian people; these figures were needed by America and Italian reaction in order to give legal sanction to the existing clerical dictatorship in Italy and through this dictatorship to give a free hand to American imperialism. The example of the election proves beyond shadow of doubt that there can be no free elections in countries where the dollar holds sway.

THE ALIGNMENT OF FORCES AFTER THE ELECTIONS

The preliminary results of the election had hardly been announced when international reaction pro-claimed the “victory” of the Christian-Democratic Party. This hullabaloo was designed to stifle the protests and suspicion concerning the genuineness of the results. Trying hard to conceal their disappointment, with simulated enthusiasm the reactionary propagandists are blaring about the defeat of the Popular Front. The reason for this irritation is clear when it is borne in mind that despite the incredibly difficult conditions, the Front, in single combat with the whole of international and internal reaction, polled more than 8 million votes which, unlike the “votes” of the de Gasperi party, are genuine. All hopes of isolating the Left parties from the masses, of smashing the Popular Democratic Front, were nourished by the imperialist camp, came to nought and this, in itself, is a major moral victory for the Front.

Formed only three months ago the Popular Democratic Front stood the test with honour thus displaying its vitality and popularity. The remarkable prestige enjoyed by the Front was apparent during the campaign, a fact which imposed certain restrictions on the election machinations of the Scelba apparatus. Most significant is the fact that the Front polled heavily in the most outlying regions where, prior to the formation of the Front the Left parties did not enjoy any great

influence. Millions of working people in Liguria, Emilia, Apulia and Sicily voted for the Front candidates. Millions of ordinary people, ignoring church threats, the threats of the fascist and Christian-Democrat terrorists and running the risk of being blacklisted by Scelba's police, boldly expressed their confidence in the Front. All the progressive elements of the population voted for the Front. The millions of Front voters constitute the main productive forces of the country, the overwhelming mass of the Italian working class, the active peasants and progressive intelligentsia. This means that the Front remains the main political force in Italy, representing progress, democracy, the national traditions and independence. The election has to a considerable degree simplified the alignment of political forces in Italy. Actually the Popular Front is opposed by a united reactionary bloc in the shape of the Christian-Democratic Party. This party has long since forgotten its progressive programme of the liberation movement period. During the campaign it did not even as much as hint at any social reforms — the “Marshall Plan” was its election address. The complete change in policy by the Christian-Democrats cut the ground from under the former Right parties, and above all, from the liberals and Qualunque, The de Gasperi party is now almost the sole party of the right, it has absorbed all the elements of Italian reaction and fascism and has ceased to play with the “centrist party” conception. The decorative right “opposition” in Parliament will be represented by several Christian-Democratic allies in the Nitti-Giannini bloc and the openly fascist “Social Movement”.

To further the election interests of the Saragat group, the British Labour leaders and Right Socialist of Western Europe launched a smear campaign against the Socialist Party of Italy, slandered its leader Nenni anti Basso with the obvious intention of securing an election victory for the Saragat clique at the expense of the Socialist.

The fiasco of the plan to form an influential anti-Communist party of pseudo-Socialists is obvious and no feigned jubilation

by the Right Socialist leaders in Western Europe about the alleged successes of the “third force” in Italy can hide this.

THE POPULAR DEMOCRATIC FRONT CONTINUES THE STRUGGLE

On the eve of the election the American press wrote that, in effect, the election would be a referendum for or against the “Marshall Plan”. The election showed that the bulk of the active forces of the people, that the more politically active elements of the population of Italy voted against the Marshallization of the country and for the Front's programme for national independence.

The election was an important landmark in the development of the political struggle, but it has not solved the vital issues of the national economy of social relations or the conditions of millions of working people.

Moreover, now that the election is finished, the Christian-Democrat honeymoon with American imperialism is over too. The American imperialists are now calculating the amount paid in subsidising this party and in engineering its “victory” and will unceremoniously present the bill which the Italian people will have to pay...

This raises more sharply than ever before the question of the struggle for Italy's existence as an independent state. De Gasperi has already received the first bill from Italian reaction which spent money lavishly to fabricate the “victory” of his party. Payment is demanded in the form of anti-labour laws, the prohibition of strike, dismissals, etc. More than that, since the Christian-Democrats have been in power the economic situation of the country has further deteriorated and is now on the brink of disaster. Exposing itself in the election as the bastion of the reactionary and anti-national force, the Christian-Democratic Party is unable to lead the country out of the crisis and take it along the path of prosperity and progress.

An important result of the election is the fact that the democratic, creative forces of the country, having rejected the Christian-Democratic Party are now either in the ranks of the Front or are gravitating to the Front. The election has also demonstrated the failure of the attempt to isolate the Front from political life and that any attempt to rule the country without the Front, or in opposition to it is likewise doomed to failure.

To the Christian-Democrat policy of enslaving the working people, of bartering the country to American imperialism, the Popular Front counterposed its clear and concrete programme of rehabilitating the country by mobilising its internal resources, and by a policy of peace and neutrality in relation to other countries.

The first results of the popularisation of this programme during the election campaign testify to its great attractive force and to the greater interest shown by the people in the activity of the Front. Although it is a comparatively recent creation the Front demonstrated its militant organisational qualities, rallied to its ranks the forces of progress and democracy in Italy, and proved its ability to lead the struggle of the working people.

The Popular Democratic Front passed the election test successfully. Confident of its strength it is continuing the struggle for the rights of the working people, for peace and national independence.

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ON THE QUESTION OF ORGANIC UNITY

(Interview with the General Secretary of the Polish Socialist Party, Comrade Cyrankiewicz)

Interviewed by one of the editors of "For a Lasting Peace, for a People's Democracy!" Comrade Cyrankiewicz, General Secretary of the Polish Socialist Party said:

The matter of uniting the labour movement in Poland was regarded both by the Socialist Party and the Workers' Party as the basic aim of the unity agreement reached by the two parties in November, 1946. The initiators of this agreement in both parties were of the opinion that the unification of the labour movement would require time. None of us could predict then just how long a time this would take. We were fully conscious that the advance of the masses towards unity was a matter of political experience for the one and a half million members in the two parties and also of the non-organised workers who supported them. We had also to consider the historic fact that the split in the Polish labour movement, first originated some 50 years ago. We decided that practical activities in the sphere of political unity would be the best school for organisational unity. This being our aim the two parties focussed attention on the question of real and efficient functioning of the united front which ever since the liberation of the country by Soviet and Polish forces constituted the keystone of our political activities.

Our calculations were fully justified. The political changes both at home and on the international arena fully confirmed the soundness of our tactics. Mutual cooperation brought with it a closer ideological rapprochement and helped level out the tactical and political differences. In fact there are no longer any essential differences between the two parties in matters of domestic and foreign policy. Our appreciation of the immediate tasks of the two parties is identical. The same can be said of our attitude in relation to events in the international arena. By way of example I might mention our complete unanimity in appreciating the international situation, our stand with regard to the Marshall Plan and American imperialist expansion, by similar reaction to the recent crisis in Czechoslovakia, the Italian election, etc. The same close rapprochement can be observed also in matters of domestic policy.

At the same time the idea of cooperation has penetrated deeply among the rank and file of the two parties. This was clearly demonstrated at the Socialist Party congress held in Wroclaw last December. As distinct from the previous post-war congresses of our party, the Wroclaw gathering was distinguished by the political unity which prevailed there. The congress unanimously ratified the unity of action agreement, while the debate showed that the united front had become the political base for all Polish Socialists organised in the PSP. For the leadership of the Party the Wroclaw congress was a sign that the party was ripe for the next phase. The leadership of the Workers' Party duly appreciated our attitude. And some months after the Wroclaw congress there was unanimous recognition that the time had come to draw the necessary conclusions from the changes which had taken place in our movement.

Concerning this new phase I stated in a speech on March 17 that we had reached a stage in our development when we could begin to prepare for fusion. Comrade Gomulka Weclaw responded to this declaration on March 20 when he advanced the slogan: "Long live the united front, leading to the fusion of the Workers' and Socialist parties into a single party of the

working class.”

This marked the beginning of the preparations for fusion. Special cooperation committees are functioning at all levels coordinating the political activities of the two bodies.

The results of the unity drive fully confirm the soundness of our political line. The various phases of the process of unifying the labour movement—from cooperation to the agreement on unity of action, from the united front to the moment of preparing for organic unity—facilitated the maturing of the working masses.

We have set ourselves the task of bringing into the united party the precious heritage of the Polish socialist movement and its great traditions of the liberation struggle. We shall base ourselves on the Left trend in our party which, in the course of the struggle against the Rights and the subversive policy of Pilsudski, made a big contribution to socialist thought in Poland. The fusion of the two workers' parties will undoubtedly stimulate the development of Marxist theory in Poland.

We are anxious that every active member of the Socialist Party should come into the united party. We know, of course, that antagonism and lack of good will are still to be found in our ranks and also in the ranks of the Workers' Party. There are fears concerning the future of the members of the two parties. The right atmosphere must be created in order to overcome this psychological resistance. We want the members of both parties to make themselves at home in the new organisation. Just now we are reorganising the party machinery in a way that will make sure that the leadership consists of people fit for their jobs and who understand our present tasks. We are confident, too, that the majority of those members now relinquishing posts to make way for more advanced comrades, will in future make up for lost time and will be able to resume leading posts. We do not want to lose, or drive away, a single honest Socialist, supporter of the united front and a revolutionary.

However, we realise that we have in our ranks elements, not very numerous, it is true, who are alien to a Socialist Party

which takes a revolutionary stand and which is for the united front and unity. It is precisely these elements who artificially create an atmosphere of anxiety, who whisper about liquidation, sow panic and allege that the Socialist Party will be swallowed by the Workers' Party. We are keeping close watch on these people. They are not the genuine Left Socialists who required time to appreciate the situation; these are alien elements, hostile to our ideology and our stand. These are Right elements who infiltrated into our Party in order to undermine it. There will be no place for these people in the united party.

The new, united party must be a monolithic party based on the principle of democratic centralism, ideological unity and organisational discipline. The measures taken by the leaders of the two parties guarantee that the new organisation will be just such a party. We, on our part, are doing our best by means of intensified educational work to strengthen this conviction among our members. In my view a bad service to the cause of unity would be rendered by those who argue that by bypassing the phases of our development we could have accomplished three years ago that which we consider correct only at the present historical moment. Pseudo-left deviations of this nature will be of little help to the cause of unity.

The resolute Left Socialist line of the Socialist Party on domestic issues was accompanied by a similar stand on matters of foreign policy. We waged a consistent struggle for unity on an international scale. We utilised international socialist conferences as a tribune for the struggle for labour unity. Bonds of close cooperation were established with other parties, supporters of the united front, in the countries of the new democracy, and with the Socialist Party of Italy. But, under the pressure of events, a distinct polarisation set in the Socialist camp. The right-wing leadership of the majority of the Socialist parties in the West openly went into the service of international reaction. The Rights in the Socialist Parties have become particularly dangerous. They belong to that part of the

international reactionary camp which has been assigned the job of undermining the working-class camp and which is dividing the labour movement. At the present moment the right-wing of social-democracy constitutes a special detachment of American imperialism whose particular assignment is to attack the labour movement and slander the Soviet Union and the entire peace-loving camp.

The Committee for International Socialist Conferences, after it had been abandoned by the Left Socialist Parties of Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Italy, is but a relic of the Second International of sad memory. It so happens that these parties adhering to the Committee are enthusiastic supporters of the Marshall Plan and are ready to sell to American imperialism all their Socialist, democratic, progressive and national aspirations. These Right Socialist parties have earned for themselves the disgrace of being known as “Marshall Socialists”. The fact that they are proud of their “Marshallization” is perhaps the best testimony of their degeneracy. In fact the Committee for International Socialist Conferences has been transformed into the Marshall International, has become the tool of American imperialism.

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NEW MAY DAY. Arpad Szakasits

For a period of 25 years the Horthy regime prevented the working class of Hungary from celebrating May Day freely. But the revolutionary spirit of the workers remained undimmed. May Day was always celebrated as the militant festival of the working class. Despite the treachery of the right-wing leaders, the Hungarian workers remained revolutionary. The strengthening of this revolutionary spirit was facilitated by the fraternal alliance of the Left Social-Democratic workers with the underground Communist movement. Neither persecution by the Government nor the treachery of the Peier group could crush this alliance. During World War II the idea of unity gained more and more supporters and when liberation came and the glorious Soviet Army restored liberty and independence to the Hungarian people, the two workers' parties were able openly to take the path of fraternal unity. The desire for unification was so intense that neither the intrigues nor machinations of the Right Social-Democrats could undermine it.

May Day this year will be a happy and outstanding holiday. The Left Social-Democratic masses, together with the Communists, will demonstrate their will for unity, for the creation of a new, powerful party of the working people. **May Day will demonstrate not only the workers' solidarity, but also the unity of the entire people of Hungary.**

The working people of Hungary realise that the urge for unity has broken down national boundaries and that the fraternal unity of free peoples is being achieved, a unity of the peoples against the aggressive, imperialist warmongers. They know too of the growing confidence which people everywhere place in that powerful guardian of peace—the great land of socialism, the Soviet Union.

The working class and, indeed, all the people of our country know that it is the Communists and Left Social-Democrats and

not the “Western Socialists” who represent the real revolutionary spirit of May Day. Everyone sees that in Eastern Europe the cause of peace and security is gaining strength and being consolidated, while in the West, confusion, alarm, panic and chaos, prevail.

This year May Day is a particularly outstanding date for the working people of Hungary. They will celebrate it with one of the greatest achievements of Hungarian democracy—the nationalisation of industrial enterprises thus realising our slogan “this is your country, build it up yourselves!” The working masses are aware that filled with tile spirit of unity, and headed by the united working class, they are marching onward to freedom and happiness along a genuine socialist path.

Revolutionary labour enthusiasm has spread throughout the country. The working class, peasants and intelligentsia are working side by side, end their unity is the embodiment of the will of an entire people who are living a happy, free and creative life.

And it is this new situation which will make May Day 1948, a joyous revolutionary holiday for all the people of Hungary.

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**STRENGTHENING THE UNITY OF THE
DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA. R. Slansky**

The people of Czechoslovakia greet May Day, the international festival of all working people under conditions when the people are going all out to strengthen democracy in the country, to accelerate the economic and political development of the Republic towards socialism.

The historic events of February showed that reaction suffered defeat in its direct attack on the people's democratic order. The February events upset the counter-revolutionary plans and accelerated the forward development of our country. Instead of capitalist restoration and bourgeois domination, to which reaction aspired, the people's democracy gained in strength. Not only did reaction fail to change the foreign policy orientation of Czechoslovakia, the Republic further strengthened its links with the USSR and the new democracies. As a result the democratic, anti-imperialist camp has gained new strength.

This victory would have been impossible had not our party enjoyed the wholehearted support of the working class and working people as a whole.

Since the liberation, our people have been through a good school. The peasants, handicraftsmen, shopkeepers and intelligentsia learnt for themselves that only in alliance with the working class could they realise their demands. And in the process of the struggle for their demands, in building up the Republic they became aware of the anti-people's and anti-national activities of the bourgeoisie. This experience led to a rapid maturing of the political understanding of our people. Happenings which many failed to grasp in May 1945 became clear later on. It was necessary that reaction and particularly those elements which had not been too compromised during Munich and the subsequent occupation, should completely reveal themselves to the people.

The three years' experience of building the free, people's democratic republic convinced the workers, peasants and other elements of the working people that they had common interests and needed cooperation and unity.

Reaction was conscious of the significance of this alliance between the working class and the other sections of the people and above all with the peasants. In an effort to “freeze” the consolidation of the people's democracy, reaction, as its main weapon, tried setting the different sections against each other, dividing the people and breaking and undermining the National Front. They planned to discredit the people's democracy, to instigate the people against the Gottwald Government and against the Communist Party as the leading party in the government, to drive a wedge between the people and the Party, and secure its exclusion from the Government. This being their aim reaction spared no efforts to bring about economic catastrophe. They resorted to crafty but dangerous tactics. Simultaneously with sabotage and promoting economic and political difficulties, they engaged in social demagogy; they deliberately advanced impossible demands, designed to cause economic chaos, to induce the discontent of the people. But the Communist Party exposed the designs and activities of reaction. It conducted big political campaigns for progressive, popular legislation and succeeded in depicting reaction in its true colours.

New regulations were introduced into property relations in agriculture; the principle of the agrarian reform “land to the tillers of the soil” was practised with vigour; a just price policy for agricultural products was instituted; a far-reaching plan for agricultural development was worked out. These, and other measures brought home to the peasants the significance of the people's democracy and of the worker-peasant alliance.

Neither did they succeed in influencing to any degree the urban population who did not fail to distinguish between the subversive work of reaction and the constructive labours of the Communist Party. The Communist Party exposed in good time the strategic aims and tactics of reaction, gave a clear lead for overcoming the situation, fought hard to win the majority of the nation and rallied the working people around its policy. In the course of the struggle against reaction and in the process of

building up the Republic, the Communist Party became a mass Party. Ideologically, organisationally and politically the Party was in the strong position of being able to cope with the tasks facing the country.

And if reaction failed to set one part of the working people against the other, it failed completely to split the ranks of the working class. A decisive role in splitting the working class was allocated to the Right Social-Democrats, headed by the ex-Minister, Mayer. The majority secured by the Mayer group at the Brno Congress of the Social-Democratic Party enabled reaction to speculate with this fact during the debate in Parliament and in the Government. In an article in the London journal "Tribune", Vilim, the former secretary of the Social-Democratic Party, showed the role which his Party was to play in preparing the reactionary putsch.

Referring to the Brno Congress he wrote: "It was necessary to remove the undesirable (Left) elements from the leadership of the party. This, incidentally, was achieved by the Brno Congress".

The right wing of the Social-Democratic Party acted as an agency of the British Labour Party with which it maintained contact.

By banking on the splitting activities of the Right Social-Democrats and on the popular discontent that would follow, reaction underestimated the strength of the working class, and the strength of the alliance between the working class and peasants and the other sections of the working people. It underestimated the political consciousness of our people and above all, underestimated the strength of the Communist Party. That is why it found itself in the position of a general without an army when it fought against the people who as one man rose in defence of the people's democracy and the Gottwald Government.

The unity of the working class and peasantry was reflected to the full at the Congress of Works Councils and at the Congress of the Peasant Commissions. The political significance of the

congresses lay not only in the advance of new demands, the granting of which meant another defeat for reaction and deprived it of its economic base, but also in the resolute support accorded by the working class to the peasant demands. At these congresses workers and peasants stood shoulder to shoulder as champions and builders of the people's democracy and as allies. These congresses demonstrated the significance of unity equally for the working class and the peasantry.

As, a result of the exposure and defeat suffered by reaction, the main obstacles against the unity of the people was removed. The logical outcome of this is that today the working class is putting the finishing touch to the process of unification.

The fusion of the Social-Democratic and Communist Parties, which is now planned, is proof of the determination with which the workers are upholding the idea of unity; it testifies to the victory of Marxism-Leninism and it is a condition and guarantee of victory for the people and of rapid development of our country along the path to socialism.

In the course of the past three years the people became convinced of the soundness of Communist Party policy, and saw for themselves that the Communist Party alone consistently fought the enemies of the people's democracy. This made it possible to go ahead with the job of uniting into a single party, for the Social-Democrats and the Communists to join forces. The united party will be, above all, one in ideology. The ideological base of the new party will be the teachings of Marxism-Leninism. During the purge carried out after the February events, the Social-Democratic Party has been ridding itself of the reactionary. Right elements thus paving the way for fusion.

The political unity of the working class is an outstanding victory on our way to socialism. Simultaneously we are consolidating the alliance of the working class with the peasantry and other sections of the people. We will not let anyone weaken and break this alliance. We will extend and

strengthen the unity of the people as a whole under working-class leadership.

The hopes reposed by the imperialists in the success of the anti-people's putsch by Czech and Slovak reaction, or at least on instigating fratricidal strife in the country, were doomed to failure. The victory of the people of Czechoslovakia gives workers in all the capitalist countries renewed confidence in their strength, and also exposes the weakness of the imperialist camp. Reaction failed to enslave and exploit our people, to subordinate our industry to control by American millionaires, failed to hold back the planful and rapid development of our heavy industry, which is facilitating the industrialisation of the other people's democracies.

The February victory and the steady process of unification in our country are the outcome of the severe struggle against the reactionary forces in the course of which our people have grown politically and become stronger. This is the guarantee that our working class, politically united in the Communist Party, and headed by the initiator and organiser of victory over reaction. Klement Gottwald, will be able to lead our people to socialism. (page 3)

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WORKING CLASS IN BUILDING THE NEW YUGOSLAVIA. Djuro Salaj

During three years of peaceful labour the working class of Yugoslavia have given proof of their firm determination speedily to make good the damage caused by the war, to consolidate and extend the gains of the national liberation struggle, and to devote all efforts to strengthening the might and independence of their country.

Economically, Yugoslavia was in a bad way when the war ended. The enemy had destroyed everything. The railways were out of commission; coal mines and iron ore workings were flooded, the factories and enterprises were either destroyed or severely damaged. Much of the factory equipment had been taken away by the Germans during the war and the remainder was smashed up during their retreat. Agricultural machinery and implements suffered a similar fate; draught

animals and other livestock were likewise lost to the country. The administrative and economic organs had to be started from rock bottom.

Under these conditions the working class of Yugoslavia had to grapple with an enormous task—the task of restoring as quickly as possible the shattered economy and then to go ahead with the further development of the country. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, the working class of Yugoslavia, jointly with other sections of the population united in the ranks of the People's Front and carried out this task.

No time was wasted in restoring the transport system. The factories, mills and mines were rebuilt and put into operation. By the end of 1946 the output of coal had reached the pre-war level.

Due to the devoted efforts of the people in rehabilitating their country, the Government, by the end of 1946 was able to draw up the Five-year Plan for national industrialisation and electrification of the country.

Reactionaries abroad and, of course, the remnants of Yugoslav reaction reacted to the news of our Five Year Plan with malicious joy. They foretold disorganisation, ruin and economic chaos for Yugoslavia. But their hand rubbing was short-lived. Despite numerous difficulties, the working class, helped by socialist methods of labour, including labour emulation in the factories actually exceeded the target set for the first year of the Plan. The fulfilment figure for industrial output reached 106 per cent; for the economy as a whole, the figure was 101.7 per cent.

At present 75 per cent of the factory and office workers are engaged in labour emulation. They have pledged themselves to work so as to increase the productivity of labour and improve the quality of production. They also aim at securing economy in fuel and raw materials, and lowering production costs. Last year the productivity of labour per worker showed an increase of 22.59 per cent compared with 1946 and 37.62 per cent compared with 1939 output figures.

Shock work which arose in the course of labour emulation is fast becoming a mass movement. In 1946 only 9000 qualified for this title. A year later the number of shock workers had grown to 70,000. Last year 103,000 rationalisation suggestions many of major, others of minor importance, were submitted by workers. Of these, 85 per cent were found to be practicable. Their application resulted in a considerable saving of money and in raising labour productivity. The application of 613 of these rationalisation measures secured a saving of 226 million dinars.

Although the main aim of the Five-year Plan is the development of heavy industry, as the precursor of light industry, the Communist Party and the people's authorities in Yugoslavia are devoting much attention to matters appertaining to light industry. The increased output of this sector is apparent in the improved conditions of the people. And the workers employed in light industry are sparing no effort to ensure the maximum utilisation of every machine in order to supply the people with consumer goods. The 1947 target for the textile industry, for example, was fulfilled by 112.5 per cent, that for food industry by 117.2 per cent and the leather and rubber goods industry by 111.8 per cent.

At the beginning of this year, the calorie content of the main food ration was raised 4 per cent, that of the supplementary ration by 8 per cent. Moreover, due to the increased output and the lowering of production costs prices on certain manufactured goods were reduced by 20 per cent—a measure which considerably increased the purchasing power of the people. Thanks to the recent Government decree concerning the supplying of goods and the system of linked prices a further improvement in the standard of living has been attained.

The newly inaugurated system of paid holidays is a big factor in the improvement of living standards. Thanks to the care bestowed on the workers by the People's Government last year more than a million workers benefited from paid holidays. Most of them travelled to resorts on the Adriatic coast, or to the

hills where they enjoyed a 20 per cent reduction in the State hotels and restaurants. The total sum paid in 1947 for vacations and hotel and restaurant reductions amounted to two billion dinars.

The social-insurance budget which in 1947 exceeded the sum of 9 billion dinars, the building of new hospitals, sanatoria, clinics and other health offices, the erection of new dwelling houses, the creation of a network of clubs, libraries and physical culture organisations, the introduction of safety measures and hygiene in industry, these taken in the aggregate represent a big improvement in the standard of living in Yugoslavia.

Last year, with the aim of strengthening the alliance of the workers and peasants, the trade unions sent brigades of factory workers to the countryside. The workers helped the peasants restore their farms and engaged in educational and cultural work.

The workers of Yugoslavia are themselves building up the country without depending on the American bankers, and are marching forward confidently along the road to Socialism. They are waging a resolute and relentless struggle against the attempts of reaction to slow down the economic plans.

In close alliance with the peasantry, intelligentsia and the people united in the People's Front of Yugoslavia, the working class, under the leadership of the Communist Party is in the forefront of the struggle to strengthen the democracy and to build socialism. Conscious of their achievements in the political, cultural and economic sphere the working class will spare no efforts to exceed the targets set by the Five-Year Plan. The working class will wage a ruthless struggle against all enemies of the new Yugoslavia, against imperialism and its hirelings in the country, will expose their machinations and clip the wings of all saboteurs and other satraps of reaction. The working people of Yugoslavia are confident that the democratic forces of the world, headed by the great fraternal Soviet Union, will triumph over the forces of imperialism.

STATEMENT ON THE FUSION OF THE COMMUNIST AND SOCIAL- DEMOCRATIC PARTIES OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Communist and Social-Democratic Parties of Czechoslovakia have published a joint statement stating that during the February days the working people of town and country learnt the strength of their unity which saved the republic from reaction. The outcome of this is the spontaneous desire of the working people, and the working class in particular, to unite their forces, thus placing on the order of the day the question of complete political and organisational fusion.

The statement continues that fusion should be effected as soon as possible since this is in keeping with the will of the membership of the two parties, and that it will be officially done after the election. A central unity committee is being formed in preparation for fusion composed of three representatives from each of the parties, as well as similar committees in the different regions and areas. The central unity committee will be responsible for the necessary preliminary directives.

The doctrine of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin will be the common ideological basis for the fusion of the two parties.

VICTORY OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY IN HUNGARY. Matias Rakosi

The past 12 months witnessed a decisive turning point in the development of the people's democracy in Hungary. The democratic forces won a series of victories, while reaction suffered one defeat after another. Taken singly, the resultant changes were not decisive, but in their aggregate they produced profound structural reforms in the political and economic life of the country.

A year ago the struggle was at its height. Hungarian reaction was entrenched in the independent Smallholders' Party, which had a clear majority in Parliament, and in effect dominated the party. Reaction organised a conspiracy against the democratic forces. They banked on isolating the Communists and then, at the opportune moment on excluding them from the administration of the country. This plan was particularly dangerous because the Social-Democratic Party harboured an anti-Communist and anti-Soviet element which actually collaborated with the right wing of the Smallholders' Party.

The exposure and resignation of one of the leaders of the anti-democratic conspiracy in Hungary Prime Minister Nagy, marked a turning point in the struggle against reaction. The conspirators were denounced and the leadership of the Smallholders' Party passed into the hands of the Left elements.

In the elections last August the Communist Party emerged the leading party in the country, while the democratic

coalition polled more than 60 per cent of the vote. However, the fact that the fascist party, hurriedly formed under the leadership of Pfeiffer was able to poll 15 per cent of the vote, revealed the flexibility of reaction which refused to give up power. Only two of the four coalition parties consolidated their positions: the Communist and National-Peasant parties. The Social-Democratic vote declined by 10 per cent, the Smallholders' Party by 67 per cent. The reactionary elements, declaring that the defeat of these parties was due to their participation in the coalition, tried to capture the leadership of the two organisations. The Right Social-Democrats led the attack. They would remain in the coalition only on conditions which actually spelt the removal of the Communists from all responsible administrative posts.

The Communist Party, jointly with the Left Social-Democrats waged an open struggle against the Rights. The decisions of the conference of the nine Communist Parties in Poland greatly contributed to this struggle. In October the Communist Party began a counter-offensive which resulted in the expulsion of the Pfeiffer party from Parliament. This signified not only a change in the relation of forces in Parliament in favour of the left wing, but also the defeat of reaction. The dissolution of the fascist party was immediately followed by the nationalisation of the banks and the setting up of courts comprised of workers only. These two measures increased the influence of the Communist Party and accelerated the purge inside the Social-Democratic Party.

In December an open struggle broke out inside the Social-Democratic Party, which lasted throughout the winter and in March, on the urgent insistence of the lower bodies, the Social-Democratic Party held a congress.

It was only in the course of the internal party discussion that the Social-Democratic workers learned of all the crimes committed by the Rights against democracy. The Social-Democratic workers saw for themselves how correct was the

line of the Communist Party and the irreparable damage that the Rights could cause by a rival struggle between two workers' parties. Quite spontaneously the Social-Democratic Workers urged the formation of a united workers' party. Refusing to wait until the congress would adopt a decision on fusion, they flocked to the Communist Party by the thousand. Simultaneously, peasants and intellectuals began to join our Party en masse. This spontaneous mass movement reached such dimensions that the Central Committee was forced to close admittance into the Party from February 22 to March 15, since it could not guarantee even the most elementary selection.

On March 7 the congress of the Social-Democratic Party authorised the new, Left leadership to enter into negotiations with the Communist Party in the matter of fusion. In its resolution the congress noted that Marxism-Leninism must be the ideological basis of the new united party.

Following the congress, the leadership of the two workers' parties set up mixed political and organisational committees. On June 12 the Communist Party congress will take place and will decide the question of fusion. The Central Committee has resumed recruiting to the Party, which is being joined by thousands, not only by workers and small peasants, but even by medium peasants.

Meanwhile, the Social-Democratic Party is removing the Right elements from Its ranks—between 8,000 to 9,000 have been expelled, already. A thorough purge has been carried out in the Parliamentary fraction where 33 of the 68 deputies have been recalled or expelled from the party. When the fusion of the two workers' parties is accomplished the new party will hold 46 per cent of the seats in Parliament.

The unity of the workers' parties has enabled Hungarian democracy to carry out yet another important measure: at the end of March all enterprises employing upwards of 100 workers were nationalised. Nationalisation was effected without any economic upheavals and with the enthusiastic

approval of the working people.

The democratic forces have consolidated their positions also in the other parties of the government coalition. A number of leaders have been expelled from the National Peasant Party and a Left leadership elected prior to the congress of the party. The same holds true for the Smallholders' Party. Thanks to these measures the democratic coalition is cooperating more closely. Unity of the youth and women's organisations was secured parallel with labour unity. These developments are paving the way for the building up of a new, national democratic body which, in all likelihood will be formed this year.

Only now are the industrial workers becoming really aware of their leading role in industry. The Party slogan "This is your country, build it up for yourself" is taking firm root. The attitude of the workers to labour has changed: never since the liberation have they displayed such discipline and enthusiasm. This is expressed in the rapidly spreading labour emulation which will make it possible to complete the Three-Years' Plan in two and a half years. There has been no deficit during the past 8 months, and the crops are in fine fettle. Food deliveries to the capital are higher than in previous years. Living standards are on the upgrade. Food supplies between now and the new harvest are guaranteed.

The consolidation of democracy has strengthened our international position and has resulted in closer bonds with the neighbouring fraternal peoples. The treaties of mutual assistance signed with neighbouring states and, in the first place, with the mighty Soviet Union, became possible only after Hungarian democracy had defeated reaction and delivered a crushing blow to the agency of the foreign imperialists. The American imperialists who only a year ago planned the expulsion of the Communists from the Hungarian Parliament, have been forced to write off Hungary as a loss.

The working people have seen for themselves that Hungarian democracy is on the right path, that it has achievements to its credit both in economic and political life. Even those doubtful

peasants who at first decided to wait and see, are becoming more and more convinced of the stability and soundness of the present order. The workers and peasant alliance is being consolidated. The democratic sentiments of the peasants find expression not only in their good cultivation of the land but also in the fact that they are sowing a much bigger area than was the case before the war.

True, we have our difficulties. The Communist Party has grown enormously. This growth calls not only for raising the theoretical level of the membership but also for corresponding organisational measures: strict registration, recommendation for new members accepted by the Party, and a period of probationary membership for all applicants. These measures will save the Communist Party from being turned into a huge non-partisan mass organisation and will secure the successful realisation of its tasks as the vanguard of the working people.

We have yet to solve the question of the relations between the church and democracy, and to reorganise the State administration and the ministries in accordance with the needs of people's democracy. At the moment we are busy getting State factories going which will manufacture agricultural machinery; producer cooperatives likewise are being organised in the countryside.

There is plenty to do and there are plenty of difficulties. Not for a moment do we forget the danger that threatens peace and democracy. We are conscious of our strength and of the growing power of the people's democracies. We sympathise wholeheartedly with the Greek fighters for freedom and with the Chinese people. On May 1, when the working people of the world review their forces, the working people of Hungary will again look to their liberator, the Soviet Union and to its great leader, Comrade Stalin. Thanks to the fraternal assistance of the Soviet Union. Hungary, like the other new democracies, is free and is successfully fighting for socialism.

PEOPLE'S CONGRESS OF GERMANY.

Wilhelm Pieck

The setting up of a West German state dominated by the American monopolists, and the Marshall Plan, which aims at turning Germany into a colony, are becoming obstacles in the way to the complete democratisation of Germany. The

imperialist warmongers and the active Nazis in the three Western zones are given a free hand by the military authorities while the democratic forces are faced with all manner of difficulties.

The democratically-minded elements of the German people want a united Germany and peaceful cooperation with the other nations, they want to eliminate the Nazi and imperialist forces and sign a just, democratic peace. These aims constitute the basis of the programme of the People's Congress of Germany movement.

The broad popular movement for a united Germany and a just peace is the answer not only to the plans of the Western Powers to divide Germany. It is also the answer to the utter inability of the bourgeois parties and the Social-Democrats in the Western zones to head the struggle for the democratisation of the country. These parties not only capitulated on all important political issues to the reactionary line of the Western occupation authorities but, by agreeing to a divided Germany and the Marshall Plan, they rejected all and every cooperation with the democratic forces in the Soviet zone and indulged in a smear campaign against the Soviet Union and the Soviet Military Administration. Such is the situation, for instance, in Berlin with its four zones.

It has not been possible to establish a unified representation of the German people, which would look after their interests with the Allied Powers. In the Soviet zone, however, the Social-Democrats and Communists merged in 1946 and formed the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and entered into close working relations with the two bourgeois parties — the Union of Christian-Democrats and the Liberal-Democratic Party. This made it possible to disarm the war criminals and active Nazis both politically and economically. This cooperation was effected by carrying out a land reform and making the big industrial concerns the property of the people.

But the Western Powers regard such measures as a threat to their reactionary plans and, in trying to disrupt the unity of the

democratic camp are bringing over the leaders of the bourgeois parties to their side. In this respect they have had some success with the Christian-Democratic Union, whose chairman Kaizer, on some flimsy pretext or other, renounced cooperation with labour—only to be renounced in turn by his own party.

These circumstances prompted the Socialist Unity Party to suggest that a People's Congress be summoned, attended by representatives from all parts of Germany for the purpose of forming a genuinely national representative body. This suggestion which met with the unanimous approval of the two bourgeois parties and mass organisations in the Soviet zone, was warmly welcomed by the German people. But it came up against the bitter resistance of the occupation authorities, the bourgeois parties and Social-Democrats in the Western zones. Soon slanderous rumours were circulated alleging that the People's Congress was the handiwork of the Soviet Military Administration and a manoeuvre of the Socialist Unity Party which was taking advantage of the trust reposed in it by the bourgeois parties for narrow party interests.

Since a delegation had to be chosen quickly to enable it to be present at the London Conference of Foreign Ministers, which discussed the German question, the People's Congress was convened in great haste. It opened in Berlin on December 6, 1947 after ten days' preparatory work. Despite the obstacles put in their way, 512 delegates were present from the Western zone. Some 2,215 delegates attended the congress including 605 representatives from the Socialist Unity Party and 244 from the Communist Party of the Western zones, that is, 38 per cent of the total number. The two bourgeois parties and social-democracy were represented by 563 delegates, that is, by 25 per cent of the total. There were also many non-partisan representatives from the sphere of Science, art and the Church. The Congress unanimously called for the unity and democratisation of Germany, a just peace and a purge of war criminals and active Nazis.

The Congress elected a delegation to represent the interests of

the German people at the London Conference of Foreign Ministers. A suggestion by the Soviet Foreign Minister that the delegation be heard was rejected by the Foreign Ministers of the Western Powers. A permanent committee, representing all parties and organisations, was elected to continue the work of the People's Congress.

The Western Powers broke up the London Conference since they were determined to divide Germany by settling up a Western German state. Earlier this year they held a conference in Frankfurt-on-Maine at which representatives of the political parties from the three Western zones were present. This conference approved the creation of a Western Germany with its de facto government and economic council as parliament. This unprecedented decision, which was tantamount to treason and gave the Western Powers a free hand to split Germany, forced the Permanent Committee to convene a second meeting of the People's Congress. The Committee called upon the German people to express their opinion, about the unity of Germany by means of a referendum. The second session was timed with the centenary of the 1848 Revolution for the purpose of drawing the necessary lessons of the unsuccessful revolution for the present. Once again a flood of slander was let loose against the Congress. What's more, the British commander, General Robertson, saw fit to heap insults on the Socialist Unity Party.

The second session of the Congress, held in Berlin on March 17-18 was also a great success. Of the 1,982 delegates present, 512 represented Western Germany. There were 360 delegates from the Socialist Unity Party and 144 from the Communist Party of the Western zones, that is, 25 per cent of the total number of delegates. The bourgeois parties and social-democracy sent 515 representatives, that is, 26 per cent of the total number. A considerable number of the delegates came from mass organisations and non-partisan bodies. So that all the talk by the reactionaries alleging that the Congress was a Socialist Unity Party affair is disproved by the above figures.

This time, too, the Congress decisions were adopted unanimously. Between May 23 and June 13 signatures will be collected throughout the country demanding a referendum on the question of Germany's unity. The need for a referendum will disappear should the supreme government authorities decide on German unity. According to Potsdam, the commanders-in-chief of the four occupation zones and the Control Council are the supreme government authorities. They must either decide on a united democratic republic or allow a referendum to be held on this matter. This is a matter of granting every adult citizen the elementary democratic right to refer his legitimate demand to the occupation authorities. It is hardly to be expected that this, right will be denied and the collection of signatures forbidden. A popular movement insisting on this right and these demands is already underway. Taking into account its increased functions and tasks the Congress has elected a German People's Council of 400, headed by a presidium. The task of the People's Council is to hold a plebiscite on the question of German unity and to take all measures to achieve this unity and a just peace. The People's Council has formed a number of sub-committees for the peace treaty, the constitution, economy, etc., which will submit their corresponding proposals to the sessions of the People's Council and Congress.

The decisions of the Congress are meeting with an eager response from the German people. This is obvious from the intensified slander campaign against the Congress launched by the Western occupation authorities and the fact that the Schumacher crowd have entered the services of these authorities. But irrespective of the measures taken by the occupation authorities to divide Germany, and no matter how they try to put them into effect, the People's Congress will fight with increasing vigour for the unity of Germany and to foil the plans of the imperialist warmongers.

STRENGTHENING THE ALLIANCE OF THE WORKING CLASS AND THE PEASANTRY. Anna Pauker

The results of the recent general election in Rumania show that the working class of Rumania has won yet another decisive victory in the struggle to strengthen the alliance with the peasantry.

For the Communist Party of Rumania the struggle to strengthen the alliance between the working class and the peasantry was the main plank of its policy.

After the Soviet Army liberated Rumania from German fascism, the Communist Party headed the struggle of the working people to establish a people's democratic order, which could be accomplished only in a close alliance between workers and peasants, and which in itself is an expression of this alliance.

Despite opposition on the part of the governments in power between August 23, 1944 and March 6, 1945, governments composed in the main of reactionaries, the urban workers headed by the Communists, helped the small and landless

peasants to confiscate and distribute the landed estates. The agrarian reform, carried out on the initiative of the Communist Party immediately after the establishment of the democratic order, laid the material and political foundations for a solid alliance of the working class and the peasantry.

The struggle for the agrarian reform played a big role in the development of the new type of peasant organisation known as the "Ploughman's Front", and which has a tradition of joint action with the workers. The peasants supported the working class, despite the weakness of our scattered and dislocated industry, which was not in a position to fully satisfy the demands of the countryside for agricultural implements and manufactured goods. Even so, the peasants felt the tangible assistance of the working class. Thousands of workers went to the countryside during the sowing campaigns, taking with them new agricultural implements for the peasants and repairing the old ones. They also carried on extensive political and educational work among the peasants.

Thanks to the firm alliance of the working class and peasantry the dire consequences of two successive years of drought did not demoralise the working class and did not bring the Rumanian people to their knees as the American imperialists had hoped. During the drought years the Soviet Union helped us with grain supplies.

Responding to the call of the Communist Party the working class, rallied all the patriotic forces to help the famine-stricken regions. Apart from the assistance rendered by the Soviet Union, the sum of 14 billion lei was collected in the country, while the people of Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Hungary displayed their solidarity by sending provisions, clothing, medical supplies, building material and about, 9 million kilograms of grain. Over 2,000 public dining rooms were opened which fed over 250,000 people. Nearly 60,000 children were evacuated from the famine-stricken regions and thus saved from death.

On the initiative of the Communist Party the Government

annulled the agreement on land sales by the peasant in the drought-stricken regions and returned the land, bought up by speculators, to their former owners.

The successful realisation of the Party's proposals for economic recovery and currency stabilisation, last year's satisfactory harvest and the increased industrial output enable the Government to take measures to improve the conditions of the peasantry. Taxes were reduced for the small peasants; they were granted credits for the purchase of livestock; seed is sold at a low price; the volume of manufactured goods for the countryside, sold through the cooperatives has increased. The 1948 programme for the iron and steel industry provides for a considerable increase in the output of agricultural implements. The output of ploughs will increase by 338 per cent and that of tractors nearly 2 ½ times.

Together with strengthening the material foundation of the workers' and peasants alliance, the Communist Party is conducting a campaign to consolidate the organisational and political base of this alliance. The working class, which has created its united party, is viewed by the peasantry as a strong and firm organisation, with a Marxist-Leninist ideology. The Party is now in a position to send considerably more people to organise the peasantry. Now that the Right Social-Democrats have been expelled from the Party and isolated the capitalist elements in the countryside have lost their base of support. And this, in turn, has undermined their positions in the Ploughman's Front. The Ploughman's Front has grown politically and organisationally, and its relations with the Rumanian Workers' Party are on a sound foundation.

In a statement published in January, soon after the decision was taken to realise the organisational and political unity of the working class, the leadership of the Ploughman's Front declared that it regards itself as the "organisation of land workers, agricultural labourers, small peasants— of all tillers of the soil."

The statement likewise stresses that the alliance between the

peasantry and the working class remains the keystone of the programme of the Ploughman's Front. The Front regards the Rumanian Workers' Party as its greatest ally, as the vanguard unit in the struggle of the people of Rumania for peace, for a people's democracy and the wellbeing of the nation.

This attitude to the working class and its vanguard has transformed the Ploughman's Front into a peasant organisation of a new type. The friendly relations between the Workers' Party and the Ploughman's Front constitutes a major factor in strengthening the alliance between the working class and the peasantry, an alliance that forms the basis of cooperation between all the genuine democratic and patriotic forces of our people.

Since the Hungarian population in Rumania consists mainly of peasants, close cooperation in the People's Democratic Front between the Rumanian Workers' Party and Hungarian People's Union, as well as the support given this organisation by our Party, is of particular importance in consolidating the alliance of the working class and the peasantry.

The Rumanian Workers' Party has branches in practically every village in the country. Party schools for rural functionaries have been opened in 59 regions and more than 5,000 members have taken courses in these schools during the past three months. Most of the 358,000 propagandists who took an active part in the election campaign, worked in the countryside.

The democratisation of the State apparatus and the army greatly contributed to the consolidation of the alliance of the workers and peasants. The peasants have seen for themselves that militant unity with the urban workers has given them the opportunity to take part, to an ever greater extent, in State administration through the medium of their rural committees, people's assessors and the large number of peasant deputies in the National Assembly.

Among the Government officials in the countryside there are, it is true, concealed reactionaries and bureaucrats who try to misrepresent and smear the policy of the people's democracy.

The new local administration, based on people's councils, as provided by the new Constitution, will draw the peasant masses into the work of governing the country and will facilitate the weeding out of alien elements from the state organs.

With the knowledge that the working people are at the helm of the State, the peasants are displaying unprecedented interest in social life and in matters pertaining to State administration. In town and countryside alike, our Party has succeeded in evoking labour enthusiasm among the popular masses. Responding to the call of the Party, the youth League, the Democratic Women's Union and other organisations, thousands of peasants have volunteered for work at construction sites throughout the country. Voluntary work has aroused the labour initiative of the peasants. Last year peasants erected dams totalling 100 kilometres in length dug over 50 kilometres of canals, 3,000 wells, they built and repaired more than 3,000 bridges, built thousands of kilometres of roads, hundreds of schools, public baths and first-aid centres.

The formation of a united women's organisation, the Democratic Women's Union, led to increased participation by peasant women in political life. The local branches of the Union have classes for teaching peasant women to read and write; they are organising consultation centres, maternity homes and special milk centres for children.

The Workers' Party has set itself the task of extending its influence among the peasant women.

The pre-election campaign, which was a test for our Party and its work among the peasants, resulted in a considerable strengthening of the contacts of the working class and its Party with the peasant masses. The peasants see in the proletariat and its Party a genuine and loyal leader in the struggle for the complete elimination of poverty and ignorance.

The new Constitution provides for closer unity between the

working class and peasantry. The Constitution confirms the agrarian reform when it declares that “the land belongs to those who cultivate it.” It puts an end to economic power of the landlords. And it will secure the further flourishing of our agriculture and of the peasants’ wellbeing.

The policy of the Workers' Party and the Government in relation to the peasants is to defend the land workers from the exploitation to which they are still subjected by capitalist elements in town and countryside.

By reinforcing the material and political foundation of the alliance between workers and peasants, by boldly and resolutely tackling the shortcomings in our work in the countryside, and by drawing more and more people into rehabilitation work and into State administration, the Workers' Party will guarantee rapid progress for the People's Republic and the welfare of the working people of town and countryside.

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THE SITUATION IN JAPAN. I. Krainich

The situation in Japan today is extremely complex and strained. The tasks raised by the Potsdam Declaration regarding the demilitarisation and democratisation of Japan have not been carried out. Under American occupation the country has become a market for Wall Street businessmen with the result that US capital is actively absorbing Japan's economy.

1.

Encouraged by the occupation authorities, reaction is insolently rearing its head. It has started an open anti-Communist campaign and once again, as under the militarist regime, the Communist Party is being hounded and Communists thrown into jail.

During the election campaign last year the authorities, reactionary parties and Right Socialists launched a smear campaign against the Communist Party of Japan. The Government passed a reactionary electoral law regarding the "medium electoral districts" which was greatly to the disadvantage of the Communist Party. The police and pro-fascist terror gangs were used in the struggle against the Communists.

MacArthur's headquarters, too, took a hand in securing the success of the reactionary parties. General MacArthur and other US representatives missed no opportunity to slander the leaders of the Communist Party, Left trade unions and Peasant Union, provocatively accusing them of "extremist" activities.

But reaction failed to exclude the Communist Party from the political arena. Despite the heavy odds with which the Communist Party had to contend in the course of the election, it polled a million votes in the election to the Lower Chamber and approximately the same number in the election to the Upper Chamber.

Despite the increasing difficulties, the Communist Party is fighting consistently for fundamental democratic, political and economic reforms.

The economy of the country is in chaos. There has been no reconversion of industry, a great part of which is idle. This, of course, is a disastrous state of affairs for the people. Unemployment has reached enormous figures. The working people are bearing the full brunt of rampant inflation, the food shortage and high prices. And this, naturally, is giving rise to discontent with the policy of the Government.

2.

The anti-people's policy of Japanese reaction, which has the support of the Americans, has resulted in a widespread protest movement in which many trade unions and other democratic organisations are taking part. Recent months have witnessed a wave of strikes in all parts of the country. When a general strike threatened, MacArthur, fearing "social consequences" took all measures to prevent the strike.

The trade unions have become a formidable force. A pre-war membership of 450,000 has increased to 6 million. This figure speaks of the desire of the Japanese working class to be organised, to defend its interests and take part in the democratic reconstruction of the country.

Not only the working class but also other sections of the population are rallying around the leading democratic force—the Communist Party. The Communist Party has the support of the Japanese Congress of Industrial Unions, which has a membership of close on 2 million. The influence of the communist Party has spread to the independent trade unions and to some of the trade unions belonging to the reformist Japanese Federation of Labour. Also a number of public organisations, uniting the representatives of the progressive intelligentsia, have rallied around the Communist Party. In all these organisations the Communists are cooperating with the Left Socialists and other democratic elements.

At the convention of the Congress of Industrial Unions, held last November, mostly Communists were elected to its executive organs.

Twenty-five of the 49 members of the new Executive Committee are Communists, and of the 19 members of the Presidium of the Executive Committee, 11 are Communists.

The Communists in the trade unions are waging a stubborn struggle for the unity of the labour movement, for the unification of all trade unions into a national organisation. The CIO convention centred its attention on the struggle for unity. Despite machinations by splitters the convention called upon the reformist Japanese Federation of Labour and the independent trade unions to form a united working-class front.

In the countryside where the survivals of feudalism are still strong, and where the reactionary parties still yield considerable influence, the Communist Party is relying on the Peasant Union which unites 1,200,000 tenant farmers, small and landless peasants.

To this day the Japanese peasant is economically and politically dependent on the landlord, kulak and Government official. The agrarian reform has proved to be nothing but a myth. The so-called land law, adopted by the Japanese Government in 1946 and approved by General MacArthur, in no way solves the acute agrarian problem. If anything, it is to the advantage of the landlord rather than that of the peasant. However, even this "law" is not being carried out.

The peasant movement is gaining ground. As yet many peasant actions are of a spontaneous character and are often utilised by reaction against the working class. But the peasants are beginning to take a more active and organised part in the struggle for their rights and interests, and are demanding a progressive land reform and the abolition of landlord domination.

The situation in Japan shows that the anti-Communist policy pursued by the reactionaries and the Right Socialists with the ardent support of the MacArthur staff, is suffering a fiasco. The Government, headed by the Socialists and pursuing an anti-Communist policy, was a dismal failure and was compelled to resign in February, 1948. Similar political bankruptcy was in evidence at the Socialist congress in January this year.

The Communist Party sought, by criticising the Katayama cabinet, to compel the Socialists to honour their election pledges. But this the Katayama Government refused to do.

When it became clear that the Right Socialists were becoming more and more involved in collaboration with reaction and American imperialism, the Communist Party called for the resignation of the Cabinet.

But nothing could teach the Right Socialists. They continued their collaboration with the reactionary parties, their cringing before foreign capital and betrayed the interests of their people. In these circumstances the Communist Party, continuing to expose the treachery of the right-wing Socialists, calls upon all progressive elements to form a national democratic front.

3.

The February meeting of the Central Committee of the Party discussed the situation in the country and appealed to the people of Japan to fight for a national democratic front and for national independence.

The “Peace, Democracy and National Independence” manifesto issued by the Party at the beginning of April called upon the people to rally for the struggle for a democratic organisation of the country, for national independence and for world peace.

These tasks were recently outlined in detail by the Secretary of the Party, Comrade Nasaka: “The problems confronting Japan are: how to restore the national economy, how to secure complete independence and how to stabilise the living conditions of the people. Two political lines are advanced for a solution of these problems. There is the solution advocated by the Liberal, Democratic and Socialist parties. The keystone of their policy is to attract capital and in this way regulate domestic problems. This is the policy of the present Yoshida Cabinet which represents the interests of big capital...

“The other way, the way of the Communist Party, foresees the rehabilitation of the country by means of internal resources. This way provides for the mobilisation and utilisation of the entire national resources and would rely on foreign aid only for

supplementary purposes.

“The question may be asked: have We the necessary means for self-rehabilitation?

“To this there is but one definite answer: yes, we have the means.”

By rousing the masses against Japanese reaction, by denouncing its “revenge” aspirations and exposing the pseudo-democratic policy of the reactionary parties, the treacherous role of the Right Socialists and the anti-people's Government policy, supported by MacArthur, the Communist Party will lead the people in the struggle for their vital interests, for genuine demilitarisation and democratisation of Japan, and for turning her into a peace-loving country.

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GROWING INFLUENCE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF FRANCE

Recent elections in a number of towns In France showed an increased vote for the Communist Party.

For example, in Epernay(the Marne Department), where there is a big middle class population, the Communists headed the poll with 844 votes more than last October; altogether the Communists polled 3,722 votes, that is 37.4 per cent of the total compared to 2,878 votes, that is 30.8 per cent received by them in 1947.

The voting in other departments brought similar success to the Communist Party. In the Nord department two Communist candidates elected to the municipal council secured 75 per cent

of the votes. In one of the Pas-de-Calais communes the Communist list polled 81 per cent of the votes. At the election of a councillor in the Creuse department a Communist candidate replaced a Socialist and in the second round got 47.3 per cent of the votes against 38.8 per cent in the first round.

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CHINESE PEOPLE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. Li- shun

SUCCESSSES OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT

The main brunt of the anti-Japanese war in China was borne by the armed forces organised in the process of the national-liberation struggle. Throughout the entire course of the war the 8th People's Revolutionary Army and the New 4th Army tied down 65 per cent of the Japanese troops in Inner China whereas the Kuomintang troops engaged only 35 per cent. Even while the war was on, the pro-Japanese and capitulation elements of the Chinese bourgeoisie and landlords, headed by the reactionary Kuomintang clique, switched over to the

struggle against the national-liberation movement, using for the purpose reserves, armed and equipped by the United States.

After the war the Kuomintang took advantage of the complex political situation in the country to strike, at the democratic movement. Availing themselves of the material and financial assistance offered by the American imperialists, the Kuomintang clique dispatched over 2 million regular troops to the fronts of the civil war.

In exceptionally difficult military and political conditions, the democratic authorities in the liberated areas were able to mobilise the people of China to repel the troops of Chiang Kaishek. Between June 1946 and June 1947 the People's Liberation Army repulsed the offensive of the 7 million strong Kuomintang army (including regular and irregular units), and compelled it to relinquish offensive operations. Launching a general offensive in July 1947, the People's Liberation Army foiled the plans of the Kuomintang command who had hoped to subjugate the liberated areas.

Between July 1946 and November 1947, that is, over a period of 17 months, the People's Liberation Army smashed Kuomintang forces to the number of 1,690,000 men. Of these forces, which included regular and irregular troops, 640,000 were killed or wounded and over 1,000,000 taken prisoner.

The smashing victories won by the People's Liberation Army changed the military and political situation in the country in favour of the democratic camp headed by the Communist Party of China. The Kuomintang Government miscalculated when they assumed that with the help of the Americans they would strangle the people's movement in no time. Quite the contrary, the people's movement gained considerable ground in the course of the 1947 operations and new territories were added to the liberated areas. At the beginning of 1945 the population of the liberated areas exceeded a little more than 100 million whereas by June 30, 1947 the figure was 131 million.

By January 1948, thanks to successful operations by the People's Liberation Army, the liberated areas covered

2,390,000 square kilometres with a population of 168 million.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY IN THE LIBERATED AREAS

The explanation for the victories won by the People's Liberation Army is found in the wide popular support of the patriotic and just war against reaction and its US patrons. The morale, military prowess and political qualities of the People's Liberation Army have increased and developed in the course of the war and likewise the political consciousness of the Chinese people who see for themselves that the democratic government in the liberated areas is fighting for new social relations quite different from those existing in Kuomintang China.

The national-liberation movement, headed by the Communist Party of China, has set itself the political task of uniting the workers, peasants, soldiers, intelligentsia, trading elements, democratic parties and organisations and the national minorities in China into a national front to eliminate the one-party dictatorship of the Kuomintang and replace it with a democratic coalition government.

The united national front in China is growing and spreading. It has strengthened its ranks and gained in popularity as a result of the victories of the People's Liberation Army and democratic achievements in the liberated areas.

The economic platform of the national front calls for the expropriation of the feudal estates and the handing over of the land to the peasants; the confiscation of monopoly capital in the hands of Chiang Kaishek, Sun Tsi-wan, Kun Siang-si and Chen Li-fu, this capital to be placed under the control of the new democratic state, protection of the national industry and trade and guaranteeing the interests of the small and medium industrialists and merchants.

Far-reaching democratic reforms are being carried out in the liberated territories on the basis of this political and economic post-war programme. Power has been placed in the hands of

the people, democratic organs are elected by secret ballot. These changes have opened up a new way of life which differs fundamentally from life in Kuomintang China.

The democratic authorities in liberated China are promoting the all-round development of industry, of State, cooperative and private enterprise. They have helped the peasants to bring new land under cultivation; they have built new factories and mills, have secured increased output of industrial and agricultural products and have abolished profiteering.

An outstanding event in the life of the country, and especially in the life of the peasantry, is the agrarian reform. Seventy-eighty per cent of all the land in China belongs to landlords and wealthy farmers, who number from 8 to 10 per cent of the rural population, while the overwhelming mass of the peasantry, that is over 90 per cent of the rural population, own a mere 20 to 30 per cent of the land.

In the liberated areas the peasants who for generations had been starved of land and weighed down by the burden of medieval land rents and the exorbitant interest paid to usurers, have received land which they are now cultivating.

Last September, a National Peasant Conference adopted a detailed agrarian Programme which had been In the liberated areas the peasants who for generations had been starved of land and weighed down by the burden of medieval land rents and the exorbitant interest paid to usurers, have received land which they are now cultivating.

Last September, a National Peasant Conference adopted a detailed agrarian programme which had been discussed and approved at peasant conferences throughout the liberated territories. The keynote of these conferences was the determination of the peasants to destroy the last remnants of the semi-feudal system of land tenure and to take the necessary organisational measures to realise this task. The land reform programme met with the unanimous approval of the peasant masses, brought them into political activity and added to the prestige of the democratic organs of power.

According to this programme the feudal and semi-feudal agrarian system of exploitation is abolished and the principle: “the land belongs to those who till it,” proclaimed. The landlords, temples and monasteries are deprived of the right to the land. All peasant debts incurred prior to the peasant reform are annulled. The agrarian reform is being carried out by peasant committees elected at peasant meetings. All landed and public estates are handed over to these committees and, together with other land, is equally divided among the village population regardless of sex and age. The peasant committees also take possession of the livestock, agricultural implements, stocks of grain, buildings and other property of the landlords. The peasant committees also expropriate the superfluous livestock, agricultural implements, grain, buildings and other property of the kulaks. All this property is distributed among the non-propertied peasants and poorer sections of the population. The property handed over to each household becomes the personal property of the householder. The landlords and their families are allocated land and property on equal terms with the peasants.

During 1947 the agrarian reform gave land to 60 million landless peasants and peasants with small plots. In Manchuria, where the People's Liberation Army controls more than 95 per cent of the territory with a population exceeding 30 million, over 50 million mows of land (1 mow equals 1/6th of an acre) were distributed among 6 million peasants.

The agrarian reform is changing the social face of the Chinese countryside, is liberating it from ruin, poverty and starvation, and is inspiring the peasantry to fight the oppression of the landlords.

AGAINST AMERICAN INTERVENTION

The American programme for enslaving China, which provides for large-scale military— strategic construction in the country and for economic and ideological expansion, is expressed in

the post—war unequal treaties and agreements signed between the US and China. These treaties reduce China to the position of an American colony.

American “aid” is being used for dangerous domestic political ventures and for ventures in the sphere of foreign policy. The 5,000 million dollars received by the Kuomintang only recently were spent in building up the reactionary forces and in aggravating the civil war in the country.

However, American policy in China is coming up against insurmountable obstacles. The Kuomintang program of general mobilisation for the suppression of the liberation movement is proving a failure; compulsory recruitment to the army is yielding little success; the Kuomintang armies are suffering defeat; the desertion of Kuomintang soldiers and officers is a daily event; within the Kuomintang itself there is a growing opposition to the policy of civil war and subordination to American capital.

The economic and political situation in Kuomintang China is steadily deteriorating. The State apparatus, staffed with corrupt officials, is rotten to the core. Bribery has reached colossal dimensions, the ruin of the people is catastrophic.

The democratic camp, headed by the Communist Party, is gaining in strength and confidence. The Communist Party in China is now a powerful organisation capable of handling the complicated political problems of post-war China. Its numerical growth from 50,000 in 1926 to 1,200,000 in 1945, and to 2,700,000 at the present time speaks of the remarkable prestige it enjoys among the people.

Overcoming all difficulties, the Communist Party is confidently leading the 450,000 million Chinese people along the path of building a democratic and independent country.

THE PEOPLE OF KOREA FIGHTING FOR A UNITED INDEPENDENT STATE

Opposition to the elections in Southern Korea, fixed by the American military authorities for May 10 is spreading throughout the country. Political parties and public organisations in Northern Korea have called upon all organisations opposed to separate elections to send delegates to a special congress opposing the partition of Korea.

“A grave threat hangs over our country”, says the message. “Under cover of the UNO Commission, without the participation of the Korean people and flouting our opinion and interests, the American military authorities intend to hold fake elections with the aim of forming a government composed of reactionary and pro-Japanese elements working in the interests of the US”. The message urges the need for a democratic general election after the foreign troops are withdrawn from the country.

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CONGRESS OF CULTURAL WORKERS IN PRAGUE

Some 1,800 delegates were present at the recent Congress of Cultural Workers in Prague. The congress was no less important than the work councils and peasant commission congresses held earlier. In fact the three congresses mark a new phase in the development of people's democracy in Czechoslovakia.

Among the speakers of the congress were Prime-Minister Gottwald, members of the Government, Z. Nejedly and Kopecky, Professors Stoll and Mukarzowsky and the Chairman of the congress, the author Drda.

Prime-Minister Gottwald stressed that now, in the people's democracy, the intelligentsia no longer serve capitalism, but the people. They are the masters of the country together with the workers, peasants, handicraftsmen and traders.

The congress resolution contains several suggestions including the establishment of state art and science councils, the reorganisation of the Academy of Science into an active research centre, a people's art gallery, the nationalisation of several theatres, compulsory study of the Czech language in Slovak schools and the Slovak language in Czech schools.

“Our culture must help the rapprochement of our people with other Slav peoples and with all democratic and progressive forces of the world; it must be a serious force in combating the warmongers,” says the resolution.

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STRIKE MOVEMENT IN THE US

The strike movement and the struggle against the anti-labour Taft-Hartley law is gaining momentum in the US. Although the strike of 400,000 miners ended in an agreement providing pensions for aged miners, the chairman of the United Mine Workers union was fined 20,000 dollars and the union 1,400,000 dollars. Seventy five thousand miners immediately struck work in protest against this verdict. A number of the big trade unions now negotiating new agreements or demanding increased wages, have given warning that failure to comply with the workers' demands will result in strike action.

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THE GREEK PEOPLE FIGHT ANGLO-AMERICAN INTERVENTION

For close on eight years now the freedom-loving people of Greece have been defending their independence and freedom against foreign imperialists. The first invaders were the Italian-German fascists. Some 700,000 Greeks lost their lives fighting the occupation forces. Afterwards when the People's Army — ELAS — following the entry of Soviet troops into the Balkans, had liberated the country from the Germans, the monarchist-fascist clique was imposed on the people of Greece by British arms. And again the people of Greece had to take up arms in defence of their freedom. British policy in Greece suffered a fiasco as a result of the operations of the democratic army. But Truman and Marshall hastened to replace Attlee and Bevin, with the result that the past 12 months of Truman “aid to Greece” have been 12 months of economic chaos and rampant terror.

In January the “New York Herald Tribune” wrote that Greece and Turkey were chosen, in all probability not so much because they needed aid but because they are strategic gates leading to the Black Sea. This is proved by the dally provocations of the monarchist-fascists against the people's republics—Greece's neighbours.

During the three years that have passed since the Hitlerites were driven out of the country Britain and the United States have appropriated more than one and a half billion dollars, ostensibly “for the Greek people”, but actually for the monarchist-fascists. What are the results of this “economic aid”? The New Statesman wrote in January that Greece was the only country in the Balkans and in Europe where there were no signs of construction. The journal wrote that there was

incredible starvation in the country, that there was not a trace left of the 400 million dollar UNRRA aid or of the 528 million dollars granted by Britain. (After this the Truman Doctrine earmarked 300 million dollars. followed by a supplementary 200 million dollars. while the Marshall Plan allocated another 230 million dollars).

However, this aid will not save the Sophoulis-Tsaldaris Cabinet from de feat just as it did not save the preceding 13 cabinets of Anglo-American puppets. The monarchist fascists are losing because they are bartering the country to the imperialists and are upholding a reign of terror and starvation. Sixty to seventy thousand democrats are languishing in jails and concentration camps, 1,420 patriots, including 150 ELAS men have been shot by court martial and some 10,000 have been murdered.

The Sophoulis-Tsaldaris Government dispatched punitive expeditions to different parts of the country only to meet with defeat, while the democratic army emerged from each operation more tempered and numerically stronger. During the 12 months between April 1947 and April 1948 the monarchist-fascist army lost no less than 25.000 killed, wounded and prisoners. The partisans brought down 25 enemy planes and damaged another 75, despite the complete absence of partisan aircraft.

A series of partisan raids on Florina, Edessa, Nausa, Komotini Ksanti, Githion, Egion, Kalamata, Grevena, Kilkis, Metsovo, Almiros, Sparta, etc., the shelling of Salonika and the fighting in Athens during February threw the monarchist-fascists into a panic.

The war of liberation waged by the democratic army is today the principal form of the people's struggle and the dominating factor in the internal life of Greece. The struggle for independence and democracy is being carried on under the slogan of "All to arms, all for victory!"

All forms of the mass movement are subordinate to this struggle. The Communists and other democrats are working in difficult conditions of terror and daily shootings in the cities

which the monarchist-fascists are trying to convert into concentration camps. The Communist Party newspaper "Rizospastis" and other popular newspapers and leaflets are issued illegally and the "Free Greece" broadcasts are widely circulated.

The American imperialists and their monarchist-fascist servants have failed to sidetrack the bulk of the Greek people from the correct path of the people's democracy. Growing popular resistance and the successes of the democratic army helped to form the Provisional democratic government last year, which is now guiding the liberation struggle. The new people's power in the form of people's councils, people's courts and other bodies, is taking root on the liberated territory. The people are doing everything to help their government and democratic army.

The operations of the democratic army have reduced the camp of reaction to a state of perpetual crisis. "The Athens Government could hardly remain in power for 24 hours without the support of the Americans," wrote the French paper "Tribune de Nacion".

There is again talk in Athens about the need of infusing "new blood" into the Sophoulis-Tsaldaris Cabinet, about its possible replacement. In the meantime preparations are being made to establish a new military dictatorship without the "democratic" mantle.

The American missions now flooding the country have taken control of her economy, brought 150,000 tons of military equipment for their puppets and then taken over leadership of the monarchist-fascist army. They are now building military aerodromes and are steadily pushing their vassals into new military ventures. The Americans have armed up to 250,000 men (the army, gendarmerie, "National Guard", gangsters). But there is one article that the Wall Street missionaries cannot supply to Sophoulis, Tsaldaris and their ilk, and that is morale. Cases of soldiers of the Athens army joining the democrats are increasing. In the Peloponnesus, a onetime bastion of reaction, one of the two battalions routed in March took part in the

fighting against the monarchist-fascists the very next day. The capitalist press has much to say about the “Greek miracle”. The “miracle” of the Greek people lies in the fact that they love their country, their glorious traditions and freedom. They don't want their beautiful country to be ruled by insolent American gangsters and corrupt pseudo-patriots in Athens. They want to build their life, their future on a new progressive, people's democratic foundation. This is the key to their great moral strength which fears no sacrifice. And that the people have been educated in this spirit is to the credit of the Communist Party of Greece.

The people of Greece believe in the justice of their cause a cause which fights imperialism and champions peace and the friendship of peoples. They are deeply grateful for the aid and solidarity displayed by other nations, for this aid is a contribution to universal peace and progress.

P.R.

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THE STRUGGLE FOR THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF FRANCE. Pierre Hentgés

A year ago, on May 1, 1947, the Right Socialist, Ramadier, obeying the orders of the American imperialists got ready to exclude the Communists from the Government. Since then Ramadier and his successor, Schuman, have been pursuing with increasing cynicism a policy that runs directly counter to the interests of the people.

The Government of Schuman-Mayer-Moch supported by de Gaulle vied with him in their servility before the American plutocrats and in their hatred of Communism, and have hitched France to the policy of the imperialist camp, a policy leading to war. They adhered to the Marshall Plan thus betraying the national independence of their country, signed the Brussels military treaty, and went so far as to join forces with the former enemies of France—the capitalists and imperialists of Western Germany.

The economic policy of this government is allowing the American monopolies to ruin the industry, the agriculture and the trade of France. The Mayer Plan, actually the French supplement to the Marshall Plan, resulted in higher prices for manufactured goods, the imposition of an emergency tax, devaluation of the franc, and the withdrawal of 5,000 franc notes from circulation. The increased cost of living has seriously affected the workers, peasants intelligentsia and handicraftsmen.

Many of the handicraftsmen, traders, small and medium industrialists are on the verge of ruin, which is the object of the American capitalists who want to create conditions favouring American capital investments.

Consequently all illusions about the “disinterestedness” of the Americans is being scattered to the winds and the real aims of the Marshall Plan are becoming obvious. Recently the conservative journal “World Week” was compelled to admit:

“The details of the American import port programme are as yet unknown... But bearing in mind certain former examples, it is to be feared that industrial and agricultural equipment may be given second place at the expense of provisions. Our economic potential will not gain very much from this. As a result of such supplies, which by their very nature will speedily be consumed a few years hence, or even a few months hence, we will have no more than we had before and maybe even less plus debts.”

Such are the economic signposts of the Marshall Plan, which, under the guise of aid to the European countries is trying to

subordinate their economy and policy to meet the interests of the American imperialists, to involve France into aggressive plans directed against the Soviet Union and the new democracies and to turn France, as stated by Maurice Thorez into a “strategic base, into a battle field”, and her youth into cannon fodder.

Such is the position to which France has been reduced by the policy of enslavement pursued by the so-called government of the third force.

Never before has the struggle of the people of France for bread and the right to live been so closely linked with the common struggle for the national independence of the country, for democracy and peace.

The Communists are in the forefront of this struggle. They are supporting the efforts of the General Confederation of Labour to raise the purchasing power of the working class. All federations and branches have initiated an active campaign for lower prices and jointly with the Union of French Women, are everywhere supporting the committees of struggle to combat high prices. Thousands of Committees are springing up, tangible proof of the development of the mass movement against the Government's policy of plunder, impoverishment and enslavement: committees for defence of the Republic, committees for the defence of industry which is threatened by American expansion (aircraft, automobile, film and building industries), committees for the defence of the peasants, handicraftsmen and merchants.

The Communists consider it their duty to rally all former members of the Resistance movement who are shocked at the growing insolence of the Petain followers now grouped around de Gaulle.

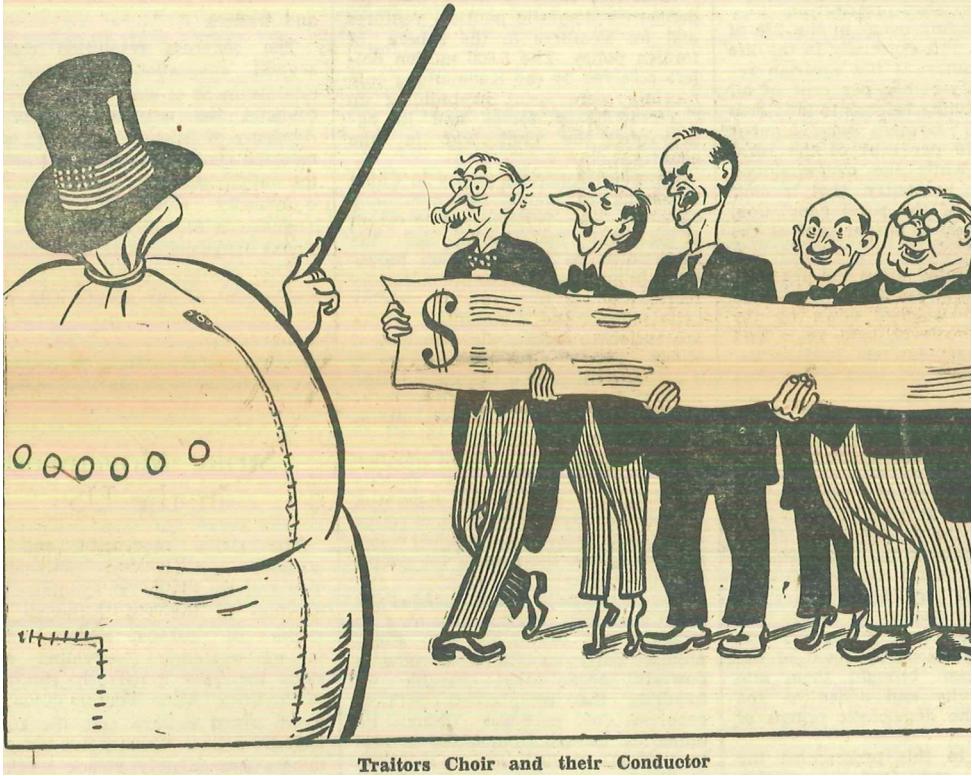
The Executive Committee of the Communist Party of France at its meeting held on April 14-15, advanced a programme for the national salvation of the country. The meeting noted that the struggle for bread, for lower prices and in defence of industry against American domination is a struggle for the national

sovereignty of France. Heavy industry is the keystone of national independence. That is why the United States is depriving France of Ruhr coal and prefers that France send iron ore to Germany. To be independent France needs a genuinely democratic government in which the Communist Party would play a decisive role.

This programme is an expression of the policy that corresponds to the interests of the working class and the people as a whole. Communist successes in the recent elections in Havre, Malakof and Epernay prove that, despite the lies and slander of reaction, the influence of the Communist Party is growing steadily. The Schuman Government has reduced France to chaos. Under the pretext of revising the Constitution and dissolving Parliament, de Gaulle is seeking the destruction of Republican institutions and the installation of a fascist regime. Despite internal differences reaction is uniting against the Communists in carrying out a policy which is leading to the loss of national independence and favours an imperialist war.

That is why the programme for national salvation, published by the French Communist Party, has met with such wide response throughout the country.

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Traitors Choir and their Conductor

PLENUM OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF FRANCE

On April 14 and 15 a meeting of the Executive Committee of the French Communist Party was held in Gennevilliers.

In his report Maurice Thorez referred to the Declaration of the Conference of the Nine Communist Parties and pointed to the steady growth of the democratic, anti-imperialist camp a growth which has compelled a retreat of the forces of the imperialist camp throughout the world. Thorez dwelt on the strike movement in France at the end of last year, on the protest movement of the peasants, handicraftsmen and traders against the Mayer plan, on the success of the production committees conference and on the recent electoral victory of the Communists in Epernay.

Thorez drew the attention of the Communist to the necessity of fighting for the immediate demands of the French people "defending their rights to live", since "this struggle is linked with the common fight for national independence, democracy and peace".

Referring to the need to unite all genuine patriots and republicans against the warmongers, Thorez said:

"It is necessary to bring in to the struggle for peace all who are united in different committees to defend in the first place their professional interests: all former prisoners of war and ex-soldiers who cannot become reconciled to the idea of reparations being relegated to the background or of their former butchers being allocated a leading role in a Truman Europe. The members of the resistance movement are disgusted with the growing insolence of the Petain and de Gaulle followers and with the persecution of the glorious guerrillas and other fighters of the French home forces. They are striving for the unity of all fighters for freedom".

Concluding his report Thorez outlined the task of the Communist Party. He called for a resolute struggle to consolidate the alliance between the workers, peasants and urban middle classes and for unity in the localities.

“The working people will fight for a democratic government, a real government of France, in which the working class and its party will play the leading role”.

The programme for Rational salvation adopted by the Executive Committee contains the following points:

Denunciation of the treaties harnessing France to the war policy. Active participation of France in the efforts of the USSR and all peace loving forces throughout the world to secure a democratic, just and stable peace.

An end to the colonial war in Viet Nam.

Defence of French industry from the encroachments of American imperialism.

Revision of wages and reduction of prices by cutting excess profits.

Dissolution of the militarised units of the RPF and protection of the republican laws.

Revision of the scandalous decisions whereby traitors go unpunished, and rehabilitation of the resistance fighters subjected to victimisation and persecution.

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PRESS REVIEW

STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE'S UNITY, GROWTH OF LABOUR ENTHUSIASM

“Rude Pravo” reports that the May Day celebrations in Czechoslovakia will be held under the slogan: “Unity brings strength, happiness and freedom to the people”.

This slogan is expressed, in particular, in the suggestion made by the trade unions and supported by the parties of the National Front and by the working people as a whole, to contest the forthcoming election with a single list of candidates.

Commenting on the suggestion, Maria Svermova of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party, writing in the “Rude Pravo” noted: “This important decision fully corresponds to the wishes and desires of the overwhelming majority of the people. A single list of candidates will undoubtedly consolidate the people's unity and strengthen the foundation of the reborn National Front.”

The “Rude Pravo” adds that the preparations for May Day are marked by a powerful movement to fulfil the Two-Year Plan ahead of time. The production plan for March was fulfilled by 106 per cent, the highest output reached since the liberation. Judging by the widespread labour enthusiasm in the country the April results are likely to be even better. In the factories workers are raising the planned targets which means excess production worth millions of crowns. Everywhere workers are competing between themselves, eager to secure the speedy fulfilment of the tasks advanced by the Communist Party—to give 30 million hours of voluntary labour for the Republic. The labour enthusiasm is spreading also among the peasants.

BULGARIAN PEOPLE GREET MAY DAY WITH LABOUR EXPLOITS

Reporting the May Day emulation in Bulgaria the newspaper

“Rabotnichesko Delo” writes:

“Thousands of workers have taken upon themselves the obligation to perform several hours of voluntary work for the Republic. Emulation and shock work are the means with which the workers intend to fulfil the national plan ahead of time.”

For example, in Oryahovez some 80 per cent of the workers have pledged to complete the production plan for the current year in 10 months.

Factory and office workers in Sevlievo decided to give 45,800 hours of voluntary labour to the Republic; the garrison in Zagora will work 1,440 hours and the personnel of the “Solidarity” factory, 7,800 hours.

LEFT WING IN THE SMALLHOLDERS' PARTY IN HUNGARY STRENGTHENS ITS POSITIONS

The newspaper “**Kis Ustag**”, organ of the Smallholders' Party, reports that the recent conference of the party was marked by the strengthening of the Lefts of the Party. Prior to the conference a number of right wing leaders had been expelled from the party. Addressing the conference the chairman of the party, Doby Istvan, expressed himself in favour of consolidating the people's democracy as corresponding to the interests of the peasant masses and the urban petty bourgeoisie. The conference unanimously supported the idea of participating in the new National Independence Front and also approved the genuine and clear foreign policy of the Government based on friendship with the Soviet Union and with the new democracies.

The new executive body elected by the conference is headed by Doby Istvan and consists of well-known representatives of the left wing of the Party.

FOR UNITY OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN PORTUGAL

The underground newspaper "Avante", organ of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Portugal, reports increased interference by the Americans in the domestic affairs of Portugal. "The American imperialists," writes the paper, "are going all out to divide the democratic forces and create a "legal," "harmless" opposition to the fascist regime, which will then be decked out in "democratic" feathers.

"The Communist Party of Portugal warns all genuine democrats and anti-fascists that a split in the ranks of the democratic forces would mean their complete annihilation and would result in greater oppression, exploitation, poverty and terror throughout the country."

"Today, as yesterday," adds the paper, "the Communist Party declares that freedom and democracy will not be brought to democrats and patriots on a platter; they can be won only as a result of long and stubborn struggle."

However, continues the newspaper, there are pseudo-democrats who would not be averse to compromise with the fascist dictator if he would but "legalise" the parties which are now controlled by fascism and which have rejected cooperation with the Communist Party and the United National Anti-Fascist Movement.

Denouncing these manoeuvres by reaction the "Avante" states: "We call upon the Republican Party, the Socialist Union, upon all republicans, patriots, democrats and progressive men and women of our country to remain firm and rebuff these splitting manoeuvres of the agents of Salazar and of the American imperialists."

NO HELP TO AMERICAN WORKERS

Using millions of dollars for buying and maintaining reactionary governments in Europe, the American “benefactors” show little solicitude for their hungry fellow Americans.

According to the “New York Times”, “Down through the cotton belt of the San Joaquin Valley thousands are asking for relief. Unemployment is greater than usual and migratory workers are hungry. Yet they are living in one of the richest agricultural areas of the country.

“Some estimates put the number of unemployed in the San Joaquin Valley at 50,000... The problem, then, is to enable the migrant unemployed to live between work seasons”.

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THE STRUGGLE OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE CONTINUES. Doleres Ibarruri

Nine years have passed since Franco entered Madrid in March 1939 with the support of Hitler arms and the aid of the “non-intervention policy of the so-called democratic governments, and last, but not least, following the ignominious capitulation of Colonel Casado.

The Republican General Staff gave the order to cease military operations. The fronts were opened and the sanguinary avalanche of phalangists assassins poured through the breach.

The contemptible Casado tried to justify his crime by averring that he wanted to put an end to the sufferings of the people by concluding an “honourable peace”.

Casado lied. For he executed the will of Chamberlain and Daladier, Blum and Spaak and hence, the will of Hitler and Mussolini, the will of international fascism. Fascism had to end the war in Spain in order to launch the assault of Europe and the world.

Never before did the two words “honourable peace” reek with such duplicity and infamy. The “honourable peace” signed by Casado spelt the betrayal of our people, of the heroic Republican fighters and placed them at the mercy of the brutal and vindictive Spanish fascist dictator.

Casado had his accomplices among the anarchists and in the Spanish Socialist Party, one of whose leaders, the fascist-minded Professor Bisteiro, proclaimed in his political testament (today regarded as the Bible of the Right Socialists) that “Spain must learn from Hitler Germany ... “

Then, as now, anti-Communism was the element that linked the traitors. They all justified their part in the betrayal by referring to the alleged intention of the Communists to stage a coup d'état to seize power.

What monstrous calumny! In 1937 the Communists enjoyed a prestige won by the heroism of their members that enabled them to influence the greater part of the army on all fronts.

The Communists criticised the tactics of many high-ranking army chiefs, including the traitor Casado, tactics which aimed to sabotage resistance, to undermine the morale of the rear, to organise military operations which were so “secret” that idlers discussed in public the chances of success of these operations and just how effective they would be while the enemy, forewarned, annihilated Republican troops in the very first phase of the attack. This is precisely what Casado and his accomplices were out to prove, namely that the Republican Army could not stand up to the fascist divisions.

In an effort to avert treachery the Communists demanded from

the Defence Minister a purge of Army Headquarters, which included agents of the enemy such as, for instance, Colonels Muedra and Garijo who were in contact with Franco's staff.

The Communists didn't want our people to be doomed, they did not want the terrible sacrifice of nearly three years of bitter struggle to be in vain. The Communists wanted to organise resistance, which was possible and urgent in view of the extreme tension in Europe. And the Communists were right!

The moment the Republican Government began to take the necessary security measures to preserve the high morale of the rear and to supply the front with everything necessary, the betrayal prepared long in advance in General Headquarters, in the leadership of the anarchist movement and in certain groups of Socialists was effected—the resistance of the Republic was crushed and Spain sold to fascism.

It was then that the people, experiencing the full horror of Franco repressions, realised how terrible was the disaster caused by the Madrid Junta, and the real meaning of Casado's "honourable peace".

Out of this was born the resistance movement. In the days that followed the defeat of the Republic the Communist Party began to rally the forces dispersed as a result of the treachery of the capitulators. Contrary to the demoralising assertion of the Socialist leaders who, like Indalecio Prieto, declared that there were no possibilities for resistance and that Spain was faced with 50 years of fascism, the Communist Party proclaimed that the Franco victory was a temporary thing and that the struggle would be continued.

Hundreds of Communists, together with many honest anti-fascists, hounded by Franco's police and fascists, took to the mountains of Galicia, Andalusia, Estremadura and Toledo.

This was the beginning of the guerrilla movement. The guerrillas descended into the valleys and towns not only to procure means of subsistence, which they had thanks to the solidarity of the peasants, but also in order to protect the peasants against the plunder of the phalangists, to organise

peasant resistance, to mete out justice to the hangmen, and to maintain the confidence of the people in a future free Spain.

The representatives of the “Socialist” and “democratic” governments which helped defeat the Spanish Republic were well aware of the resistance movement that developed in all mountains of Spain. It should not be forgotten that Blum was at the head of the French Government during the greater part of the war in Spain.

But the “Socialists” and “democrats” refused to recognise the existence of this movement for it meant acknowledging their responsibility—for some, responsibility as leaders of democratic governments, for others as “Socialists”. This would have meant openly admitting that they had criminally abandoned a people who had sacrificed more than a million heroes in the struggle against fascism.

The struggle and activity of the Communist Party, which sustained the hope and confidence of the people in their own forces and in a future free Spain, was the obstacle which foiled the manoeuvres of Spanish reaction, the representatives of Anglo-Saxon imperialism and its agents—the Spanish Right Socialists and anarchists.

The victory of the democratic countries over Hitlerism gave a powerful stimulus to popular resistance throughout the country. Spurning the fascist trade unions, the workers, illegally of course, restored their democratic trade unions. The representatives of the anti-fascist intelligentsia united in the underground organisation the “Union of the Free Intelligentsia”. In the large towns the Republican fighters formed their “Union of Armed Forces of the Spanish Republic”. The women formed their national organisation “Anti Fascist Women”. The united Socialist youth joined the struggle against Franco together with the people. The guerrilla movement in Andalusia, Aragon, Levant, and Galicia spread far and wide.

The Communist Party, which during the war came forward as the major political force, as the organiser of the struggle and

resistance in conditions of illegality and brutal repressions, is known to the people as the only force combating the Franco regime, the party which believes in the people and defends them, the organiser of the workers and peasants in the struggle against Franco.

The Communist Party bears the full brunt of the repressions against the resistance movement. Eighty percent of the prisoners in Spanish jails are Communists; the majority of those executed for anti-government activities following 1939 were also Communists.

The growing sympathy for the Communist Party of all those who hate Franco tyranny has alarmed the representatives of those States which pursued the “non-intervention” policy. They assumed that the mass shooting of Communists in 1939 by the Madrid Junta of capitulators, the barbarous executions by Franco “justice” and the monstrous smear campaign against the Communist Party had put an end to Communism in Spain.

When they became convinced of the contrary these gentlemen once again started talking about the Communist danger. Once more they are trying to set up an anti-communist front.

The first violin in this projected anti-Communist front is being played by the Right Socialist group under Indalecio Prieto and by the anarchists who, starting out as provocateurs and trusted men of the Franco police are now aspiring to become loyal courtiers in the future court of Don Juan III.

It goes without saying that whereas the behaviour of the Right Socialists in all countries reveals them as the servants of imperialism, in Spain their readiness to serve reaction is unparalleled. This is not only true of the Right leaders but of certain so-called Left Socialists.

Prieto openly boasts that he is a greater enemy of the Communists than Franco and offers his services and the services of his group to the Americans. And seeking to curry favour with the imperialists connected with Prieto Negrin has declared that he, too, supports the inclusion of Franco Spain into the Marshall Plan.

Negrin the politician forgets a “mere” detail, namely, the existence of fascism in Spain. He makes such statements at the moment when American congressmen are making a reverse move with regard to including Spain in the Marshall Plan, fully aware of the negative effect such a decision would create throughout the world!

However, neither Spanish reaction, nor the American imperialists who are interested in maintaining a fascist Spain, will succeed in their object, despite the fact that they are banking on assistance from the imperialist hirelings—the Socialists and anarchists.

The fact that Franco is forced to use against the guerrillas all kinds of measures, including aircraft and artillery, that the Franco Government is laying waste to entire regions in Aragon, Levant and Andalusia, cutting down woods, burning fields, driving the peasants from their villages, desolating valleys, lest the peasants help the guerrillas—these facts prove that neither the treachery of the Socialist and anarchist leaders, nor the dollars and sterling paid for this treachery can subdue a people striving for a democratic order and freedom.

The Spanish people who have known freedom will not relinquish it. And those who are scheming to substitute fascism by a feudal reactionary monarchy, based on the Vatican and the American imperialists, will feel the will of the Spanish people. In the course of the national liberation war against fascism the people of Spain laid the foundations of a democratic republic of a new type. Recollection of this equips the guerrillas with a powerful weapon, inspires the resistance movement and sows among our workers and peasants the seeds of freedom and justice, makes of every guerrilla a hero and of every resistance fighter a soldier, fighting for the most sacred cause—for freedom, national sovereignty, and the independence of Spain. Manoeuvres by the imperialists and reactionaries, treachery by the Socialists and anarchists may delay but never will prevent the liberation of our people.

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