

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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Contents

LENIN’S CAUSE IS IMMORTAL.....	6
THE WORKING PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BEGIN FIVE-YEAR PLAN	13
REFORM OF LOCAL ORGANS OF POWER IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF RUMANIA.....	14
V. I. LENIN	15
EVE OF 25th ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF V. I. LENIN:.....	16
The Soviet Union	16
Bulgaria.....	17
Hungary	18
Czechoslovakia.....	18
Rumania.....	19
UNDER THE GREAT AND INVINCIBLE BANNER OF LENINISM. G. Dimitrov, General Secretary, Central Committee, Communist Party of Bulgaria	20
LENIN LIVES IN THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. Anna Pauker, Secretary, Central Committee, Rumanian Workers’ Party.....	24
LEARN FROM LENIN.....	30
INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LENINISM. F. Konstantinov	32
IMAGE OF LENIN INSPIRES FRENCH WORKERS IN STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. G. Cogniot, Member, Central Committee, Communist Party of France	43
LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIALISM IN POLAND. Hilary Minc, Member, Political Bureau of the Central Committee, United Workers’ Party of Poland.....	48
For Fulfilment Of The Three-Year Plan Ahead Of Schedule	49
Main Principles Of The New Six-Year Plan	53
WORKING PEOPLE OF ITALY FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY. Pietro Secchia, Deputy General Secretary, Central Committee, Communist Party Italy.....	57
“E.R.P.”—Typical American Swindle.....	58

Onslaught Of Reaction Through Dismissals.....	59
Growing Resistance Of Italian People	60
Communist Party Demands.....	64
Against Under-Estimating The Forces Of The People.....	67
PARTY LIFE	69
Preparations for Ninth Congress of Communist Party	
Czechoslovakia.....	69
Conference of Socialist Unity Party Of Germany.....	69
Political Academy of the Hungarian Workers' Party	70
Numerical Growth of French Communist Party	71
Mass Agitation and Propaganda Work Communist Party of	
Bulgaria.....	72
GROWING NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN BRAZIL. E.	
Vasconcelos	75
BRITISH WORKERS REBUFF ANTI-COMMUNIST WITCH HUNT.....	81
BELGRADE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS APPEAL TO DEMOCRATIC	
YOUTH OF THE WORLD	82
BRITISH MASSACRE OF PEACEFUL CITIZENS IN MALAYA	84
SOCIALIST SCIENCE AND CULTURE BLOSSOM IN U.S.S.R. S. Vavilov,	
President, Academy of Sciences, USSR.....	85
EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE IN PARTY WORK.....	89
Marxist-Leninist Education of Cadres in Communist Party of	
Czechoslovakia. Bruno Keller, Director, Propaganda Department,	
Central Committee, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.....	89
BOOK REVIEW.....	94
In The Domain of Fantasy.....	94
FORMATION OF A SINGLE YOUTH ORGANISATION IN ROMANIA....	97
RECORD OF AMERICAN RACE BAITING.....	98
IN THE WESTERN ZONES OF GERMANY	99
WORKING PEOPLE OF FRANCE ORGANISING COUNCILS FOR	
DEFENCE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM.....	101
FREE TRADE EXTENDED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.....	102
AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN CULTURAL LIFE OF RUMANIA	103

FRENCH REACTION TRAMPLES UNDERFOOT DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. Maurice Kriegel Val rimont, Member, Central Committee, Communist Party France	104
EUROPEAN SOCIALIST POLICE SQUAD. Drawing by Constantinescu	110
ANOTHER DEFEAT FOR HUNGARIAN REACTION	111
PRICE INCREASES IN ITALY	114
CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S 1949 BUDGET	115

LENIN'S CAUSE IS IMMORTAL

In a few days it will be 25 years since the death of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin—the leader of world Communism, the greatest genius of all times and of all peoples, the founder of the heroic Bolshevik Party and Soviet State, the organiser and inspirer of the Great October Socialist Revolution, which opened a new epoch in the history of mankind.

In its announcement on the death of Lenin, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) wrote: “Never since Marx has the history of the great liberation movement of the proletariat advanced such a titanic figure as our late leader, teacher and friend. Everything that is truly great and heroic in the proletariat—a fearless mind, an iron, unbending, tenacious and all-conquering will, a sacred hatred, a deadly hatred of slavery and oppression, a revolutionary passion that moves mountains, boundless faith in the creative forces of the masses, superb organisational genius—all this found its splendid embodiment in Lenin whose name has become the symbol of a new world from East to West, from South to North.

Lenin was the greatest theoretician of Marxism. His inestimable service lies in the fact that he restored the real revolutionary teachings of Marx and Engels, upheld these the teachings in irreconcilable struggle against the opportunists and reformists of all shades, further developed Marxism on the basis of the new experience of the international working class movement, on the basis of the three Russian revolutions, on the basis of the practical results of socialist construction. Comrade Stalin. The great companion and continuator of the cause of Lenin, teaches us that Leninism is Marxism in the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolution; that Leninism is the theory and tactics of the proletarian revolution in general, the theory and tactics of the dictatorship of the proletariat in

particular.

The creation of the land of Socialism signified the formation of a powerful and open base for the world revolutionary movement, such as it had never had before. World capitalism suffered a mortal blow from which it will never recover.

In the struggle against the Trotskyites, Bukharinites, bourgeois nationalists and other enemies of the people, Comrade Stalin upheld the cause of Lenin, consolidated the Party and the people beneath the banner of the great Lenin ideas, educated them in the spirit of revolutionary vigilance and Party irreconcilability to each and every attempt to distort the great teachings of Lenin, and to undermine the cause of the proletariat to socialist revolution.

The construction of Socialism in the USSR which has now entered the phase of the gradual transition from Socialism to Communism, the strength and might of the land of Socialism which smashed the German and Japanese imperialists, the growth of the forces of democracy and Socialism throughout the world—all this proves the vitality of the great teachings of Lenin.

It would be difficult to overestimate the theoretical and practical significance of Lenin's profound analysis of the epoch, of imperialism as the final phase of declining capitalism. Proving scientifically the sharpening of all the inherent contradictions of capitalism in the period of imperialism Lenin foresaw that imperialism is the eve of socialist revolution, that it prepares all the necessary conditions and prerequisites for this revolution.

Imperialism, Lenin taught us, signifies reaction all along the line—political, economic and ideological; it brings in its wake crises, wars, oppression and the enslavement of working people by trusts and monopolies.

With each passing year, the actions of the working class in

the capitalist countries are acquiring an increasingly mass, organised and militant character. Last year's class struggles in France and Italy speak of the steadily growing forces of the proletariat.

Lenin foresaw the widespread development of the national-liberation struggle in the colonial and dependent countries. This foresight has been brilliantly confirmed.

The People's Liberation Army of China is striking sledgehammer blows at imperialist reaction and is routing the Chiang Kai-shek armies; in Viet Nam the struggle of the masses for their national independence is spreading and growing stronger; the people of Indonesia, fighting against heavy odds are resisting the Dutch invaders who are supported by the American and British imperialists.

The United States is the focal point and mainstay of world reaction today. The imperialists of the USA and Britain are seeking a way out of the crisis through intensified reaction; they are calling for a crusade against the Soviet Union and the new democracies, which are barring the way to American imperialism's predatory drive for world domination and its plan to destroy the democratic movement throughout the world.

The predatory plans of the US and British imperialists to unleash a new world war are opposed by the anti-imperialist, democratic camp, the strength and might of which are growing daily.

"The horrors of the recent war are too fresh in the minds of the people," slated Comrade Stalin, "and the social forces standing for peace are too great for the Churchill disciples of aggression to overcome them and turn them towards a new war."

The positions of imperialism were further weakened as a result of World War Two and the defeat of German fascism and Japanese militarism. The countries of Central and

southeastern Europe dropped out of the capitalist system. This was confirmation of the prophetic foresight of Lenin who saw far in advance the inevitable process of new links falling away from the general chain of imperialism.

Scientifically proving that imperialism is the final stage of capitalism, Lenin always taught the working class that capitalism will not perish automatically, that it will not depart of its own accord, that it must be “pushed over”. Lenin for the first time elevated to its rightful place the question of the role of the Party as the advanced, organised detachment of the working class, as a weapon in the hands of the proletariat to win the dictatorship.

The victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the building of Socialism in the USSR would have been impossible without the Lenin-Stalin party of the new type, organisationally and ideologically monolithic and irreconcilable to all enemies of the working class.

Created and educated by Lenin and Stalin, the Bolshevik Party, which has accumulated rich experience in socialist construction, is a model and example to the world Communist movement, its achievement and its pride.

Guided by Lenin’s behests and his immortal teachings, by the rich experience of the CPSU(B), tempering their ranks in class struggle and creative work, the Communist and Workers’ Parties of the world are growing and gaining strength.

The Workers’ Parties of Poland, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria have recently united on the basis of the ideological and organisational principles of Marxism-Leninism. This is an expression of the triumph of Lenin’s ideas, is a brilliant new victory in uniting the working class and healing the split in its ranks which the imperialists always used for their own ends.

Creatively enriching Marxism, Lenin enunciated a complete doctrine of the dictatorship of the proletariat which

finds classic expression in the Soviet state. Lenin and Stalin teach us that the dictatorship of the proletariat is real democracy for the broad masses of the working people, for only under the dictatorship of the proletariat can the working people participate to the full in building and managing the new state, can they apply their initiative and creative ability in the struggle to destroy the old and build the new mode of life.

Lenin teaches us that the dictatorship of the proletariat is needed for the entire historical period separating capitalism from Communism. The transition from capitalism to Communism, he wrote, cannot but give, rise to an abundance and variety of political forms, but the essence will always be the same: **the dictatorship of the proletariat.**

In the new democracies which attained their genuine national independence and statehood thanks to the heroic Soviet Army and the support of the Soviet Union, the regime of the people's democracy is successfully carrying out the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat. The new democracies exposed and nipped in the bud the restoration machinations of internal reaction—machinations which were supported by the US and British imperialists. The labouring peasantry in the new democracies live in close alliance with the working class, with the working class playing the leading role in this alliance. Lenin teaches us that the peasantry will be able to break their capitalist slavery only by taking the path of collective farming. And this Lenin idea has been realised in the U.S.S.R. and is being applied in the new democracies.

The peoples of these countries who have overthrown the yoke of the foreign imperialists and the domination of their exploiting classes are building a new free life by introducing fundamental democratic reforms and are successfully laying the foundations of Socialism, guided by the great historical experience of the Soviet Union where the ideas of Marxism-Leninism have already been embodied in practice.

The teaching of Marxism-Leninism, the theoretical and practical activities of Lenin and Stalin are permeated with proletarian Internationalism. An expression of this spirit is the international solidarity of the working class, the moral support for the heroic peoples of Greece, China, Viet Nam and Indonesia who are battling for life, for national liberation from the foreign imperialist yoke. Proletarian internationalism is vividly reflected in the great love for the Soviet Union, in the devotion of the working people of the world for the great land of Socialism, which is rendering selfless and fraternal aid to the new democracies.

The Communist and Workers' Parties, together with all working people, have branded with shame the bourgeois-nationalist Tito clique, which has gone over to the camp of the mortal enemies of the working class. The anti-imperialist camp is closing its ranks in the struggle against imperialist reaction and against all its accomplices.

Increased ideological, propaganda and organisational work is the essential condition for the successful carrying out of the important tasks facing the Communist Parties.

Lenin teaches that the party of the working class cannot grow and develop, cannot fulfil its historical mission without training strong cadres, equipped with advanced theory, who are of the masses and who are linked to the masses by a thousand ties.

Lenin is no longer with us but millions of working people throughout the world have inherited his immortal teachings, his will to struggle for the triumph of Communism. Leninism shows the working class and the oppressed peoples of the colonies and dependent countries the true path leading to their social, economic and spiritual liberation.

The cause of Lenin lives on in the world Communist movement, in the great social changes in the new democracies. It is embodied in the mighty Soviet Union, in the great Stalin

whose name expresses the grandeur of the invincible Soviet Union and is a call to struggle for the happy future of mankind. The great ideas of Lenin-Stalin are a beacon lighting the way to new victories of Communism!

Keep high the militant banner of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin!

THE WORKING PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BEGIN FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The working people of Czechoslovakia have embarked on their Five-Year Plan.

The Two-Year Plan of economic rehabilitation was overfulfilled by all industries except the food industry. Of particular significance was the fulfilment of the Plan for heavy industry which is the backbone of further economic development. Targets were also reached in transport. Output surpassed the 1937 level by approximately 10 per cent. The help given by the Soviet Union considerably facilitated the successful realisation of the Two-Year Plan.

The President, the Prime-Minister and the leaders of the Party have received thousands of telegrams from factory workers pledging themselves to fulfil and exceed the targets. In many enterprises workers have advanced higher production targets than those originally fixed. Many new voluntary shock-brigades, have been formed in the factories. The first few days of work on the Plan showed a substantial increase in labour productivity.

REFORM OF LOCAL ORGANS OF POWER IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF RUMANIA

The National Assembly of Rumania has ratified the law concerning the people's councils—a revolutionary act which confirms the actual transfer of all state power into the hands of the working people.

People's councils will be based on the following principles: democratic centralism as the main organisational principle, replacing the so-called administrative decentralisation; actual participation of the mass of the people in local and state administration; co-ordinating the work of the local administrative organs by means of joint planning; transformation of the local administrative organs into initiative centres for the purpose of guiding economic work in order to raise the standard of living of the working people and to eliminate the exploitation of man by man.

The law makes use of the experience of Soviet democracy and is based on the principle of unity of state power.

The people's councils are elected by universal, direct, equal and secret ballot, and in carrying out their functions rely on the initiative and participation of the mass of the people. The people's councils report on their activity to the electorate.

Being direct representative organs of the people, the councils enjoy full power in relation to all matters affecting their particular area. They are responsible for the entire economic, social and cultural activity within their boundaries. Various sub-committees will be formed under the auspices of the people's councils to enable the millions of working people to take part in the work of running the state.

V. I. LENIN



EVE OF 25th ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF V. I. LENIN:

Working people throughout the world are honouring the memory of V. I. Lenin. In the Soviet Union and in the new democracies the people are commemorating the 25th anniversary of the death of the great leader with labour achievements and in struggle for Socialism. At memorial meetings in many capitalist countries the working people are reviewing their successes in the class struggle against capitalism, are calling for still stronger unity, and are demonstrating their firm determination to fight in the Leninist way against reaction and the menace of war, and for peace, democracy and Socialism.

The Soviet Union

Throughout the Soviet Union preparations for the 25th anniversary of the death of V. Lenin are under way. In the factories, on the collective farms, and in educational institutions talks and lectures will be held on the following themes: “25 years without Lenin, under the leadership of Stalin, along the Lenin path”, “Lenin and Stalin—leaders and organisers of the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet State”, “The life and work of V. I. Lenin”. In Moscow over 3,000 lecturers have been allocated by Party organisations to give talks on Lenin. Exhibitions dedicated to Lenin’s life and work have been organised throughout the country—in Party schools, clubs, houses of culture and libraries.

As the date of the anniversary draws near, more and more

people are visiting the Central Lenin Museum in Moscow, the Lenin Museum in Ulyanov, which is located in the house where Lenin was born, and the Leningrad branch of the Lenin Museum.

According to the All-Union Book Chamber, during the 31 years from 1917 to 1918, Lenin's works have been issued in 174 million copies and in 77 languages, including the languages of the Soviet peoples and foreign languages.

To eliminate the shortcomings in previous editions and in order to provide a complete collection of Lenin's literary legacy, a new, fourth edition of Lenin's collected works is now being prepared on the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Volume 22 of Lenin's works in the Russian language is already available. The first volumes of the new edition in the Ukrainian, Georgian, Uzbek, Kazakh, Azerbaijan, Armenian and Lettish languages have appeared. Work is under way on translation into other languages also.

Bulgaria

In Bulgaria the anniversary celebrations will begin on January 18. Public lectures and talks in study circles and schools are being organised. Memorial meetings will be held throughout the country on January 20 and 21.

The Party Publishing House, has issued a five-volume edition of the principal works of Lenin. In addition, a number of works including "Left' Wing Communism", "Two Tactics of Social-Democracy in the Democratic Revolution", "The State and Revolution", "Imperialism—the Highest Phase of Capitalism" have been issued in separate editions of 20—40,000 copies each. In all, 479,000 copies of these works have been published in Bulgaria. A special Lenin album has also been published.

Hungary

The Hungarian Workers' Party, jointly with representatives of broad sections of democratic opinion is organising a memorial meeting in honour of Lenin. The meeting will be held in the Budapest Theatre. At meetings in the main districts of Budapest and in the big cities of Hungary, Party leaders will speak on the life and work of Lenin. Memorial meetings under the auspices of the Party organisations are being organised in factories and in the rural areas.

In 1948 the Party Publishing House issued 15 various Lenin works, and also Book I of a two volume edition in 50,000 copies.

At present the following are being prepared for the press: part 2 of the two-volume edition of Lenin's works. "The Development of Capitalism in Russia", "The Right of Nations to Self-determination", selected works on the "Agrarian Question", and "Lenin on Literature".

Czechoslovakia

The 25th anniversary of Lenin's death is being celebrated throughout Czechoslovakia.

"Lenin, and Leninism" will be the theme of discussion at the forthcoming special "Communist education day" organised by the Party branches. Memorial meetings will be held under the auspices of the National Committees, and Party and public organisations.

A memorial plaque to commemorate the Bolshevik conference held in Prague in 1912 will be emplaced in the wall of the historic "Lidovy (People's) House". A Lenin museum will be opened in the Lidovy House.

The large sale of Lenin's works in Czechoslovakia is an indication of the hold the ideas and principles of Leninism have in the country. For example, "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism" was issued in an edition of 10,300 copies; "State and Revolution"—in 15,000 copies; "What the 'Friends of the People' Are and How They Fight Against the Social-Democrats"—15,000 copies. "Left Wing Communism"—10,000 copies and other works with a total circulation of several hundred thousand copies.

Rumania

The Publishing House of the Rumanian Workers' Party has recently issued 23 works by Lenin in a total of 683,000 copies in the Rumanian language, and 7 Lenin works in 61,000 copies in the Hungarian language. These include: two volumes of selected works in 20,000 copies each; "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism"—48,000 copies, "What Is To Be Done"—20,000 copies, "Left Wing Communism"—40,000 copies, "Proletarian Revolution and The Renegade Kautsky":—27,000 copies, "The Tasks of the Proletariat in the Present Revolution" ("April Theses")—35,000 copies, "The State and Revolution"—28,000 copies, "Materialism and Empirio-Criticism"—15,000 copies, and others.

In connection with the Lenin memorial day, a volume of Lenin's selected works and a biography of Lenin will be published in 50,000 copies each, and also a collection of articles by J. Stalin on Lenin.

On January 21, memorial meetings in honour of the great leader of the working people of the world will be held throughout the country.

**UNDER THE GREAT AND INVINCIBLE
BANNER OF LENINISM. G. Dimitrov,
General Secretary, Central Committee,
Communist Party of Bulgaria**

On January 21, twenty-five years will have elapsed since the death of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin—the organiser of the glorious and heroic Bolshevik Party, the great proletarian strategist, the genius of the revolution, founder of the first Soviet Socialist State, the immortal teacher of the working people of the world.

The peoples of the land of victorious Socialism, and, together with them the peoples in all parts of the world who are fighting for their liberation from the imperialist yoke, treasure the unforgettable and bright memory of Lenin with profound esteem and boundless gratitude. The name of Lenin is a sacred and beloved name for the working people of all countries.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of the great Lenin is being commemorated at a time of far-reaching changes which are of world historic significance.

Socialism has been built in the Soviet State founded by Vladimir Ilyich **Lenin** and which has advanced with giant strides during the past quarter of a century under the leadership of his fellow fighter and brilliant continuator, Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin, and guided by the party of Lenin-Stalin, the Soviet peoples are successfully effecting the transition to Communism.

Thanks to the Soviet Union and its victorious army which smashed the monstrous German fascist war machine and routed the Hitler hordes, the peoples of Southeastern Europe were able to overthrow the power of the capitalists and landlords to wrest their countries from the imperialist system, to establish their people's republics, and, with the assistance of the powerful

socialist state, to advance along the path of socialist construction, drawing from the rich experience of their Soviet brothers.

The peoples of the colonies and countries dependent on imperialism are heroically and with increasing success battling for their national liberation, inspired by the achievements of the Soviet Union and guided by the invincible teachings of Lenin, developed and enriched by his companion, Stalin.

Leninism, which is Marxism in the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolutions, in the epoch of Socialism which has conquered on one-sixth of the earth's surface, is today a guide to action, a pathfinder in the complex situation of the class struggle not only for the Communist Parties but for all genuine fighters for people's democracy; for a lasting peace and Socialism.

This all-conquering doctrine, the correctness and strength of which has been brilliantly confirmed in practice, is taking ever deeper root among the working class, toiling peasantry and progressive intelligentsia especially in the new democracies and also in all the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries. And this notwithstanding the fact that in the latter countries the imperialists find their Social-Democrat and other agents are bending every effort to prevent the great illuminating ideas of Leninism reaching the masses.

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin has left us a vast scientific literary legacy. His works are an inexhaustible treasure-house of scientific, ideological-political and tactical weapons, a source of the greatest wisdom and insight. Together with the brilliant works of our teacher and leader, Comrade Stalin, the works of Lenin are of the greatest practical importance for the Communist and Workers' Parties, for the international working-class movement, for the successful struggle for a lasting peace, for a people's democracy and Socialism, and also for the liberation struggle of the colonial and dependent

peoples, still under the jackboot of imperialism.

The significance of the Lenin legacy in science, philosophy, culture and art is also inestimable. Particularly important and of immediate theoretical and practical significance for the Communist and Workers' Parties are Lenin's profoundly scientific works such as "One Step Forward, Two Steps Back", "Two Tactics of Social-Democracy in the Democratic Revolution", "The Proletarian Revolution and the Renegade Kautsky", "The State and Revolution", "Left-Wing Communism", "Materialism and Empirio-Criticism", polemical works levelled against the overt and=covert enemies of Marxism and the proletarian revolution. A profound study of these works and of the Classical works of Comrade Stalin "Problems of Leninism" and; "The Short Course of the History of the CPSU(B)" equips every Communist, revolutionary and progressive public figure with the essential Marxist-Leninist and ideological-political weapons.

Undoubtedly the best way to honour the memory of Lenin is to study Leninism, Marxist-Leninist science, to master this mighty science, not as a dogma but as a guide to action, steadily and correctly to apply it in the struggle against capitalism and imperialist aggression, in the struggle for a lasting peace and people's democracy, in the struggle to lay the economic and cultural foundations of Socialism in the countries of the new democracy.

It is the good fortune of the international proletariat, of all working people, of all progressive mankind that after the untimely death of **Vladimir Ilyich Lenin** his teachings and his work have been continued by the brilliant teacher and leader of the working people, of the oppressed and exploited throughout the world, **Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin**. It is the good fortune of mankind that the democratic, anti-imperialist camp is headed by the mighty **Soviet Union and its Bolshevik Party**

of Lenin-Stalin, which has been tempered and tried in bitter struggle.

Under the great and invincible banner of Leninism, and only under this banner, will the working people be able to liberate themselves once and all from capitalist slavery and aggressive, imperialist wars.

Eternal glory and boundless gratitude to the immortal genius Vladimir Ilyich Lenin!

Greetings and long life to the brilliant continuator of its work—Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin!

**LENIN LIVES IN THE HEARTS OF
MILLIONS OF WORKING PEOPLE
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. Anna
Pauker, Secretary, Central Committee,
Rumanian Workers' Party**

Over a vast territory—from Prague in the centre of the European continent to the vast area of China—hundreds of millions of people liberated from the chains of imperialism are building a new life for themselves, are making history.

For the Soviet people—valiant victors over the forces of fascist aggression, inspired builders of a classless Communist society; for the working people of the people's democracies who, brick by brick, are erecting the foundations of Socialism on the ruins of capitalist society; for millions of Chinese workers and peasants who are shedding their blood to wrest their country from the iron grip of imperialism; for the millions of revolutionary workers—champions of peace and social and national liberation in France, Italy, Greece, Spain, Indonesia and all other countries of the world, Leninism is the fighting banner and source of wisdom, strength and heroism.

That Leninism has succeeded in welding enormous masses of people into a single invincible force capable of transforming human society, is due to the fact that Lenin—an outstanding thinker, fighter and scientist—was able, like Marx and Engels, to combine in brilliant fashion scientific Socialism with the revolutionary activity of the working class. Lenin imparted new life and strength to Marxism by applying creatively, the principles, method and revolutionary spirit of the founders of scientific Socialism to the conditions of class struggle in the twentieth century. Combining theory with practice, Lenin gave striking answers to the questions which life with inexorable

logic had placed before all the exploited and oppressed.

The great thinker Lenin—the embodiment of indomitable will and revolutionary energy was able to refute the “learned” “theoreticians” of the Second International. At a time when capitalism seemed to be omnipotent when powerful trusts and imperialist powers stretched their tentacles all over the world, creating colonial empires on an unprecedented scale, and striving for world domination, Lenin exposed the essence of imperialism, revealed its incurable ulcers.

Lenin proved that imperialism is decrepit capitalism, that it can move only with the aid of crutches, and that its most faithful crutches are the treacherous theory and practice of the bourgeois agents inside the working class movement—the opportunists and Right Social-Democrats.

Lenin did not restrict himself to revealing to the Working class the vulnerable aspects of imperialism, he made the working class conscious of its own strength. He revealed to the working class its mission—the leader of the exploited and oppressed masses of town and countryside.

Lenin and Stalin created the organisational, theoretical and political basis of a new type; they brought up and trained the Bolshevik Party making it a model for all revolutionary parties of the working class throughout the world.

In this way the proletariat acquired a general staff capable of leading it through all the storms and stress of revolution. The theory, strategy and tactics of the revolutionary struggle worked out by Lenin and Stalin also disclosed to the proletariat its allies in the revolutionary struggle. Leninist theory and the practical work of the Communist Parties not only rallied vast masses of the peasantry around the working class but also secured for it support on the part of the peoples who rose against national and colonial oppression, and in the way created a **powerful united international front of struggle against imperialism.**

Lenin taught the working class to find the weak links in the imperialist chain, to choose the place, time and method by means of which this chain could be broken.

Under the brilliant leadership of Lenin and his companion-in-arms Stalin, the imperialist chain was broken: for the first time in history the working class secured political power and created a socialist state of workers and peasants which became a force capable of uniting the formerly scattered units of the international anti-imperialist front.

“The greatness of Lenin lies before all in this, that by creating the Republic of Soviets he gave a practical demonstration to the oppressed masses of the world that hope of deliverance is not lost, that the rule of the landlords and capitalists is short-lived, that the kingdom of labour can be created by the efforts of the labouring people themselves, and that the kingdom of labour must be created not in heaven, but on **earth**”. (Stalin).

Lenin and Stalin created the Soviet Union making it the “beginning and the pre-condition” of the world proletarian revolution. An arrow discharged by the sure hand of Lenin into the enemy camp—this is how Stalin described the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The working class of the people’s democracies, liberated by the first socialist state in the world and who rely on its powerful support, is leading the working people of these countries along the path of building Socialism.

The Rumanian Workers’ Party, like the other Workers’ and Communist Parties at the new democracies, in guiding the work and struggle of millions of working people in our country is inspired by the brilliant teachings of Lenin and Stalin, by the vast experience of the CPSU(B) and the Soviet State.

Stalin teaches us that the cardinal question in Leninism is the question of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

As stated by the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers’ Party—thanks to the international

conditions brought about by the great power of the USSR, as a result of its direct and disinterested support of our country:

“the regime of the people’s democracy is successfully carrying out the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat, that is, the functions of eliminating the economic positions of the exploiting classes, of crushing the attempts to restore the old order, of drawing the working people into the work of building socialism under the leadership of the proletariat.

“In other words, the regime of the people’s democracy is a form of the dictatorship of the proletariat.”

The efforts of our Party today are directed toward strengthening the dictatorship of the proletariat in the country.

The party of the working class—the leading force in the State—is growing stronger and is becoming more consolidated as a result of the ideological and organisational work being carried out. Having embarked on its General Economic Plan the Workers’ Party has taken measures to strengthen the conveyor belt between the Party and the masses: to strengthen the trade unions and form a single organisation of the working youth of town and countryside on the example of the Communist Youth League of the Soviet Union. The State apparatus is acquiring a new structure thanks to the establishment of people’s councils. In its measures to strengthen the alliance of the proletariat and the labouring peasantry, and in elaborating the guiding line for the socialist reorganisation of agriculture, the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers Party is guided by the brilliant co-operative plan drawn up by Lenin, later further developed and put into practice under the leadership of Stalin. True to the Lenin ideas of proletarian internationalism, the Rumanian Workers’ Party has intensified the struggle against all manifestations of petty-bourgeois nationalism and chauvinism.

A quarter of a century after Lenin’s death, stronger, and tempered in the revolutionary struggle, the Communist Parties

stand at the head of the working class. Inspired by the Lenin-Stalin teachings, they are rallying great armies of the working people under the militant Communist banners. At the head of these armies, as a model and leader, marches the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), which is leading the Soviet people to the heights of Communism and which is rallying the forces of peace, democracy and Socialism throughout the world.

In the epoch of great revolutionary battles in which we are living, the members of the revolutionary parties and particularly their leaders, must possess the qualities of political leaders of the Lenin-Stalin type.

The main quality of a political leader of the Lenin-Stalin type is ability to combine in a creative way revolutionary theory with revolutionary practice. To acquire this quality it is necessary to master the Lenin-Stalin teachings, to master the experience of the Bolshevik Party.

Confidence in the creative powers of the masses is another vital quality of the Lenin-Stalin type of revolutionary.

“I do not know of any revolutionary who had so profound a faith in the creative power of the proletariat and in the revolutionary fitness of its class instinct as Lenin”, said Comrade Stalin.

A political leader of the Lenin-Stalin type who is fearless in struggle, relentless toward enemies of the people, and who loves his people never gets conceited. He teaches the masses and learns from the masses, utilising for the purpose of overcoming mistakes the keen weapon of criticism and self-criticism. As pointed out by Comrade Stalin, Lenin persistently stressed: “The first thing is not to be carried away by victory, not to grow conceited: the second thing is to consolidate the victory; the third thing is to crush the opponent, for he has been defeated, but by no means crushed.”

Tito and his associates in his bourgeois-nationalist group,

eaten up with smugness and conceit, who look down on the masses and have no faith in the creative powers of the proletariat, ignore the leading role of the working class and its Party. Having taken the path of revising Leninism, they have become the accomplices of capitalism and imperialism.

The Communist Parties and democratic opinion have unanimously denounced these petty renegades who have betrayed the cause of Leninism.

“Leninism”, teaches Comrade Stalin, “cannot be separated from Marxism, still less can it be contrasted to Marxism.”

For hundreds of millions of working throughout the world the name of people indissolubly linked with the name of Stalin. It has become the banner of millions. Beneath this invincible banner the working people of the world are fighting for peace, democracy, Socialism.

LEARN FROM LENIN

Lenin's name will live forever in the hearts of all workers. Lenin teaches us, the workers, to be resolute and steadfast in struggle, to hate the class enemy and to be persistent and conscientious in our work.

Putting into practice the teachings of Marx and Engels, Lenin waged a relentless struggle against the traitors who sought to destroy the unity of the working class, and to deflect it from the path of revolutionary struggle.

Lenin teaches us that our best weapon in the struggle against the enemy is a united revolutionary party capable of leading the proletariat in the struggle for political power, and of securing its victory.

Lenin created the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) the party of a new type, and the rich experience acquired by this Party is being utilised by us in laying the foundations of Socialism in our country.

Lenin unmasked and routed the false theories of the opportunists. This strengthened the CPSU(B) and enabled it to lead the working class toward new victories. We must take this experience into consideration now, when the class struggle is intensifying, when it is necessary resolutely to combat those who try to place obstacles in the correct Leninist path.

Under the leadership of Lenin and his fellow fighter J. V. Stalin, the CPSU(B) led the working class to victory in the Great October Socialist revolution, and transformed tsarist Russia from a prison of the peoples into the mighty land of Socialism.

Capitalism was overthrown on one-sixth of the earth's surface and the dictatorship of the proletariat—the highest form of democracy—was established. Democracy for the toiling majority, ensuring it in practice the widest participation in state administration, merciless struggle against! the exploiters

seeking to recapture power—this is the dictatorship of the proletariat. It is necessary in order to build Socialism, in order to rally behind it all toilers who have thrown off the yoke of capital, in order once and for all to put an end to the “blessings” of bourgeois democracy which is nothing but bloody dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. We, workers, know full well what bourgeois “democracy” means, because all of us experienced it ourselves. Bourgeois “democracy” means police terror, arrests, maltreatment and murder of the best sons of the working class.

Lenin also teaches us that winning political power by the working class do not, as yet, mean that the bourgeoisie has been crushed. The bourgeoisie will spare no efforts to hinder the development of the country along the path of Socialism. From this the conclusion that so long as exploiting classes exist in the new democracies, we must be vigilant toward the machinations of the enemy.

Lenin teaches us that after power has been wrested from the capitalists the vital task of the working class is to organise production along new lines, so that each worker consciously increases labour productivity.

This is our main task now, and the fulfilment of this task will accelerate the building of Socialism in our country.

**Ciutac Petie, turner,
“23 August” Factory, Bucharest**

INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LENINISM. F. Konstantinov

I.

The contemporary epoch will go down in the history of mankind as the epoch of struggle for the triumph of the great ideas of Leninism. Leninism is the continuation and further development of Marxism, Marxism in the epoch of imperialism and proletarian revolutions. Russia was the birthplace of Leninism. But in its content, its essence, significance and role, Leninism is the banner of the revolutionary working class of all lands. This international significance of Leninism arises from the fact that it has theoretically generalised the experience of the working-class movement both in Russia and in the other countries of the world.

Lenin and his true companion and continuator of his immortal cause—Comrade Stalin—furnish the answers to the questions raised by the social development of our epoch and, above all, by the movement of the international proletariat. Leninism is hated by the bourgeoisie, by the servants of reaction, by everything that is living its last days. Time and again the learned lackeys of the bourgeoisie, opportunists of all shades announced the refutation, once and for all, of the great teachings of Leninism. But Leninism cannot be “refuted just as the working class, whose vital interests and aims it expresses, cannot be refuted. All that is progressive, thinking, conscious and selfless in mankind is uniting and fighting under the ideological banner of Leninism. The source of the powerful magnetic force of Leninism, of the growing influence of its ideas on millions of people is to be found in its dynamic truth, in the fact that it, and it alone most scientifically voices the vital needs of mankind’s development.

Leninism is the greatest social force of our times. Neither the inexorable march of time, nor the entire course of social development has refuted Leninism. On the contrary they have furnished abundant proof of its invincible vital force.

II.

In his book “Imperialism—the Highest Phase of Capitalism” the great Lenin on the basis of a thorough, profound and all-round scientific analysis drew the conclusion that capitalism had entered upon the phase of decay, that imperialism was its last phase.

The decline of capitalism is expressed above all in the extreme sharpening of all imperialist contradictions: between labour and capital, between the metropolis and the colonies, between the powerful capitalist monopolies, and between the different imperialist countries, the decline of capitalism is also apparent in the growing parasitism of the metropolitan countries, of the countries which have the monopoly of the world market. What has social life, the history of capitalism shown during the last ten years?

Life has fully borne out Lenin’s brilliant conclusions and forecast concerning the laws and perspectives of monopoly capitalism—imperialism. In the years between the two world wars Britain’s industry rarely exceeded the 1913 level. More often it was below this level. France’s industry, too, made no headway, the few boom years excepted. But the industry of the Soviet Union during this same period increased twelve times, outstripping the countries of Europe. After World War Two, the Soviet Union was able, notwithstanding the enormous devastation caused by the enemy, to reach the pre-war level of production and the pre-war crop yield. And this was accomplished without any outside help.

The new democracies are speedily restoring their economy.

The countries of capitalist Europe—Britain, France, Italy and Belgium are experiencing serious economic difficulties and are living on the alms of Uncle Sam. The bourgeoisie of these countries are bartering national independence and are harnessing their peoples to the double yoke of the home and American bourgeoisie. These facts prove that capitalism has become a brake on the development of the productive forces.

Capitalism is passing through a general irremediable crisis. And far from growing weaker the contradictions between labour and capital, between the working class and the bourgeoisie have, since 1916 (the year Lenin's book on imperialism appeared) grown immeasurably sharper. This is borne out by the growing struggle of the working class in all the capitalist countries, by the growth of the Communist Parties everywhere, by the declining influence of the bourgeois agents—the Right Socialists—in the working-class movement, and by the bankruptcy of the reformist policy of collaboration with the bourgeoisie. It is becoming clear to increasing millions of workers that the only real path along which to fight capitalism is the path of Leninism.

The events in Asia: in China and Indonesia in Malaya and Viet Nam, in Burma and India, are proof of the aggravation of contradictions between the capitalist metropolis and the colonies. The colonial countries are ablaze with the national-liberation movement. From a source of strength to the capitalist metropolis the colonies have become a source of the internal weakness of imperialism.

The struggle between the imperialist countries in the period between the two world wars and especially World War Two itself and the post-war period, reveal also that the contradictions between the capitalist countries are sharpening notwithstanding the various Western and Atlantic blocs and plans; and precisely, because of the "Marshall Plan". The struggle for spheres of influence, for sources of raw materials,

for capital investment outlets, for shrinking markets is intensifying and not weakening.

The law of the uneven development of countries in the epoch of imperialism is in full force. The most powerful imperialist state, the U.S. has pushed into the background not only the capitalist countries defeated in the war—Germany, Japan, Italy—but also such countries as France, Britain, Holland and Belgium. Hindering the industrial development of these countries, American imperialism is trying to subordinate them to its absolute domination.

But the all-important and decisive indication of the growing crisis of capitalism

Is the fact that the capitalist system has ceased to be the only system, that it is now opposed by the Socialist system, which has taken firm root over one-sixth of the earth. In contradistinction to the growing decay and collapse of the capitalist system, socialist society in the Soviet Union is striding forward, is experiencing a phase of unprecedented development. To the joy of the working people of the world and to the chagrin of the enemies of Socialism the Soviet Union has entered the final phase of socialist construction and is effecting the gradual transition to Communism.

III.

Lenin and Leninism teach that imperialism signifies the intensification of reaction all along the line—economic, political and ideological. “Political reaction all along the line is an attribute of imperialism”. (Lenin)

Blood-thirsty fascism with all its barbarity, savagery, fanaticism, banditry, misanthropy; Anglo-American patronage of fascism and reaction; the gradual transformation of the United States from a country of traditional bourgeois democracy into a semi-fascist police state with Thomas-Rankin

committees; with fascist anti-labour laws, with criminal propagation of a third world war; the imperialist crusade against the national sovereignty of peoples, and so on—all this is evidence of growing reaction in the imperialist camp.

But this movement of imperialist reaction is counter-posed by the movement of the forces of Socialism and democracy. Lenin teaches that the movement is ineradicable, insuperable and invincible. This movement is backed by the inexorable laws of history, it is backed by millions of working people, headed by the working class, it is backed by the force of truth. This movement rests on that great foundation and bulwark, the land of Socialism—the USSR.

Lenin wrote that the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution marks the end of the era of bourgeois parliamentary democracy and the beginning of the era of the new, higher Soviet socialist democracy.

The last twenty-five years have fully proved Lenin's brilliant forecast. Bourgeois democracy fell into decay. It exposed itself ultimately as one of the forms of the dictatorship of finance capital the 60 families in the United States the 200 families in France, a few dozen or a hundred families in Britain. Bribery, corruption, hypocrisy, open mockery of the elementary rights and will of millions, persecution, baiting of democratic elements, hounding of Communists—the true representatives of the working people—,lynching, shooting of workers, armed suppression of starving strikers fighting for bread for themselves and their children in France, Italy and other countries—this is what bourgeois democracy represents in our day.

The parliamentary elections in France and Italy have shown that when the people vote for the Communists, when the Communists represent the biggest group in Parliament and in the municipalities, the bourgeoisie, bringing their machine into play, violate the will of the electorate and put their loyal

servants into power. It cannot be otherwise. Anybody who ever had illusions about the bourgeoisie voluntarily relinquishing power, without a struggle, can once again see for himself the soundness of Leninism.

Lenin and Stalin teach that the proletariat has no path of struggle against capitalist slavery. For Socialism, other than the path of the conquest of power. A period of transition lies between capitalism and Socialism. The state during this transition period between capitalism and Socialism can only be the dictatorship of the proletariat which implies state leadership by the working class of all the working people in their struggle for Communism.

Lenin foresaw that the struggle of the working class for Communism could not but give rise to a diversity of political forms. But the specific political development of the different countries toward Socialism cannot affect the decisive and all-important factor.

Lenin and Stalin teach that in spite of the diversity of political forms, the dictatorship of the proletariat, the hegemony of the working class, and the leadership of the Communism Party condition the transition from capitalism to Communism. The experience of history has confirmed the soundness of Leninism. Only hangers-on and traitors of the Karl Renner type can claim that there are as many different kinds of Marxism, and hence different forms of specific transition to Socialism as there are countries. The laws of social development are one and the same in all capitalist countries. Nobody can change them and Marxism-Leninism is one and the same for all countries. The laws of socialist revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat, of the construction of Socialism and Communism discovered by the founders of Marxism-Leninism, cannot be annulled or ignored.

The states of the new democracy, led by the working class and the Communist Parties came into being as a result of the

victorious defeat of Hitler Germany by the Soviet Army, and by relying on the might and support of the Soviet Union. These states are successfully carrying out the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Rejection of the leading role of the working class and of the Communist Party, and betrayal of Leninism as we see from the example of the leaders of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, inevitably lead to degeneration, to the standpoint of the bourgeoisie, to the camp of imperialism.

The brilliant works of Lenin and Stalin theoretically generalise the magnificent experience of the victorious construction of Socialism in the Soviet Union. This scientifically generalised experience is of international significance.

IV.

The international triumph of Leninism is expressed in the fact that the Communist Parties in France and Italy were able to unite the overwhelming majority of the working class in their countries under the banner of Leninism. The glorious Communist Party of China and the People's Liberation Army which it guides, have won great victories over Kuomintang reaction under the banner of Leninism. At the same time these victories are a defeat for American imperialism which is behind the Kuomintang army, subsidising, arming and training it.

The fusion of the Workers' Parties in Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria is a great triumph for Leninism.

This fusion took place on the basis of the scientific ideology of the working class—Marxism-Leninism. This fusion means the end of the split in the working class in these countries, it means the growth of its forces, the development of

its socialist consciousness and organisation. The import of this fusion goes far beyond the framework of the new democracies. It shows the direction in which the working class will develop in other countries, how and on what ideological basis the working class can achieve the militant revolutionary unity of its ranks, a unity that is imperative for the victorious struggle against capitalism.

Only a proletariat that is led by a Marxist party, by the party of Leninism is capable of winning power, retaining it and building Socialism. The party of Leninism in the USSR teaches us this.

Without an irreconcilable struggle against the Right Socialists, without exposing and expelling from the working-class movement the corrupt servants and watchdogs of the bourgeoisie—the Bevins, Attlees, Blums, Schumachers, Renners, Saragats and Spaaks—the working class cannot be victorious over the bourgeoisie. Leninism teaches us this.

It was the Right Socialists who saved capitalism in 1918-1920. It was the Right Socialists who cleared the way for fascism in Germany. The imperialist bourgeoisie are entrusting the contemptible traitors of the Bevin, Moch and Saragat type with the foul job of crushing the proletarian masses who have taken to struggle, just as they entrusted Noske with the same work in 1918.

But the times have changed. The masses have learnt much from the bitter lessons of the past. The Right Socialists are finding it increasingly difficult to carry out their role of bourgeois agents within the working-class movement. The contradictions between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, between the bourgeoisie and all the working people are too deep-rooted, and means of bribing and corrupting the top leadership of the working class no longer or hardly exist not only in France and Italy, countries ruined by the war; they are dwindling even in a country like Britain. Hence, the

aggravation of contradictions between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie is inevitable. These contradictions will become sharper for political reasons as well: the struggle for national independence against American imperialism, the struggle for peace against the warmongers is a struggle against the national treachery of the bourgeoisie. The imperialist bourgeoisie are interested in new wars. They fear peace. Only preparations for imperialist war and war itself can keep capitalist industry working at full capacity and boost the profits of the capitalist magnates.

Any halt in the armaments race would threaten capitalism with a colossal economic crisis. This is the key to the bourgeoisie's fear of peace, the key to their warmongering. This is one of the indications that capitalism and the peaceful progressive development of mankind are incompatible. Leninism teaches us this.

The logic of the revolutionary struggle is to an ever greater extent convincing the working class of the capitalist countries that in our times it is impossible to fight for a lasting peace, for a people's democracy, for national sovereignty, for the independence of the peoples, against American imperialism and their bourgeoisie without simultaneously fighting for Communism. It is impossible in our times to advance without moving toward Communism.

The significance of Leninism for the international working-class movement lies in the fact that it liberates the masses from the influence of bourgeois opportunist ideology which sows distrust in the strength of the working class. Leninism, and Leninism alone inspires the masses with confidence in their forces, gives them a feeling of courage and invincibility, and a clear perspective.

The strength of Leninism lies in the fact that it combines a strict scientific sober appraisal of the situation and the conditions of the struggle with full recognition of the creative

initiative of the proletarian masses. Lenin wrote: Marxism differs from all other socialist theories in its wonderful combination of complete scientific sobriety in analysing the objective state of affairs and the objective course of evolution with decisive recognition of the significance of the revolutionary energy, revolutionary creativeness and revolutionary initiative of the masses, and also, of course, of individuals, groups, organisations and parties which are able to find and realise contact with one or another class.

For the opportunist parties their “theories” served and continue to serve as a justification for passivity, a justification of their refusal to fight the bourgeoisie. Lenin and Stalin do not regard theory as a dogma but as a great guide in the liberation struggle of the working class, in building Communism.

Leninism is a call to go forward. It teaches not to fear difficulties in the struggle. The struggle for Socialism under the banner of the ideas of Lenin-Stalin has given birth to legions of heroes, to selfless champions, and heroes of socialist labour. The Patriotic War of the Soviet people, the battle of Stalingrad, the heroic defence of Leningrad and Sevastopol, the storming of Berlin—all revealed the great beneficial influence of Leninism on the Soviet people. Leninism and the struggle for Socialism have brought forward millions of selfless champions in the other countries as well.

In spite of its aggressiveness, the reactionary bourgeoisie is aware of its historical doom; its ideology is more and more imbued with the spirit of pessimism.

The British Labour diplomat, Harold Nicholson in a New Year’s article dealing with the results of 1948 and the prospects for 1949 pointed out that Czechoslovakia was lost, the Danube was lost, that disorder reigned in Greece, Palestine, Malaya, Burma and Indonesia. China was actually lost and UNO discredited. Russian rule would in all probability stretch from the Elbe to the Yangtse. What have we to show commensurate

with these, he lamented. Western Union, a degree of economic recovery. That is about all, barring a lot of soothing platitudes.

Regarding Russian rule from the Elbe to the Yangtse, Nicholson has written this for provocative purposes. But he is right about imperialism's loss of influence. Sure enough, the bourgeoisie have very little reason for optimism. Capitalism's bastions are crumbling. But the anti-imperialist forces, the forces of Communism are growing apace everywhere. The events of life confirm the great truth of Leninism. In our age all roads lead to Communism. This path was foreseen and blazed by the great theory of Marxism-Leninism.

IMAGE OF LENIN INSPIRES FRENCH WORKERS IN STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. G. Cogniot, Member, Central Committee, Communist Party of France

A quarter of a century has passed since the death of Lenin. Twenty-five years ago thousands of Paris workers on learning of his death gathered on the square of Saint Denis to pay a last tribute to Lenin and pledge, to follow his behests. In these twenty-five years Lenin's fame grew as the founder of the Bolshevik Party—the leading force of the working-class movement in all countries on the path to Socialism—as the organiser of the Soviet State and leader of the working class of the world, as the brilliant theoretician who had enriched the treasure-house of Marxism. Next to Lenin millions of working people and democrats in France have inscribed in their hearts the name of his pupil and glorious continuator of his work, the liberator of nations from the yoke of the fascist invaders—the great Stalin.

Of vital importance to the workers and patriots of France who are offering ever greater resistance to the expansionist and aggressive machinations of the US trusts is Lenin's exposure of imperialism and his call to struggle against it. In the struggle for the national independence and honour of their country, for freedom and peace, the people of France are drawing courage and confidence in the victory of the democratic camp from Lenin's immortal legacy.

Three years prior to the October Revolution, on December 12, 1914, when the Bolsheviks, hounded and slandered, issued a call to prepare for the overthrow of tsarism, Lenin wrote:

“Is the sense of national pride alien to us, Great-Russian,

class-conscious proletarians? Of course not! We love our language and our country, we are doing more than anybody to raise her toiling, masses (i.e. nine-tenths of her population) to the level of the conscious life of democrats and Socialists... We are filled with a sense of national pride because the Great-Russian nation has **also** created a revolutionary class, has **also** proved that it is capable of showing mankind great examples of struggle for freedom and for Socialism, and not only great pogroms, rows of gallows, dungeons, great famines and great servility towards priests, tsars, landlords and capitalists.”

Just as in their time Lenin, the Bolsheviks and the working people who followed them were the only patriots, the only ones to point out the way leading to real national recovery in contradistinction to the national treachery of the then pro-German autocratic clique, in contradistinction to the national treachery of the privileged classes and politicians who sold themselves to Anglo-French imperialism, so too today, the French Communists are marching at the head of their compatriots who love their country and who are resisting her enslavement.

Lenin teaches us that this is not fortuitous. Lenin teaches that if the Communist Party is the sole big national party, this because it is the party of the working class, the class of the future, the class fighting, “for freedom and Socialism”, the revolutionary class, the guarantee, of the nation’s interests against the imperialist plunderers.

The French workers see that contemporary history confirms Lenin’s great teaching about imperialism. World War Two, which aggravated the general crisis of capitalism, has accentuated the uneven development of capitalist countries—the law discovered by the genius Lenin; the United States alone of the capitalist powers emerged from the war much stronger economically, and, not weakened. After the war the US tightened the imperialist grip on the capitalist countries, The

policy of conquest pursued by the American imperialists fully bears out Lenin's statement in polemising with Kautsky that a characteristic of imperialism is its desire to annex **not only** agrarian areas but even industrial regions. The American expansionists are enslaving and ruining countries like France, which has been betrayed by her bourgeoisie, in order to secure a market there for their goods, an outlet for capital investments, military bases and cannon fodder for aggression against the Soviet Union and the new democracies.

Imperialism, Lenin stated, is "reaction all along the line". And further: "Imperialism is the 'negation' of **democracy as a whole, of all democracy..**" Not satisfied with cultivating barbarity at home, lynch law, a regime of police terror copied from the Gestapo and directed against the working-class movement and the progressive intelligentsia, with framing the American Communist Party, the American imperialists are now trying to export all this to their vassal countries. On their instructions the French rulers are enacting special laws, are adopting brutal measures against the miners and are hounding the French Communist Party.

Lenin laid bare the opportunist roots of the Social-Democratic and Right trade union leaders, as the corrupt hangers-on of imperialism; he pointed out that this opportunism was nurtured on monopoly profits. In France the Right Socialists greedily swallowed the bait of the Marshall Plan. They tasted of the bread of corruption offered by Irving Brown. They resorted to the most foul lies in an attempt to idealise the aggressive aims of American Imperialism stating in all seriousness through the person of Blum that the United States was not interested in exports, or through Jouhaux that the Marshall Plan would offer markets for Western Europe's industry! Blum even went so far as to extol "the boundless patience displayed by the USA in its charity and generosity."

In their propaganda the Right Socialists of France are

endeavouring to convince the masses that a policy of national independence is unfeasible in post-war conditions. But life is exposing this lie of the Right Socialists. The people are united around the programme of national salvation elaborated by the Communist Party. This programme shows that only a government of democratic unity can restore France's national economy on the basis of national independence by improving the material, moral and political conditions of the working people and thereby conditions in industry, by insisting on lawful reparations from Germany, despite the opposition of the Anglo-Saxons, by developing to the utmost, trade with all countries, including the Soviet Union and the new democracies.

True to the teachings of Lenin, Comrade Zhdanov stated in his report to the Information Conference of a number of Communist Parties in September 1947:

“The Soviet Government has never objected to using foreign, and in particular American, credits as a means capable of expediting the process of economic rehabilitation. However, the Soviet Union has always taken the stand that the terms of credits must not be extortionate, and must not result in the economic and political subjugation of the debtor country to the creditor country. From this political stand, the Soviet Union has always held that foreign credits must not be the principal means of restoring a country's economy.”

The French Right Socialists are striving, on the contrary, to destroy the last vestiges of national independence. They are campaigning to destroy the so-called national barriers in Western Europe in order the better to serve the expansionist aims of the American trusts and their state, in order to facilitate the establishment of an anti-Soviet military coalition. In full accord with the neo-fascist de Gaulle they chatter about a “United States of Europe” very nearly adding to this formula the epithet “Socialist”.

Thirty-three years ago Lenin opened the eyes of the working people to the real essence of this hoary hypocritical slogan. Speaking against the traitor Trotsky and the Russian and non-Russian Mensheviks who during the First World War advanced this as a “Socialist” slogan. Lenin pointed out that “a United States of Europe under capitalism is either impossible or reactionary”. Lenin stated that this reactionary United States of Europe would pursue two objects: jointly to strangle Socialism in Europe and jointly to guard the appropriated colonies against Japan and America. While the suppression of Socialism and freedom continue to be the first point on the agenda of the reactionaries today, the second point is the colonisation by American imperialism of the countries of Western Europe itself, and the United States of Europe is nothing other than a Europe of the United States of America.

In its struggle against the traitors of the Motherland, for the honour and independence of France, the Communist Party is guided by the great Lenin principle, the “equal rights of all nations to their national state”, which is free and sovereign. The Communist Party of France has inscribed on its banner the words that “the nation is sovereign and all nations are equal”. At a time when the economic and political administration of France and the home and foreign policy of her government bear the imprint of American interference and domination, the Communist Party true to Leninism, is daily mobilising increasing forces, uniting ever broader sections of democrats and patriots around the proletariat in the battle for freedom and peace and against imperialism.

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIALISM IN POLAND. Hilary Minc, Member, Political Bureau of the Central Committee, United Workers' Party of Poland

The recent Unity Congress of the Workers' Parties of Poland summarised the results of four years' work to restore and promote the economy of the country, defined the main tasks for 1949 connected with the fulfilment of the Three-Year Plan ahead of schedule, and approved the basic principles of the new Six-Year Plan—the Plan for laying the foundations of Socialism in our country.

The working people of Poland have achieved, substantial successes in all spheres of the national economy as a result of four years of hard work and struggle.

After the liberation of the country from Hitler occupation, industrial production increased by leaps and bounds. In 1947 it had exceeded the pre-war level and by November 1948, had topped the pre-war figure by 50 per cent. Industrial production per capita of the population reached 199.5 per cent compared to 1937.

Major achievements have been registered in the industrialisation of the country. The proportion of industrial production which stood at 45.5 per cent in 1937 had risen to 64 per cent in 1948. The rate of output of means of production greatly exceeded the rate of output of means of consumption. Fundamental reconstruction was effected in a number of industries. This is evident from the fact that for the first time in Poland we are producing on a mass scale or are preparing the

mass production of tractors, lorries, all kinds of machine tools, drilling machines, steam boilers, turbine blades, and so on. All this will furnish a basis for the steady industrialisation of the country. The socialist sector of industry which accounted for 94 per cent of industrial production in 1918 has become the leading and dominant sector.

For Fulfilment Of The Three-Year Plan Ahead Of Schedule

Agriculture developed apace, the sown area approached the pre-war acreage: the pre-war average yield per hectare has been reached and the pre-war gross output per capita of the population exceeded. However, cattle breeding still lags seriously behind the pre-war level.

The successes in agriculture were the outcome of the conditions created as a result of the elimination of the landed estates and the restriction of capitalist elements in the countryside. But agriculture is not keeping pace with the rate of industrial development. The reason for this is its scattered nature and backwardness.

In the sphere of trade we have coped, on the whole, with the distribution of the increasing volume of agricultural and industrial goods on the basis of free trade. The socialist sector now accounts for 80 to 85 per cent of wholesale trade and no less than 35 per cent of the retail trade. The pernicious "autonomous" trends in the cooperative movement have been overcome and the structure of the cooperatives reorganised. The capitalist elements in trade have been placed under more effective control. Prices on the free market have been in the main, stabilised. However the possibility of speculation and dislocating normal distribution has not been fully eliminated in trade (for instance on the meat market).

Foreign trade has expanded far beyond the confines of the pre-war figure, and has secured for the most part the necessary supplies of provisions, raw materials and equipment needed for the development of the national economy.

The steady promotion of Polish-Soviet trade relations has decisively influenced the successful development of our foreign trade. Immediately after the liberation we received, and for that matter we are still receiving from the Soviet Union the equipment, raw materials and auxiliary materials needed for the recovery and development of industry. Trade relations with the Soviet Union enable us successfully to combat the attempts of the imperialists to subordinate our economy to their purposes and their attempts to dictate humiliating colonial conditions to us and to discriminate against our foreign trade.

Railway and water transport developed parallel with the country's industrial growth.

The general advance of the national economy resulted in the numerical growth of the working class. The number of workers engaged in production in the middle of 1948 totalled 3,534,000 as against 2,733,000 in 1938. The working class is no longer confronted with poverty and unemployment, it is confident of the morrow. Real wages today exceed the pre-war figure.

The Three-Year Plan is being carried out successfully in the sphere of the restoration of Warsaw and the settlement lands. Close to 48 billion zloty have been spent on reconstruction in Warsaw since 1945; more than 2,500 houses have been restored on state credits. The destroyed industry in the settlement lands has been returned to operation, the ports of Gdynia and Stettin restored.

The 1948 targets for industrial production have been topped by 13 per cent. This is the result, above all, of the sweeping development of labour emulation.

The labour emulation in honour of the Unity Congress,

which embraced more than 800,000 workers in the state-owned industries alone, was a splendid expression of this method of socialist construction. In many industries the workers have won the battle for quality thus refuting the hostile “theory” that emulation allegedly hampers improving the quality of production.

The workers submitted amendments to our plan. These amendments must be fully taken into account in the future and the achievements and experience of labour emulation made the starting point of stubborn, systematic work in the further struggle for the fulfilment of economic plans.

It is necessary to revise the existing system of wages and prices, and to settle the question of production norms. The wage system suffered from three major shortcomings: it was vague and not properly understood by the workers, it contained a number of sharp disproportions and injustices and was not an incentive for improving the skill and raising the productivity of labour of the worker. In our conditions a revision of wages could be carried out only with the simultaneous abolition of rationing. Rationing has been fully abolished. Factory and office workers now receive the corresponding money equivalent which compensates for the change in prices. Prices on a number of stable goods such as bread, sugar, margarine, wool and soap have been reduced.

January 1 saw the introduction of the wages, reform which will cover three million factory and office workers in the state-owned industries and which sets itself the aim of increasing real wages on the average by ten per cent. This marks an important step forward in establishing normal relations between the basic wage and the bonus paid for overfulfilment of target figures; it will tone down a number of existing disproportions in the wage scale, and, above all it secures increased wages for those working under more difficult conditions and in key industries.

The question of production norms is indissolubly linked with the wage reform. There are various norms in our industry which account for the unjustified disproportion in wages. Many norms have been artificially lowered. This was partly due to the vicious wage system and the desire to compensate the low basic wage with bonuses for overfulfilment of the norm. Uniform and real production norms should be introduced simultaneously with the wage reform.

The Three-Year Plan for agriculture is making good progress. Measures have been taken to overcome the backwardness in cattle breeding. The 1949 plan of capital investments allocates 5.2 billion zloty, for improving animal husbandry; the forage base is being extended.

The August Plenum of the Central Committee of the Polish Workers' Party outlined the main tasks facing the Party in the sphere of its social and economic policy in the countryside. Some of these tasks, as for instance that of maintaining fixed prices for grain, have already been successfully carried out. Others, such as the realisation of a correct class policy in allocating credits, in purging the rural administrative apparatus, promoting rural co-operatives on a mass scale, increasing output on the state-owned farms, are being carried out.

Preparations are underway to organise the first model producers' co-operatives on popular initiative and on a completely voluntary basis. This presents a number of new problems of a practical nature. For instance we do not think that households which received land as a result of the agrarian reform should be exempted from paying dues to the land fund. Since the land remains the property of the co-operative members it is expedient that these dues merely be deferred so that in the event of a member withdrawing from the co-operative the obligation to pay will be renewed. We also agree with the idea, expressed by the peasants, that a certain percentage of the income of the producers' co-operatives be

assigned to buy from the members of the given co-operative the livestock and implements they brought with them when they joined the co-operative.

The Congress stressed the need to give all-round assistance in forming producers' co-operatives, but at the same time warned the Party against being over-hasty in the matter.

Among the main tasks facing us in 1949, apart from promoting labour emulation, special attention must be paid to organising trade following the abolition of rationing, to introducing a regime of strict economy in factory and office, to reorganising the administrative apparatus and its leading bodies, and to combating bureaucracy.

There is every reason to believe, even at a modest estimate, that once these tasks are coped with, the Three Year Plan in industry will be realised two-three months ahead of schedule.

Main Principles Of The New Six-Year Plan

The cardinal task of the new Six-Year Plan which we are now drawing up in its final form, guided by the main principles outlined by the Congress, is to lay the foundations of Socialism in Poland.

In industry the Plan envisages an 11 to 12 per cent annual increase in industrial production. At this rate industrial production will register an 85 to 90 per cent increase by 1955 compared to 1949. This will result in a more than threefold increase in gross output compared to the pre-war and in a more than fourfold increase per capita of the population. In keeping with the main trend of industrialisation the highest rate of development is envisaged for the basic industries.

One of the paramount tasks of the Six-Year Plan is to increase the output of steel. The existing iron and steel base will be extended and part of the big new iron and steel works

which will have a capacity of 1,500,000 tons a year, will commence operation. The Soviet Union is supplying the equipment for this undertaking. As a result, steel output will be nearly doubled compared with the pre-war level and will serve as the basis for increasing the output of the metallurgical and especially the engineering industry.

The rate of development of the metallurgical and engineering industries will reach 250 per cent compared to 1949. The production of machine tools will register the biggest increase nearly twentyfold compared to pre-war. Another major task of the Six-Year Plan is the creation of a modern chemical industry whose output in 1955 will be from 290 to 300 per cent as against the 1949 figure.

The Plan devotes special attention to the rapid development of the industries which are decisive in the reorganisation of our agriculture. Thus, for instance, the output of nitro fertilizers will increase 3.5 times. The production of phosphoric fertilizers will be even greater. From 10,000 to 12,000 tractors will be produced in 1955, that is 5-6 times more than in 1949, approximately 15,000 lorries and some 10,000 passenger cars.

The big electric power base now being laid will furnish the foundations for the development of industry: the output of electric power will more than double compared to 1949.

The growth in the means of production will be accompanied by increased production of essential goods. The manufacture of cotton fabrics will register a 50 per cent increase, woollens a 30 per cent increase, and linen a 100 per cent increase compared to 1949; the sugar output will increase by 25 per cent.

Considerable attention will be centred on the development of the handicrafts industry (the individual artisans, and handicraft cooperatives).

Major attention will also be paid to raising the technico-

economic indices. The improvement of industrial technique along with the further promotion of labour emulation, workers' inventions and the rationalisation of technical processes should increase the productivity of labour by 40 to 45 per cent all the average and should also secure a considerable lowering of net production costs.

The Plan provides for the construction of nearly 350 large enterprises which will provide employment for 300,000 workers. It also envisages the development of the backward regions, the industrialisation of the eastern and northern areas, the allocation of industrial enterprises throughout the country and the creation of new working-class centres.

The industrial restoration and development of Warsaw presents a special problem. With its great and glorious revolutionary traditions of the Polish proletariat, Warsaw will again become a big industrial working class centre.

Agricultural production during the six-year period will increase by 34-45 per cent. Agriculture will receive 50,000-60,000 tractors and many motor vehicles. The supply of artificial fertilizers will be far in excess of pre-war. From 8,000 to 10,000 rural villages will receive electricity. All this in the aggregate will furnish a new and powerful technical base for developing agriculture.

The state will render all-round assistance to the poor and medium peasant households, will protect them against the exploitation of the capitalist elements by steadily restricting and dislodging these elements and by providing the peasants with the possibility of using up-to-date machines by extending the network of machine and tractor depots. Producers' co-operatives, which represent a higher form of organisation of economy, will be promoted gradually and systematically in the countryside on a voluntary basis.

The well-being and educational and cultural level of the broad masses will be considerably raised during the period

between 1950-1955. By the end of the Six-Year Plan the average standard of life of the working people will be 55-60 per cent higher than in 1949, that is, approximately two and a half times higher than prewar. The construction of new housing totalling 520,000 rooms will improve housing conditions in town and countryside; the network of cultural-educational and health institutions will be widely extended.

Nearly one million workers will attend special industrial courses during this six-year period and from 80,000 to 100,000 technicians and some 24,000 engineers will be trained. This is an extremely complex and difficult task but there can be no question of the successful realisation of the Six-Year Plan unless it is coped with.

However, we cannot restrict ourselves to training the youth alone in forming the new people's intelligentsia. It will be necessary to send considerable numbers of our foremost and skilled workers to special study courses and to advance other workers in their place. This will hasten the formation of a new people's intelligentsia—the intelligentsia of the working class who together with those elements of the old intelligentsia willing and able to march with the times, will tackle the job of building Socialism.

We enjoy all the necessary prerequisites to cope with the great task of building a socialist Poland.

The working people of Poland will take up the fight under the banner of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin for the realisation of the Six-Year Plan, for laying the foundations of Socialism in Poland, for Socialism.

**WORKING PEOPLE OF ITALY FIGHT FOR
FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE
COUNTRY. Pietro Secchia, Deputy General
Secretary, Central Committee,
Communist Party Italy**

The winter campaign in Italy is now in full swing. A characteristic feature of this campaign is the stubborn and growing struggle of the people against the latest attempts of the ruling class to force down the standard of life and thus ensure itself greater profits and an absolute monopoly in the economy and policy of the country.

The object of the de Gasperi Government and Italian reaction can be expressed in two words: consummate “ERP”; (“European Recovery Programme”, that is, “Marshall Plan”—Ed.)

“ERP” was publicised in Italy in the brightest colours. The most naive illusions were spread concerning the wonders this “Programme” would work.

But facts are stronger than the most fantastic propagandist imagination. Life is laying bare the real purpose of the “Marshall Plan”, even in the eyes of those who were ready to swallow the words of de Gasperi and Zellerbach “Marshall” Plan” representative in Italy—**Ed.**). The whole country is very much concerned and alarmed. Whither Italy? Where are de Gasperi, Paccardi and Saragat leading her?

The Italian workers right from the very beginning knew what lay behind the “Marshall Plan”. Equipped with Marxism-Leninism the Communists long ago exposed the real nature of capitalist “generosity”, the true aims of “ERP” and “disinterested aid” of American imperialism. At first, however, among the small and medium bourgeoisie there were certain

illusions on this score.

These illusions have now been scattered in the main. It only needed a few months for the facts to prove that the creation of “ERP” had nothing in common with the interests of the Italian people. The “Marshall Plan” hits all sections of the working people, hits every social strata, including the small and medium manufacturers, hits all Italians, the narrow clique of big monopolists, excluded.

“E.R.P.”—Typical American Swindle

Currency in circulation in Italy increased from 575 billion lire in May 1947 to 871 billion in September 1948. Production is falling. The warehouses are stocked with goods which nobody is buying either at home or abroad. A number of small and medium-sized enterprises are closing down. The home market is not accepting “ERP” goods imported by the de Gasperi Government. During the first half year of the Marshall Plan”, State organisations sold only 64 per cent of their goods.

Thus, the finances of the “Lire Fund” created for the “rehabilitation and promotion of Italian economy” total but an insignificant sum. At one time it was loudly proclaimed that the “Lire Fund” had 350 billion lire to its account. Actually on October 30 last, the “Fund” had no more than 8 billion lire. In the light of these figures the de Gasperi-Zellerbach attempt to convince the people that the problem of recovery and unemployment can be solved with the help of “ERP” looks like a vulgar swindle bearing an American trade mark.

Unemployment, which is growing daily on a formidable scale, is the sole result of America’s “generous” aid. The outcome of the “Marshall Plan”, or “ERP” is the policy of lay offs: there are now 2,500,000 unemployed in the country compared to 1,200,000 before the “Marshall Plan” came into

effect. This figure is in excess of the peak for 1933 when the maximum number of unemployed in Italy totalled 1,230,000.

Unemployment is most widespread among factory workers—1,500,000. There are also 550,000 unemployed building trades workers and over 350,000 agricultural workers without work. Of these only a few thousand qualify, for the miserable 230 lire a day unemployment benefit. More than a million of the unemployed do not get any benefit whatsoever. In addition over 1,200,000 pensioners are compelled to subsist on a pension of 120 lire a day.

If to this is added the tax policy which falls heaviest on the working people and protects the interests of the rich, it will be clear why the disillusionment is growing into dissatisfaction, and why this dissatisfaction is giving rise to more and more active resistance throughout the country.

Onslaught Of Reaction Through Dismissals

Mr. Zellerbach has on more than one occasion outlined the plans of the de Gasperi-Scelba Government. For that matter the President of the Confederation of industrialists also saw fit to do the same recently. The matter concerns the restricting of industrial output by discharging another 200,000 workers. It is a question of a prearranged plan, which they make no attempt to conceal. Otherwise, how can one explain the fact that leading Italian enterprises began to discharge workers wholesale in mid-winter.

If there had been no pre-arranged plan how is one to explain that Government controlled shipbuilding yards, in accordance with “Marshall Plan” stipulations testified Soviet orders valued at 34 million lire. These orders would have provided a year’s employment for shipbuilding workers in Genoa and in Spezla.

In point of fact the big Italian trusts at present are preoccupied not so much with increasing production as in swelling the army of unemployed in order to destroy working class unity and to have cheaper labour power at their disposal. The Italian capitalists aim at amassing profits not by means of re-equipping industry but mainly by intensifying the exploitation of the workers.

This plan of Italian financial circles and big trusts is directly linked with the interests of American capital. The so-called Italian Sinigaglia Plan is an offshoot of "ERP".

According to the "Sinigaglia Plan" a number of ILVA enterprises are scheduled to be dismantled, including works in Bolzaneto, Savona, Voltri, Pra, Portoferrario and Torre Annunziata; some 40,000 workers will be discharged.

Factory and office workers, peasants, technical personnel, small and medium industrialists, the working youth and women, in a word all the victims of "ERP" rose in defence not only of their daily bread, not merely to defend their class interests, but also to safeguard the country's interests.

Growing Resistance Of Italian People

Below we list a few of the major actions fought by the working of Italy during the last few weeks.

On December 17 the miners of the Carbonia coal field in Sardinia emerged victors after 70 days of bitter struggle and truly heroic self sacrifice. Martial law was declared in the coalfield and polite armoured cars patrolled the streets. The victory of the Sardinian miners is significant not only because it won better conditions and stopped the dismissals but also because it prevented the pits from being dosed down and upheld the national interests.

The trade unions of big provinces supported the Sardinian

miners and on November 15 the miners of Italy called a general solidarity strike.

The big strike of the day labourers and sharecroppers in Tuscany also ended in complete victory on December 12.

They secured a favourable agreement which established substantial wage increases, work for the unemployed and the introduction of a sliding wage scale.

The significance of this victory is all the greater when it is borne in mind that it was secured after a 53-day strike, despite hundreds of arrests, police violence, and in spite of treachery and strikebreaking by the so-called free (Christian Democrat) trade unions. All the working people of Tuscany joined forces in this struggle, in a united front of solidarity with the day labourers and sharecroppers. The sharecroppers helped the day labourers with food and money: all the enterprises and offices in Florence, Livorno, Pisa, Grosseto and other centres in Tuscany struck work in solidarity with the day labourers and sharecroppers and organised a strike fund. The strike was led by the Agricultural Workers' Federation and the Communist Party actively helped in achieving victory.

Unrest continues among the workers of the food industry. In their case it is not just a matter of fighting for higher wages and against unemployment but also against the closing down of food enterprises.

Prior to World War Two, Italy was a country which exported flour products. Today not a single kilogram of macaroni is exported from Italy. On the contrary she is importing macaroni. Thus, in the first eight months of 1947 Italy imported 23,149 quintals of macaroni and 33,937 quintals in 1948 from the United States. Thousands of food workers are unemployed, while the remainder are working only three days a week. The same holds true for the canning industry which is also in a state of crisis as a result of our imports.

Such are the "benefits" of the "Marshall Plan" which is

completely undermining the industrial enterprises of Southern Italy.

The Board of Directors of the Terni steel foundries intended to discharge 2,400 workers which would have marked the beginning of the closing down of production. The local population realising the gravity of the situation supported the workers. The struggle lasted more than a month and was conducted in various forms, such as “non-cooperation” and stay-in strikes; it embraced the entire personnel of the concern—iron-ore miners, smelters, electricians, chemists, and so on. The management were compelled, ultimately, to capitulate to the solid, unbreakable front presented by the working people.

A similar struggle was fought and won by the workers of Naples in defence of the ILVA foundry workers in Torre Annunziata. The working people of the Naples Province called a 24-hour general strike in support of the strikers at the ILVA plants. Last October the Naples workers had won a big victory in the struggle which became known as “the ten days at OMF”. The OMF firm wanted to reduce working hours to 40 a week, to discharge a considerable number of workers, and to stop production at a number of “Navalmeccanica” plants. The workers replied by occupying the enterprises. Strong police forces armed with tommy guns, hand grenades and radio equipment were dispatched to the scene of the strike. The people expressed their solidarity by supplying the strikers with food. After ten days of struggle the Board of Directors capitulated; the lockouts and dismissals ceased.

On November 16, a strike was declared in Taranto against the attempt to dismantle the shipbuilding yards. Two hundred thousand inhabitants of Taranto, led by committees made up of all democratic organisations, are waging a struggle for their shipyards. For more than two months now these shipyard workers have not received any wages.

On November 15, a general strike was declared on the island of Elba against sabotage by the owners of blast furnaces.

The struggle against dismissals is at its height.

Milan is one of the focal points of this struggle. The plan to curtail industrial output in this city carries the threat of immediate dismissals for 1,000 workers at the Caproni factories, 900 workers at the Alfa Romeo plant, 1,600 at the Breda works and 1,400 at the Marehi plant.

A huge demonstration of 200,000 unemployed took place in Milan on December 17.

In all the big centres of industry—Fiat in Turin, ILVA in Terni, the shipbuilding yards of Taranto and Palermo, Liguria and Campania—not a day passes without enterprises putting up lists of dismissals. And the struggle is flaring up in the country between those who want to put the American war plan into effect and those who are defending their daily bread and fighting for peace.

The onslaught in industry is accompanied by an onslaught in the countryside, notably around Emilia and the Po Valley where the landowners are trying to break the resistance to the working people by methods of fascist banditry.

The violence of the landowners and police is directed against the Communists, against former partisans, against all active anti-fascists in general. But, their prime object is to split the powerful trade unions in Emilia, to smash the unity and consolidation of the workers. In order to achieve this an offensive was launched against the labour-hiring departments, which are controlled and run by the working people.

The landowners are ready to go to any length in order to destroy these departments, to wrest them from workers' control, to monopolise them in order to fix their own price for labour and to be able to hire workers at their own sweet will.

But the working people of Bologna, Ferrani, Revigo and other provinces are also ready to fight to the end for this, one of

their major gains. Hence the bitterness of the struggle.

In addition, the landowners last year withdrew several thousand leases and broke labour agreements in an effort to get rid of those agricultural labourers and tenants who are active in the trade union and peasant leagues. At the same time the landowners wanted to reduce the wages of the labourers left on the job.

In answer to this, the agricultural workers applied new forms of struggle. After November 11, the day the agreements were broken and eviction notices served, the workers refused to leave their farms. They struck work at intervals, negotiated with individual landowners and demanded recognition of the agreements.

Unrest still continues, but in many provinces as, for instance, in Milan, Piacenza, Cremona, Parma, Pavia, and Brescia, thousands of broken agreements have been restored and the day labourers have won complete victory.

On December 30, railwaymen, postal and telegraph workers, employees of public and state institutions declared a general strike. They resolutely opposed the de Gasperi Government which refused to meet their minimum requirement. This general strike demonstrated the consolidated front and militant spirit of these workers.

Their struggle was in the nature of a protest strike, but should the Government fail to satisfy their just demands, the railwaymen, postal and telegraph workers and Civil Servants will again use all forms of struggle and defend their interests.

Communist Party Demands

In order to ease the situation of the working people, and especially the unemployed, pensioners and veterans who suffer particularly during the winter months, the Communist Party

elaborated and submitted to Parliament, through its deputies, a draft resolution containing its proposals.

But all the proposals submitted by the Communists in favour of the unemployed and pensioners were rejected by the majority of Christian Democrats, Saragats and Liberals.

The “neo-Socialist” Saragat, the Italian exponent of the “third force”, undertook the assignment, entrusted to all traitors, to fight on behalf of de Gasperi against the Communist proposals.

In his speech in Parliament, Saragat defended the policy of the Government and the Confederation of Industrialists.

He declared that the Government had already made the necessary winter preparations. If anything the Government measures are mere bluff and a provocation. The Government allocated 40 billion lire for public works which means work for 50,000 unemployed. But what about the remaining 2,450,000 unemployed? This Judas of the Italian working people, imitating the notorious Moch, declared that the unrest in the country was artificially created by the Communists “acting on Cominform orders”. With the help of this hackneyed slander the Government rejected the demands of the workers and unemployed and sought to place all responsibility for the increasingly complicated situation in the country on the Communists.

But nobody any longer believes the fable about “Cominform instigation”. Everybody knows that the real thing is the plan of the Government and big capitalists to solve the crisis at the expense of the working people, by dismissing thousands of factory and office workers and by reducing wages.

Once again the working people of Italy have seen for themselves that they can be victorious only as a result of struggle. Even those who formerly harboured illusions on this score could not but fail to see who are the real “instigators”.

The working people of Italy will succeed in frustrating the Zellerbach-da Gasperi plan of provocation, hunger and war.

We Communists consider our duty, our main task to be with the fighting masses, to help the working people in their democratic struggle for bread, work and peace.

The Communist Party is heading the struggle of the Italian working people, it has mobilised and continues to mobilise all forces in order the better to guide this struggle.

In every province of Italy the Communist Party is at the head of the movement of popular solidarity with the unemployed, the pensioners, invalids and children. In addition all Party organisations are now busy organising the solidarity struggle.

The battle at winter can be won only in struggle. Only by struggle can the unemployed secure work and our industry avoid being dismantled. The problem of work, bread, housing and fuel for those who are deprived of these can be solved only if the activity of the Communist Party in Parliament is supported by the growing mass struggle. The forces for waging this struggle are at hand. The army of two and a half million hungry unemployed must be organised and turned into an army of struggle. This army must have the active support of the entire working people. Such is the task of our Communists.

It is necessary to enliven the activity of the democratic organisations in extending and strengthening the solidarity movement in different forms. It is necessary, above all, to set in motion the mass of workers and unemployed, to organise demonstrations that will compel the Government to take the measures which millions of Italians expect it to take.

To further this aim unemployed committees are now being formed and also committees in districts and towns, representing all categories of the working people—factory and office workers, technical personnel, housewives and shopkeepers.

The winter campaign must unite all the forces of labour in struggle. Only in this way will we be able to frustrate the onslaught initiated by the capitalists and their Government.

Against Under-Estimating The Forces Of The People

The de Gasperi-Scelba-Saragat Government is waging a malignant campaign of slander, hatred and violence against the Communist Party. It is preparing to enact anti-constitutional legislation prohibiting strikes and abolishing the rights of trade union and political organisations. In point of fact de Gasperi and Scelba have already taken up a hostile attitude toward the Parliamentary opposition. They enjoy a Parliamentary majority; with the help of their 307 votes they can get Parliament to pass any decision that suits them. But even so they are not pleased, for the Opposition is in their way. The Parliamentary opposition represents a political and organisational force which is solidly and directly linked with the struggle of the working people and which enjoys the confidence of ever wider sections of the people.

De Gasperi is planning to crush the opposition of the working people and the Parliamentary opposition through economic measures, dismissals, hunger, police and judicial persecution. He would like to outlaw the Communists, Socialists and their allies with the aid of repressive, fascist methods.

But de Gasperi and his inspirers cannot fail to see that the Communists represent the overwhelming majority of the most active elements of the population, that the Communist Party enjoys the confidence and support of millions of workers, peasants, youth and women.

This accounts for the sharpening of class contradictions,

for the clear-cut alignment of opposing forces.

In this situation, we know that still greater battles lie ahead, we know that we are stronger than the enemy and we are confident that we can win. The experience of the struggle during the past few months has shown us that the danger of opportunism, the danger of under-estimating our own forces is the most serious danger.

By its policy the present Government has led Italy's economy into a blind alley and is threatening to lead it to disaster.

The fight of the working people of Italy in this big winter battle is not just a fight in defence of wages, not just a struggle for bread and the livelihood of thousands of working people. It is a struggle against the destruction of Italian industry, now being carried out by American monopoly groups in accordance with the "Marshall Plan". It is a struggle to save Italy from new disaster, it is a struggle for democracy, peace and liberty.

PARTY LIFE

Preparations for Ninth Congress of Communist Party Czechoslovakia

The Ninth Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia will be convened in Prague at the end of May.

By way of preparation for the Congress, special meetings will be held in the Party branches during January and February. The reports submitted to these meetings will reveal how the Party organisations participated in the events of February 1948, in the general election which took place in May, how they worked for the success of the Two-Year Plan and for the creation of the conditions necessary for the successful realisation of the Five-Year Plan. The reports will also show how Party organisations carry on political education among the membership, the manner in which they acquaint the people with the Party policy, how the verification was earned out, and their fulfilment of the decisions of the November Plenum of the Central Committee.

At the same time Party organisations will discuss future activity and their pre-Congress obligations. The work and obligation undertaken by the branches will be elaborated on the basis of the decisions of the November Plenum of the Central Committee. Election of officials to the branch offices will also take place at these meetings.

At their March meetings the branches will elect delegates to the district Party conferences.

Conference of Socialist Unity Party Of Germany

A conference of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany will

be held shortly.

The agenda of the conference includes:

1. The struggle for peace, against the instigators of a new war (report by W. Pieck).
2. The policy of the Party and the transformation of the Socialist Unity Party into a new type of Party (report by O. Grotewhol).
3. Experience in the sphere of state building and economic policy, and the progress of the Two-Year Plan (report by W. Ulbricht).

Political Academy of the Hungarian Workers' Party

Shortly after the liberation of the country, the Communist Party of Hungary organised in Budapest a public political tribune known as the Political Academy of the Communist Party. This tribune, which was open to the members of other parties and non-party people, became an important factor in the political education of the working people. Comrade Rakosi spoke there several times on vital questions of democratic development, it was there too that Comrade Gerö outlined the main principles of the Three-Year Plan drawn up by the Communist Party.

During the period of sharp political struggle inside the country the "Academy" helped strengthen the democratic front and enhanced the leading role of the Communist Party.

The Academy has just published its programme for the next four months. Lectures on various subjects are given each week. These include: the bankruptcy of bourgeois culture; the struggle of people's democracy against clerical reaction; the Marshall Plan in a blind-alley agricultural prospects in Hungary; large-scale farming in the Soviet Union; Hungary's

foreign policy; the liberating role of the Soviet Union; development of Soviet society from Socialism to Communism; Hungarian democracy on the road to Socialism, etc. The list of lectures includes Comrades Rakosi, Gerö, Revai, Farkas and other Party leaders.

In addition to the “Political Academy” the Workers Party has its “Cultural-Educational Academy”. The programme at this Academy includes a series of lectures on education, art and science. The task of the Cultural-Educational Academy is to combat bourgeois influence on the cultural front, to organise public debates and criticism of concrete measures and achievements in the sphere of science and culture.

Numerical Growth of French Communist Party

The stand taken by the Communist Party of France during the recent miners’ strike evoked a wave of support for the Communist Party, particularly in the mining areas. This found expression not only in increased votes cast for the Communist Party in recent elections, but also in the influx of new members to the Party.

The examples given below relate only to the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments. In Pecquencourt, 21 recruits were made at a public meeting organised by the Party. In Hergnies, where the local council is in the hands of the Socialists, 12 new members joined the Party. In Escaudain, 39 people, among them a veteran member of the Socialist party, joined the Party in the course of one week. In Haveluy, 29 people, including 15 young men 2 women, joined the Party also in the course of a week. In the space of 5 days, 78 people, including the deputy Mayor of the town, joined the Party in Abscon; in Vieux-Conde—72 recruits were made at 7 meetings; in Valenciennes-Nord—52; in Dorianies—28, among them 17 women.

Since the miners' strike, the number of subscribers to the Lille Communist newspaper "Liberte" has increased by 6,000. At the same time the newspapers of the Socialists, the M.R.P and the de Gaulle R.P.F. have lost thousands or readers. The circulation of the Socialist "Nord-Matin, for example, has dropped by 10,000 copies.

Mass Agitation and Propaganda Work Communist Party of Bulgaria

The main form of mass propaganda work carried out by the Communist Party of Bulgaria during the first five years after September 9, 1944 was public meetings and demonstrations mostly under the auspices of the Fatherland Front. During the 1946 election campaign, the Communist Party created a propaganda unit consisting of several thousand speakers. This measure enabled the Party to strengthen its contacts with the overwhelming majority of the people in town and countryside.

After the election, Party organisations neglected this propaganda apparatus, and only after the Central Committee intervened were the propaganda groups revived. According to incomplete estimates, by the end of 1947 there were some 5,000 of these propaganda groups with a total register of more than 60,000 speakers. The propagandists engaged in explanatory work among the people popularising Government measures such as the Five-Year Plan, new legislation, the new Constitution, the need for increased productivity of labour, and so on.

New forms of propaganda were developed: gatherings were held in houses and streets, and informal question and answer meetings took place. Brief talks were given on international problems and on the home situation. Collective reading of the more important articles in the "Rabotnichesko

Delo”, the Party organ, was successfully practiced in the localities. Many Party members active in the various mass organisations have a considerable experience of conducting cultural-educational work in these organisations by means of talks and lectures.

The Fifth Congress of the Party reviewed the results of the Party’s propaganda work. Stressing the significance of propaganda in laying the foundations of Socialism, the Congress pointed to the weaknesses and mistakes made in this sphere by the local Party committees, and characterised the Party’s agitational-explanatory work as unsatisfactory.

The Congress resolution, adopted on the basis of Comrade Chervenkov’s report on Marxist-Leninist education and the struggle on the ideological front, obliges the Party committees from lowest to highest, to improve the agitational apparatus in order to secure better and consistent work in explaining current international questions, questions of the home and foreign policy of the Party and the Government, the Five-Year Plan etc. This resolution obliges the Party committees regularly to instruct the propagandists, and to provide them with the necessary material including popular agitational literature. The resolution also urged that the press be strengthened by training journalists along Marxist-Leninist lines, so that the press and especially the newspaper “Rabotnichesko Delo” may become not merely a daily dispenser of correct news, but an educator of the working people and organiser of socialist construction.

The Congress decided to organise consistent work to ensure the dissemination of scientific and political knowledge among the people. It obliges Party organisations to utilise the network of public reading rooms and the National Association of public reading rooms—a most important social-cultural organisation which has militant traditions and deep roots among the people. A body of lecturers and propagandists will be formed under the auspices of the Association. This body

will handle the arrangements for systematic lectures and talks among the population. Similar groups will be set up under the leadership of regional and town committees.

At its first Plenum, the newly elected Central Committee of the Party drew up a plan for the carrying out of the Congress decisions.

GROWING NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN BRAZIL. E. Vasconcelos

Since February 1948, political developments in Brazil have been characterised by a growing and intensified struggle on the part of the working people for better conditions and for genuine national independence for their country. Some 60,000 workers took part in strikes between February and June. During the ensuing four months, the number of strikers doubled. These figures are all the more indicative in view of the fact that Brazil does not possess a numerous working class—the workers are spread over numerous small enterprises and the working class movement is still young.

The strike movement is characterised by steadily improving organisation and militancy. The first strikes which took place last year were mostly of a spontaneous nature, and the employers and police succeeded with no great difficulty in breaking the resistance of the strikers. Their efforts were facilitated to a considerable degree, by the poor organisation of solidarity and aid for the strikers. Now, however, the Workers' demands are firmly defended and police brutality is rebuffed. Such was the case, for example, during the miners' strike at La Fayette in Minas Geraes.

The experience, militancy and unity of the working class and its mastery of strike tactics are growing steadily as a result of the large number of brief strikes often restricted to one day or even to a few hours. Even more characteristic for this intensifying working class struggle is the fact that the strike movement is spreading to the bigger enterprises and that in some cases the worker of entire branches of industry (the San Paulo weavers, for example) simultaneously come out on strike on the same issue.

That is how the workers are responding to the Communist

Party's slogan: "fight better and more effectively". These events are evidence of the sharpening class struggle in Brazil, of the growing resistance of the people to the treacherous policy of the Government and of the ever increasing exploitation of the working people.

In this struggle, the working class organisations are gaining in numbers and strength. Since the Vargas dictatorship, the trade unions organised along corporative lines have been mere tools of the Ministry of Labour, appendages of the State and not class organisations. The democratic elements are barred from membership of these unions, the leadership of which consists, as a rule, of police officials. Genuine workers' organisation built along industrial lines are growing out of the strikes and other working class actions. It is these bodies that constitute the basis for the setting up of free and independent trade unions in Brazil.

The peasants too are taking part in the strike movement, particularly in the states of San Paula, Rio de Janeiro, Ceara Golas, Pernambuco and Minas Geraes. This organised peasant struggle, a new factor in the Brazilian liberation movement, is of enormous significance since it shows that the working class is beginning to draw its main ally into the agrarian and anti-imperialist revolution. The peasant struggle in Brazil is gaining momentum precisely because the workers' are heading the struggle and are transmitting their experience to the peasantry

At first, the peasant actions involved but a handful of households, whereas now in some regions from 4 to 6 thousand peasants (agricultural labourers, sharecroppers and others) are taking part simultaneously in the strike movement. These strikes are headed by peasant committees which later develop into peasant leagues or brotherhoods, as they are called.

As a rule, the strikes are called by the peasants for the purpose of getting that part of their annual income which goes to the land owner, reduced; in order to get paid for their labour

in money; for the abolition of the pernicious and humiliating loans repayable in the form of special labour which makes the peasant a slave of the landlord; for the provision of agricultural equipment at reasonable prices. etc. One form of peasant struggle against the landlords is the utilisation of the “battalions” or “mutiras”—the traditional system of co-operation by families for harvesting. At present, peasants are engaging in “mutiras” not only for work but also to resist the violence of the landlords and police.

In the course of this spreading struggle, peasant leagues (some of which have not even permanent office) are being formed and peasant newspapers started; these newspapers which are multiplied by various means, summarise the experience gained during the struggle, and elucidate matters of interest to the peasants. The value of this activity is evident from the fact that in some states (for example, in San Paulo) peasants are demanding the right to own the land which they farm. In many cases, action against landlords seeking to turn the peasants off the land farmed by them, takes the form of armed clashes. This struggle is bringing home to the peasants the need to struggle for the agrarian reform which, together with the question of national independence, is a cardinal point in the programme of the Communist Party.

These actions of the working people of Brazil are far from being isolated facts. They are linked together by the specific anti-imperialist nature of the struggle of the people as a whole against the oppression of the country, to maintain what is left of her national sovereignty and for the nationalisation of the industrial enterprises and banks owned by the imperialists. In this connection, the efforts of the democratic forces in Brazil are concentrated on preventing the handing over of the country's oil to the U.S. monopolists (delivery of all to the U.S. is envisaged in the Dutra Government's new oil regulation). This struggle has a special significance. First, because oil is

vitaly important for the development of the country and second, because imperialism is particularly interested in grabbing this oil which is part of its military schemes directed against the Soviet Union and the people's democracies.

The action to save the country's oil, action which is of an anti-imperialist, liberation nature, is at present, the basis of the national-Liberation struggle in Brazil, and, together with the actions of the working people to improve their conditions, represents a concrete form of the struggle for peace.

What are known as oil defence committees are being formed in the main cities and in factories and in clubs, in the streets and schools. Right from its inception, this movement became a factor in the polarisation of the opposing forces. Confronted with this struggle, the precarious unity of the parties of the ruling classes is breaking up the democratic elements in the local organisations of these parties are expressing discontent with the top leadership of big landlords and imperialist agents. A growing demarcation between the two camps is taking place: between the camp of the patriots standing for peace and national independence, and the camp of traitors to their country; this latter camp is weakening steadily and is losing ground.

The movement for the defence of the country's oil has drawn into the national liberation struggle new elements of the population, mainly students, intelligentsia, small manufacturers and traders and in some cases prominent bourgeois representatives. Speaking in the Chamber of Deputies, Artur Bernardes, former President, declared that the article in the Constitution concerning oil concessions had been worded by Schopell, an agent of Stanford Oil. This disclosure evoked profound indignation with the Dutra Government. Having learnt that the oil defence movement cannot be smashed by means of police violence and terror, the Government and reaction are now resorting to demagoguery, in an attempt to attract

those elements who still enjoy a certain prestige among the people, and to demoralise and intimidate the masses.

The representative nature of the national Congress for the defence of oil, held recently in Rio de Janeiro, testified to the failure of the Government's manoeuvres. This Congress may prove to be the backbone of a people's democratic front which would be able to change the political situation in the country and secure its complete liberation from imperialist servitude.

It is perfectly understandable why the imperialists are intensifying their campaign of intimidation, violence and terror against the democrats and patriots and particularly against the Communist Party—the leading force of the anti-imperialist movement.

Since 1947, the Dutra Government has been increasingly heading towards an open imperialist dictatorship. The outlawing of the Communist Party and Communist Youth League was followed by the prohibition of the General Confederation of Labour, the annulling of the mandates of the Communist members of Parliament, arrests and lynching of leaders of the workers and intelligentsia, raids on democratic newspapers, dismissal from office of democratically minded civil servants, opening fire at public meetings, laws directed against the press and the popular movement, the abolition of the right to strike, and finally, the launching of the odious trial of Prestes, the Communist leader, and of 17 members of the Central Committee of the Party.

The police are scouring the country for Prestes. In Rio de Janeiro and San Paulo, notices put up by a fascist organisation connected with the police offered a "reward" of a million cruzeiros (50,000 dollars) for Prestes "dead or alive". Police agents have received instructions to kill Prestes in the event of finding him. This thirst for murder is not without its reason. In the struggle for the liberation of the peoples of the South-American continent from the yoke of U.S. imperialism, Louis

Carlos Prestes is playing an outstanding role. Resolutely and consistently Prestes, the leader of the Communist Party, is exposing the aggressive, bellicose nature of U.S. imperialism. The American trusts regard Prestes as their most dangerous enemy on the South-American continent.

But protected by the people, Prestes continues to guide the anti-imperialist actions of the working people. There can be no doubt that the steadily growing national-liberation struggle in Brazil together with the solidarity of the democratic forces throughout the world, will prevent Brazilian reaction from completing the criminal trial against Prestes.

BRITISH WORKERS REBUFF ANTI-COMMUNIST WITCH HUNT

The anti-Communist witch hunt conducted by the Right Labour leaders in Great Britain, is meeting with a decisive rebuff on the part of the working class.

The splitting circular addressed to its affiliated organisations by the Trades Union Congress and aimed at removing Communists from leadership in trade unions, has been turned down by the National Union of Railwaymen, one of the most powerful unions in Britain. The Constructional Engineering Union and the National Society of Metal Mechanics have likewise refused to take part in the disruptive policy of the Labour leaders.

In many trade union branches and trades councils, the rank and file of the unions are re-electing Communist trade unionists to leading positions.

BELGRADE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS APPEAL TO DEMOCRATIC YOUTH OF THE WORLD

On January 6, “Rabotnichesko Delo”, organ of the Communist Party of Bulgaria, carried the following message from Belgrade University students to the democratic youth of the world:

“Six months have passed since the publication of the historical Resolution which laid bare the treacherous activity of the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Communist Party. Belgrade University students, faithful to their traditions, supported the Resolution.

“Knowing that the students have always taken the Marxist-Leninist path and will continue along that path, the treacherous leadership struck at the students who remained true to Communism and to the international working class solidarity. The more progressive students and the best Communists are maltreated, expelled from the Party and University, and arrested. In the prisons the students are subjected to severe hardships. They are ill-treated, tortured and deprived of food. The total number of students arrested exceeds 250. Nothing has been heard of them since.”

The message concludes:

“We call on you, comrades. Help us in our struggle to restore our Party to the fraternal family of other Communist Parties.

Raise your voice in protest against the hounding of genuine Communists from the University, against the arrest of the people who want to remain faithful to the teachings of Lenin and Stalin.

Long live the Information Bureau!
Long live Comrade Stalin!”

This message is signed by the Belgrade University Aid Committee.

BRITISH MASSACRE OF PEACEFUL CITIZENS IN MALAYA

The London “Daily Worker” recently carried a report by its special correspondent in Kuala Lumpur (Malaya) concerning the shooting down of 24 unarmed Chinese plantation workers by British troops in Kuala Kubu Bahru on December 12.

The small community of Kuala Kubu Bahru consisted of 26 men and some 70 women and children. According to the information given to the correspondent by the widow of one of the victims, the murdered men had been employed by the Lim Chat Chee Company.

On December 11, after most of the men had returned from work in the fields, they were suddenly surrounded by a strong force of military. A British officer demanded to know whether they had seen any Communists in the vicinity. The officer refused to accept the men’s statements that they had not. He said that they would be shot if they refused to give information. The men were then separated from the women and children kept in detention all night.

At dawn the women were told to clear their possessions out of the houses, which were to be burned. They were driven a mile away from their homes and left under guard. Almost at once they heard the sound of firing and soon saw smoke rising from their homes.

It was not until 4 p.m. that they learned that every man in their community, except two, had been shot. Nearly all of the few personal belongings they had managed to clear out of their homes earlier in the day were thrown to the flames by the troops. Other possessions were looted.

“This assassination of peaceful citizens,” the correspondent writes, “has provoked a veritable storm of indignation throughout Malaya.”

SOCIALIST SCIENCE AND CULTURE BLOSSOM IN U.S.S.R. S. Vavilov, President, Academy of Sciences, USSR

In October 1917, an event occurred in Russia which was unprecedented in our history and in world history. The first breach was made in the class barriers which had hampered the development of human society and which the bourgeoisie had proclaimed as an immutable law of nature. In October 1917, over one-sixth of the earth's surface, a new era began in human history.

Under the new, Soviet conditions there was an immense development of the productive forces. As a result of the Stalin Five Year Plans, Russia, which from time immemorial had been an agricultural country, became a powerful industrial state.

Agriculture which had been switched to the path of collectivisation, to the path of Socialism, reached a high level of development. The area sown to crops, was extended and yields increased.

Profound changes likewise took place in the sphere of culture. The history of mankind never before had the experience of society being built on the basis of a scientific doctrine. In our country, the October Revolution triumphed under the banner of science, under the banner of the great Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin science of social development. And this same science determined the main lines of the further growth of the new state.

In the Soviet Union it is now possible to speak of the world outlook of the people as a whole, and not merely of the intelligentsia, because socialist culture is now deeply rooted in

the people.

During the years of Soviet rule our intelligentsia has grown numerically, and its composition has changed fundamentally. To this new intelligentsia the country is indebted for Soviet culture in all forms. This intelligentsia has given the country its main cadres of scientists trained during the 31 years of Soviet power.

Soviet science has developed its own, specific features which distinguish it from the old Russian science and from the science of the capitalist countries.

During the first months of Soviet rule, science, individual scientists, the higher schools and the Academy of Science were drawn into the great work of socialist construction which had only just begun.

Prior to the October Revolution there were approximately three and a half thousand people at work in higher schools and in research institutions. Today nearly 150,000 people are engaged in scientific research throughout the Soviet Union.

The efforts of scientists are devoted solely to helping the State and the people. The vast majority of our scientists are men and women of worker and peasant origin who by their very nature, link our scientific culture with the life and strivings of the masses. By means of books, popular lectures, the radio and, in the first place, of course, through the schools, our people are taking to science.

The All-Union Society for the dissemination of scientific and political knowledge which was formed 18 months ago has organised 23,000 lectures which were attended by nearly 4,000,000 people.

Year by year the bonds between science and practice become closer and more effective, and the more obvious becomes the importance and the need of science in the great cause of socialist construction on the way to Communism.

Under the conditions which prevailed in tsarist Russia the

remarkable scientific and technical discoveries made by Russian scientists remained, with rare exceptions, unrealised, the essential difference between Soviet science and that of pre-revolutionary beginning of the planned and extensive introduction of a system of agronomic measures based on the work of the famous Russian scientists V. V. Dokuchayev, P. A. Kostychev and V. R. Williams.

The dialectical-materialist philosophy is taking deeper roots in the Soviet Union and is extending its powerful influence to all spheres of knowledge and culture. The elaboration of ideological problems is of great significance for the struggle of the progressive forces headed by the Soviet Union against the reactionary imperialist camp. These problems include: a generalisation of research work in the sphere of the history of philosophy; exposure of modern idealistic views in foreign physics; criticism of the anti-scientific cosmogonical conceptions concerning the end of the world; exposure of the reactionary essence of the Weismann-Morgan views; elaboration of the methodological basis of geography and geology; study and characterisation of the general crisis of capitalism: exposure of the neo-fascist conceptions of modern imperialism.

Philosophical research in the sphere of dialectical materialism, and the theoretical basis of scientific prognosis in social life is also envisaged. Under the guidance of Academicians Grekov and Lysenko, research will be undertaken in the sphere of the history of agriculture in the USSR based on the new data of archaeology, history, ethnography and agricultural biology. The purpose of this research is to expose the false conception of bourgeois historiography concerning the late development of agriculture in our country and to depict the flowering of Soviet agricultural science. To make good the absence of generalised works concerning the history of the people's democracies, books on

the history of Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Poland will be prepared.

Work on problems of socialist economy in the concrete sphere of Soviet industry transport and agriculture from the standpoint of solving the main economic task of the Soviet Union will be continued.

Research will also be undertaken in relation to the economy of foreign countries the general crisis of capitalism, and the reactionary role of American and British imperialism after World War Two. The job of creating fundamental works devoted to the Soviet State, the development of Soviet law and the legal structure in the people's democracies will be also carried out.

A monograph devoted to the international treaties signed by the Soviet Union as a form of international cooperation in the struggle for peace, will be completed.

Exploration of the natural resources of the Soviet Union will be continued on a large scale. For this purpose the Academy will equip and send out 125 expeditions during 1949. Further research in the most important branches of the exact science has been planned.

In the technical sciences, attention is being focussed on problems connected with mathematics and production processes, and on the construction of new apparatus and machinery for this purpose.

The triumph of the October Socialist Revolution and the Lenin-Stalin epoch have given a new content and significance to the work of Soviet scientists; they are indissolubly linked with the people. And there is no doubt that under the guidance of our great leader, honorary member of the Academy, Comrade J. V. Stalin, the Soviet Academy of Science will continue to go forward along the sure and straight road leading to Communist society.

EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE IN PARTY WORK

Marxist-Leninist Education of Cadres in Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. Bruno Keller, Director, Propaganda Department, Central Committee, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia

In the victory won over reaction in February 1948 by the working people of Czechoslovakia, headed by the Communist Party, a big role was played by the cadres who joined the Party mainly in 1945, after our country had been liberated by the heroic Soviet Army. The Central Committee succeeded in allocating these young and fresh forces in such a way that on the whole they correctly carried out the Marxist-Leninist policy. In the course of the struggle our cadres matured politically. The organisation of Marxist education in the Party as early as 1945 made it possible to fill the leading posts in the districts and regions with members who for the most part had acquired at least the minimum of political knowledge.

After February, the main purpose of political study was to make the Party functionaries and the membership realise more deeply what it was the Party had fought for and what it was fighting for now to provide them with an ideological weapon that would enable them politically to utilise and to consolidate the February victory. The curricula of the various Party schools and courses concentrated, above all, on questions connected with the national-democratic revolution of 1945, the February victory over reaction, the liberation of our country by the

Soviet Army, and of the significance of our alliance with the Soviet Union. Considerable attention was devoted to the great political and economic changes effected in our country, the nationalisation of the main branches of industry and of finance, the new people's-democratic system, and the tasks of the National Committees. The curricula also provided for the study of such questions as the leading role of the Party; problems of the National Front; the building up of the people's Republic: the Two-Year Plan, and the basic points in the Resolution of the Information Bureau concerning the situation in the Communist Party of Yugoslavia.

The school programmes and the various courses were designed in such a way as to secure the speedy training of a considerable number of Party functionaries for carrying out the vital tasks confronting the Party in the State apparatus, in economic and cultural life, and in the mass organisations which rallied to the Party after the February victory.

During the summer of 1948, the cultural propaganda department of the Central Committee organised 18 special courses ranging from two to six weeks' duration which trained a total of 1,900 Party functionaries. Special courses were opened for Communist professors, teachers, university students, for people prominent in the sphere of culture, for trade union officials, for members of the "Sokol" organisation, for the women and youth movements, for Army officers of all ranks, and for the staff of the security organs.

Of great importance for improving the work of the Party were the courses for functionaries, the six-week courses for the leaders and teachers in the regional schools. These courses greatly assisted the regional committees in setting up their own Party schools. At present we have 26 regional schools in the Czech lands and in Moravia and Slovakia. Between June and the end of September last year, 6,312 students attended these schools. The Central Committee worked out a special

curriculum for regional schools which with all enrolment of nearly 1,000 students, have become an important medium for training Party functionaries.

The central school which trains leading Party cadres was extended last summer. It is now housed in Prague, and its 500 students study in two courses, one of six months and the other of twelve months' duration. Three-month courses for chairmen and heads of departments of the National Committees in the localities, and courses for district committee secretaries, for newspaper editors and other Party functionaries will be opened shortly at this central school.

What are known as "Communist education days", held monthly since September 1948 are an important means of educating the Party membership. The details of these "education days" are worked out by the Party organisations; the Central Committee suggests the topic, which the cultural propaganda department issues literature dealing with the theme.

At the moment verification of the membership is drawing to a close. The verification is in itself a great political school and adds to the political knowledge of the members. The verification and the "education days", which supplement each other, are strengthening the political education of Party members. The Party is now making great efforts to meet the considerably increased demand for Marxist-Leninist literature.

The recent Plenum of the Central Committee confronted the Party with new tasks linked with the struggle for Socialism. Whereas, prior to February 1948, the main attention of all Party organs was centred on the political struggle against reaction, now all our efforts must be devoted to tasks of socialist construction. This change in the general line of the Party

should find reflection also in the further development of political study.

From these decisions of the Central Committee it follows that it is necessary, above all, to change the curricula of our Party schools with a view to getting attention centered on problems of socialist construction. We must make a thorough study of these problems which from the practical point of view, are new for us, and we must utilise the exceptionally rich experience on the Party of Lenin-Stalin—the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Arising from the decisions at the Central Committee we must extend and round off the present system of Party education in a way that will enable us to involve all the functionaries and the membership in political study, will enable them to master the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism.

A third task advanced by the Central Committee is the need for wide-scale training for those trade union, economic, administrative, cultural and military cadres, who are not Party members, and also for the cadres in the security organs to ensure their necessary political training. In order to facilitate the carrying out of these tasks, certain measures have been taken. Beginning with next term, chairs of Marxism-Leninism will be organised in all the higher institutes of learning. One-year preparatory courses for young workers eager to matriculate will be arranged. Courses to prepare young people desirous of entering the military academy have been opened. Nine-month courses to prepare judges are functioning. In a number of branches of industry courses for economic and managerial cadres have been organised. In addition to their special subjects the students attending these courses study Marxism-Leninism. On the initiative of the Party, political education for all Civil Servants will be introduced shortly. This work will be carried out by the personnel departments of the ministries. Similar study will be conducted in the economic

organs.

We are faced with big and responsible tasks in the struggle for Socialism. One means of facilitating the carrying out of these tasks is the all-round Marxist-Leninist training of our cadres. "It must be accepted as an axiom", Comrade Stalin teaches us, "that the higher the political level and the Marxist-Leninist knowledge of the workers in any sphere of State or Party work, the better and more fruitful will be the work itself, and the more effective the results of the work". The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, guided by these wise words of Stalin, will spare no effort to solve the tasks facing it in the present phase of our development toward Socialism.

BOOK REVIEW

In The Domain of Fantasy

A few months ago the British Labour Party published a booklet entitled “Feet On The Ground”.

True enough, Britain’s post-war position calls for a sober and thorough examination of the actual facts with feet on the ground. The compilers of the pamphlet acknowledge that the problems facing Britain are typical for Western Europe as a whole. From the following excerpt we get an idea of what these problems are:

“Even if all the optimistic assumptions made by the Paris Committee on European Recovery last year are fulfilled, when Marshall aid ends in 1952, Western Europe will be able to pay for only two-thirds of her dollar needs. Yet a failure to bridge this dollar gap will compel each country to choose between a catastrophic fall in its standard of life, with all the consequent political and social upheavals, and seeking further American aid at any price which is demanded.”

The prospects are gloomy to say the least. But strangely enough the authors, fully aware of this, somehow contrive to lose sight of the fact that this situation is the outcome of the self-same policy of Marshallisation of Britain and the whole of Western Europe which the Labour Government is so assiduously carrying out. Closing their eyes to the fact that the “Marshall Plan” and American post-war economic policy are based on the export of goods to Europe on onerous conditions, the compilers of “Feet On The Ground”, acting the political innocents state: more European goods should be exported to the dollar areas and less imported.

Their remedy for all ills is—Western Union!

Much space in the pamphlet which carries the sub-title “A Study of Western Union” is devoted to the alleged blessing that will flow to Europe from this Union. The authors spare no words in extolling the wisdom of the Labour leaders and of Bevin personally, the man whose job is to sell the idea of Western Union.

Let us leave them to their flights of fantasy and turn to the pages of the pamphlet where we come into contact with reality. These pages reveal at once that Western Union, even though the authors endeavour to sanctify it with the authority of Dante, is something that is hardly feasible.

The authors gloomily state that an economic alliance calls for the fulfilment of such unfeasible conditions as:

“... the sixteen countries would have to agree, first, on removing in addition to tariffs all either restrictions on mutual trade; second, on a uniform system of indirect taxation; third, on a uniform commercial policy towards countries outside the area; and lastly on a fixed rate of exchange so immutable that there would be no obstacle to the establishment of a single European currency. By doing so the individual governments would lose all control of their own financial, commercial and fiscal policies”.

The authors themselves appraise these conditions as a “Capitalist Utopia” and note that it will not be easy to achieve even a simple customs union between the Marshall countries. To prove their point they recall the case of the Benelux Union which is far from complete after four years’ effort. Recalling reality—capitalist competition—they sadly sigh: but even if a customs union could be brought about, would it produce the desired benefits?

However, “Feet On The Ground” is not unreal throughout. The scheme (page 17) of the Brussels Treaty Organisation is quite realistic. In this scheme, although until now it seemed to be purely a question of high and lofty matters and peaceful

ideals we see that pride of place goes to ... council of defence ministers and military committee. And it is here that the real essence of Western Union—its anti-Communist and anti-Soviet trend—is revealed. As the compilers admit, there are no differences among the Right Socialists who rule in Western Europe: they all agree to fall in step at the command of the American sergeant major. The only thing lacking in Western Union, as a guarantee of its firmness, is, in the opinion of the authors, the complete unification of armed forces.

So this is the “firm ground” on which the Labour Government, obedient to trans-Atlantic orders, wants to place the working people of Britain and Western Europe, on the ground of a new Holy Alliance directed against the working-class and progressive movement in the countries of Western Europe, against the Soviet Union and the new democracies.

P. Harvey

FORMATION OF A SINGLE YOUTH ORGANISATION IN ROMANIA

In a resolution concerning work among the youth adopted at the December Plenum of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party, the significance of this work was stressed and it was suggested that all youth organisations should be united into a single body guided by the Workers' Party, and educated in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism.

After discussing the resolution, an enlarged Executive meeting of the Union of Working Youth instructed the Executive Bureau to take the necessary measures to set up jointly with the other youth bodies, a single youth organisation.

This decision has been enthusiastically endorsed by the National Student Union, the organisation of rural youth and other organisations.

RECORD OF AMERICAN RACE BAITING

On December 19, judge and jury in the town of Ellisville (Mississippi) found 32-year-old Davis Knight guilty of violating the laws of the state, Knight's "crime", according to the prosecution, was that, having at least "one-eighth Negro blood on one side of the family and at least one-sixteenth on the other", he had married a white woman. According to Mississippi law, a person "possessing at least one eighth Negro blood is held to be a Negro". Knight was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

Ellisville is in the deep South. But it should not be assumed that racial fanaticism is any less right in the heart of the country. In Washington itself, a church-endowed hospital gained unenviable notoriety not so long ago when it closed its doors to a Negro woman in childbirth. Although the hospital had empty beds, the unfortunate woman was denied entry and gave birth outside on the pavement.

IN THE WESTERN ZONES OF GERMANY

The first day of the new year in Bavaria was marked by a cut in the bread ration, while the price of bread went up 4-5 pfennings a kilo. The entire population of Bizonia is faced with similar prospects. Due to the failure of grain deliveries (last year only 25 per cent of the grain delivery programme was fulfilled), the Frankfurt puppet "laender council has suggested that the bread ration be reduced everywhere by 1-2 kilos a month.

In the French zone the daily consumption of calories has dropped from 1,588 to 1,291. In the North Rhine-Westphalia province the children's milk ration has been cut by one third. In Schleswig-Holstein 16 per cent of the children are reported to be suffering from tuberculosis. On New Years Day the number of unemployed in Bizonia reached 705,000.

General Robertson, British Commander-in-Chief, assured the Germans that they could fully "rely on the support of the allies". However, the allies who are quite lavish with promises, are anything but generous in the matter of money. Not so long ago the French Commander-in-Chief suggested that the laender governments in the French zone should introduce new taxation which would bring in another 25 million marks a month and thus avoid cutting down expenditure on the occupation troops.

In their Christmas messages to the Germans, the Western occupation authorities urged the "need to restore the peaceful economy". (Robertson) and called upon them to work "for the sake of peace on earth" (Clay). While these gentlemen mouth phrases about peace, the Rottweil war factory is producing 15 tons of powder daily, and the Messerschmitt works in Bavaria is producing military aircraft. Tanks are being produced in other factories. The old song is still being sung: "Guns instead of butter".

In Hamburg the British licenced newspaper "Die Zeit"

recently carried an editorial signed by a Richard Tungal and headed "Should Western Germany arm herself?". Tungal does not hesitate to give his answer: Yes, he writes, she must. Herr Tungal does not think it necessary to disguise his statement when he explains why Germany must rearm. "We must attack", he declares.

But neither honeyed speeches, nor the war hysteria in the Schumacher press can replace the bread which is steadily diminishing in quantity. The working people in Western Germany know this. They know also that in the Soviet zone, life is improving as a result of steady economic development.

In the Soviet zone the working people met the New Year with successful fulfilment of the economic programmes for the second half of 1948.

Their success is a guarantee that the new Two-Year Plan will be carried out. This Plan which was adopted on the initiative of the Socialist Unity Party, provides for a 35 per cent increase in industrial output. By 1950, industrial output will amount to 80 per cent of the 1936 level. The wage fund will be increased by 15 per cent. The area under crops will reach 97.4 per cent of the 1938 level.

WORKING PEOPLE OF FRANCE ORGANISING COUNCILS FOR DEFENCE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM

In keeping with the decision of the National Peace Congress of the French people, councils for the defence of peace and freedom are being set up throughout France. A communique issued by the National Committee for defence of peace and freedom stated: "Reports coming in from all the departments describe numerous meetings at which the delegates to the National Congress are reporting on its work. Local Councils for the defence of peace and freedom are being elected at these meetings. Councils have been formed at Fontainebleau, Meaux, Montereau, Moret, Larchant and other towns in the Seine-et-Marne department. In the Seine-de-Oise department, meetings in defence of peace and freedom are being held daily. Numerous meetings have been held in Paris, Tours, Bordeaux, Toulouse and other cities.

FREE TRADE EXTENDED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The big improvement in the matter of food supplies in Czechoslovakia brought about last autumn, has been followed by another measure designed to secure a further improvement in the standard of living.

As from January 6th, in addition to rationed goods, there will be on sale at higher prices, textiles, footwear, radios, bicycles, motor-cycles, motor cars, refrigerators, washing-machines, and other goods.

Prime Minister Zapotocky replying to correspondents, mentioned four major aims that will be achieved as a result of the free trade: a further improvement in the standard of living; a heavy blow to the black market and profiteering; finance will be accumulated for capital investments in line with the Five-Year Plan, and for expenditure on social-cultural needs; and the ground is being prepared for the abolition of rationing.

The free sale of manufactured goods evoked great interest on the part of the population. Trade in the shops increased. Newspaper comment unanimously acknowledges the great, economic significance of the new measure.

AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN CULTURAL LIFE OF RUMANIA

In order to stimulate work in the sphere of science, literature and art, the Government of the people's Republic of Rumania has inaugurated, at the suggestion of the Workers' Party, 15 Academy prizes of 200,000 lei each to be awarded for outstanding contributions to science and art. The Government has also taken measures to secure an all-round improvement in conditions for members of the Academy and their families. A literary fund which will secure all necessary conditions for authors, and a State fund to encourage creative work in the realm of the fine arts and music have been established.

Commenting on these developments, G. Calinescu, well-known author and member of the Academy, wrote in the newspaper "Natiunea": "This is an outstanding event in the cultural life of our country. None of the former political parties ever thought of taking organisational measures or of suggesting that the Government should help scientist writers and artists in their creative work."

The solicitude displayed by the new people's Government for scientists, authors and artists, says Prof Calinescu, evokes confidence in and affection for the system of people's democracy on the part of the intelligentsia, and creates confidence in the future of science and art in our country.

**FRENCH REACTION TRAMPLES
UNDERFOOT DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES.
Maurice Kriegel Val rimont, Member,
Central Committee, Communist Party
France**

The growth of the democratic movement in France and the increasing confidence of the masses in the Communist Party are one of the insuperable obstacles barring the realisation of the imperialist plans to enslave Europe.

Endless examples could be cited showing how the French Government tramples oil all laws, uses violence, shamelessly violates liberties and the Constitution. After the miners' strike the Government submitted a number of bills, the most infamous ever submitted to a French Parliament. According to these bills the slightest "threat of revolt or disorder" designated as such at the whim of the Government will be enough to wipe out the fundamental liberties of the people inscribed in all French Constitutions. starting with 1789.

The struggle of the masses compelled Parliament to adjourn the debate on these laws. The Government, however, ignoring the unequivocal will of the masses continues daily to violate democratic liberties. The recent miners strike shows that the present Ministers absolutely ignore the rights of the working people. A real army, armed with guns and tanks was sent out against the working people. Three miners were killed in Merlebach, Firminy and Ales. The inviolability of the miners' homes was broken and their wives and children driven out. In Pecquencourt "Republican Security Detachments" (S.S. men as they are called by the French working people), arrested a six-year-old girl, keeping her in custody all night in an attempt to force her to "admit" that her father "smashed the

windows in the homes of non strikers.”

Thousands of miners were arrested and victimised. More than 700 sentences have been passed. One hundred months' imprisonment, a 700,000-franc fine—such are the results of one court session in Dijon; the judges are aiming their blows mainly at the miners' delegates and trade union secretaries.

Not only is the right of workers to strike being violated but also their right to engage in trade union activity. Hundreds of workers in the iron and steel industry and rail transport are being unlawfully dismissed only because they are active trade union members. On the injunction of the Minister of Labour, the Right Socialist Daniel Mayer, all manner of obstacles are being put in the way of exercising trade union rights at the enterprises. The secretary of the French Metal Workers' Federation, Olga Tournade was recently arrested along with two other trade union functionaries merely because she made a speech in the canteen of the Mazda works on the invitation of the workers.

At the same time people who collaborated with Hitler and speculators who doomed the French population to starvation carry on with impunity, whereas those who fought against Hitler are persecuted. When Communist deputies, as for instance, Charles Tillon and Dassonville, voice the people's indignation at the disgraceful persecution and sentences, they are accused of insulting justice and the Minister of Justice, Andre Marie even goes so far as to demand that they be deprived of their Parliamentary immunity.

Taking advantage of the patronage of a Government which violates all laws, de Gaulle is intensifying his anti-democratic activity. On September 18, 1948 his armed bands began a series of assassinations shooting down a former Vercors partisan, Lucien Voitrain in Grenoble. Not one of the assassins was brought to justice.

The French police, acting on the instructions of the

Government, are using their blackjacks and arms against those who are fighting for the Republic, for its freedom and independence, and not against the criminals and anti-Republican plotters.

On November 11, 1948, the prefect of the Paris police, complying with the orders of the Minister of Home Affairs, the Socialist Jules Moch, engineered a gross provocation against a demonstration of veterans. Two Communist deputies were arrested at the time. That same day the police, using blackjacks dispersed a demonstration of students, of all political trends, held to honour the heroism of their comrades who had demonstrated at the Arc de Triomphe in the early days of Hitler occupation.

The anti-Communist pogrom psychosis, fanned by the French police reached such an extent that on December 12, 1948, in the Paris suburb of Saint Mande a policeman shot the former municipal councillor, the Communist Houillier who was putting up the peace poster of the artist Fougeron.

Newspapers carrying the peace poster are confiscated by prefects. The issues of "l'Humanite and "Ce Soir", exposing Jules Moch's police, provocation were confiscated. It can be said that there is not a single, democratic newspaper against which the Government has not instituted proceedings: Twenty-nine court cases have been started against seven newspapers in various districts.

In the France of Queuille-Schuman-Moch the defence of peace has become an "act of revolt". Proceedings are being instituted against the newspapers "l'Humanite", "Avantgarde" and "Consert" on the false pretext of "instigating a campaign which aims to undermine the morale of the army and to defame the Ministers". The "basis" for the persecution of the democratic press is best seen from the example of the newspaper "Avantgarde", which is charged with having published on December 3, 1947, excerpts from an Andre Marty

pamphlet published 20 years ago.

But the people are not allowing themselves to be intimidated by this campaign of slander, repression and assassination, launched by the Government. After the dispersal of the demonstration on November 11, the National Resistance Council lodged a protest and the working people of the Paris region staged a 24-hour strike which spread far and wide. The federation of Press Workers emphatically condemned the confiscation of "l'Humanite" and "Ce Soir" and the printers held up the publication of all Paris newspapers for one day.

A broad protest movement started against the bills introduced by the Government. A National Committee for Defence of Trade Union and Democratic Liberties has been formed on the initiative of the General Confederation of Labour. This Committee unites lawyers, writers, scientists, Parliamentary deputies and journalists, The French Press Federation which unites all newspapers, lodged a protest against the violation of press liberties. Former prisoners of the Buchenwald concentration camp, headed by Marcel Paul, Colonel Manches, General Hertault and the chief editor of "Combat", Claude Bourdet voiced the indignation of people who have suffered from German fascism.

The Minister of Justice, Andre Marie—the author of the bills—was literally flooded with protest resolutions. Countless meetings attended by thousands of working people were held throughout the country.

Mass pressure was so great that the "Force Ouvriere" splinter group and the Christian trade unions were compelled to express their disagreement with the proposed bills.

At the same time the solidarity movement with the miners who are being savagely persecuted, is growing. In one of the pits in the Loire Department where only 150 miners remained on strike, the 900 miners unanimously downed tools in order to stop court proceedings against their delegates and the

authorities were compelled to give way.

The recent by-elections are indicative of the people's indignation at the anti-democratic activity of the Government. At the elections in Firminy on December 19, 1948, the votes cast for the Communists increased from 39.5 to 46.1 per cent. The mayor, a Communist, formerly removed by Jules Moch, was re-elected.

The struggle of the French people in defence of democratic liberties is intensifying. This is seen in particular in the movement of the Fighters for Defence of Freedom and Peace whose recent national congress in Paris was attended by 12,000 delegates. In response to the call of this Congress community councils are being set up throughout the country. The job of these councils will be to see that the authorities and elected officials respect democratic liberties.

Encouraged by the anti-democratic measures of the Government, de Gaulle who aspires to become dictator, plans to put his armed detachments into action. He recently announced that he "means to act" in 1949 and to "sweep aside everything either through a general election or through certain upheavals".

In this situation the Communist Party calls upon all working people, Republicans and patriots to consolidate and strengthen the movement in defence of democratic liberties. The programme of national salvation, elaborated at the plenum of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party in Gennevilliers is meeting with an increasing response among the people. This programme demands "the disbandment of military groups organised by de Gaulle for the purpose of instigating civil war, defence of Republican law and Constitutional liberties (the right to strike, freedom of opinion, freedom of assembly, association and demonstration)". The programme demands that the new structure of the army "should make it impossible for it to be used against the

people”, that an end be put to the disgraceful immunity afforded traitors and that the Resistance fighters who have been arbitrarily sentenced be released.

The democratic forces see their true leader in the Communist Party. Under its leadership they will repel all attacks by reaction which is acting on the orders of the imperialists and will achieve victory.

EUROPEAN SOCIALIST POLICE SQUAD. Drawing by Constantinescu



Right Socialists on the Job (Blum, Bevin, Moch, Schumacher,
Spaak and others) Drawing by Constantinescu

ANOTHER DEFEAT FOR HUNGARIAN REACTION

Hungarian democracy regulated its relations in a peaceful manner with all churches, with the one exception of the Catholic Church.

Mindszenty and his associates sought to turn the Catholic Church into an illegal counter-revolutionary party, into an agency of American and other imperialists.

At thousands of meetings, the working people of town and country demanded the removal of Mindszenty as an enemy of the people, and that the achievements of the people's democracy and the Republic, its assistance to the people, in building their socialist future, be recognised by the Catholic Church. Prominent Catholics added their voices to those of the people.

To the demands of the people that he cease his counter-revolutionary activities and recognise the people's democracy, Mindszenty replied with intensified terror within the Church and with renewed reactionary activity. He wove the threads of a conspiracy against the Republic, organised espionage and engaged in currency smuggling.

As reported in the press, on December 27 Mindszenty was arrested on a charge of high treason. He is accused of being a traitor to his country, of organising a conspiracy against the Republic and of espionage and currency smuggling. Mindszenty was arrested together with his accomplice Prince Esterhazy, who formerly owned the largest estate in Hungary (220,000 holds*). A number of other Mindszenty accomplices was also arrested.

Mindszenty's letter to governments of foreign states

* *Hold—slightly larger than acre.*

requesting intervention by the Western Powers in Hungary, together with the replies of the ambassadors of these powers were discovered.

Also found among the secret archives were copies of espionage reports sent by Mindszenty to the Western Powers.

The plotters calculated on a third world war and the occupation of Hungary by the U.S. They believed it necessary that at first Mindszenty, in the name of God and America, should become “ruler” of Hungary, and that he should arrange, with the help of the occupation authorities and the Church, a “plebiscite” for the return of the monarchy and afterwards, with his own hands, place the crown of “St. Stephen” on the head of the Hapsburgs, who for centuries had oppressed their people. The American gentlemen gave this blessing as well as their dollars for this of purpose. The conspirators even had a list of names for the “government”, made up of former landlords, big capitalists, kulaks and Right Social Democrats.

A special folder designated “land reform” was found in the secret archives. As is known the land reform strongly affected the Catholic Church which owned feudal estates covering an area of a million holds. The State confiscated 800,000 holds of this area which it handed over to the people who till the soil. Another 80,000 holds were distributed among the lower clergy. Mindszenty, naturally, was most indignant. In a diary entry he noted: “The peasants were bought with grants of free land”. Mindszenty’s “reform” would have created new estates. This would have been brought about by depriving the peasants of the land they had received from democracy.

The American imperialists are in a fury. Deprived of their trump cards by Hungarian democracy, they are now trying to portray their agent Mindszenty as a “Saint”. But the the Hungarian public, and the Catholic workers have welcomed the firmness democracy.

At the New Year, for the first time since the existence of

the Republic, a Catholic Church delegation, headed by the deputy Archbishop of Budapest, Bela Witz, caned on the President with New Year greetings.

Mindszenty's arrest and his complete exposure make it easier for those of the Catholic Church who want to side with the people to come forward openly for the purpose of reaching agreement with the people's power.

PRICE INCREASES IN ITALY

In Italy the de Gasperi Government celebrated the New Year with another round of price increases, worsening thereby the already grim conditions of the working people. As from January 1, house rents and the rent of artisan premises are 30 per cent higher, (at the instance of the Christian Democrat majority in Parliament), while occupiers of commercial premises will pay a 50 per cent rent increase.

The purchase tax on consumer goods has been increased. The Ministry of Transport decided, without consulting Parliament, to increase railway fares. Season tickets factory and office workers and small business men have gone up more than fourfold. Third class tickets are up 30 to 40 per cent, while first and second class tickets cost only 10-20 per cent more.

The General Confederation of Labour taking action against these measures. A special Trade Union Commission has calculated that in order to ensure the basic minimum for the average Italian family of four persons, an income of 60,000 lire of month is needed.

The average wage of the Italian work is approximately 30,000 lire a month.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S 1949 BUDGET

On January 5, Jaromir Dolansky, Czechoslovak Minister of Finance, introduced the 1949 state budget in Parliament. For the first time since her liberation from Hitler enslavement, Czechoslovakia will have a balanced budget.

Planned expenditure will amount to 89,277,720,000 crowns, and income—89,320,351,000 crowns, that is, there will be a surplus of 42,631,000 crowns. Twenty four per cent of the budget will be invested in state and social enterprises, 29 per cent—for social and cultural measures. 19 per cent—for organs of justice, foreign and home security measures, and the expenses of Government representative bodies abroad.

The 1949 budget is proof of economic and political consolidation of the Czechoslovak people's democratic Republic. It is a result of the victory of the working people over reaction, a result of the progress made by planned economy.

EDITORIAL BOARD

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