

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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TRIUMPH OF SOVIET SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY

The elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., held on March 12, will go down in the annals of the Soviet people as a remarkable victory, they were also an event of enormous international significance.

The Soviet people have once again demonstrated before the entire world their unshakable unity, their consolidation around the Bolshevik Party and the great Stalin. The Stalin bloc of Communists and non-Party people secured complete and undivided victory in the elections. More than 110,780,000 people, or 99.73 per cent of all those who went to the polls, voted for the candidates of the bloc. The Soviet State has once again appeared before the peoples of the world as the most stable state in the world and the Socialist system—as the system with the greatest vitality.

The elections to the supreme organ of State power in the U.S.S.R. took place throughout the boundless Soviet land in an atmosphere of the greatest patriotic enthusiasm and political activity on the part of the population, and developed into a **magnificent demonstration of the moral-political unity of the Soviet people.**

Only under Socialism is such unanimity possible, such unity of the people. In the U.S.S.R. this has been achieved as a result of the abolition of exploiting classes, as a result of the fact that all the titanic activity of the Soviet people was and is successfully directed by the Lenin-Stalin Party steered in battle and wise with experience. In all phases of the struggle for the freedom and happiness of the Soviet people the Bolshevik Party released the creative initiative of the masses, educated them and inspired them for the building of Communism and led them from victory to victory. By its selfless service on

behalf of the people the Bolshevik Party won the complete confidence and profound affection of the Soviet people. The results of the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. **constitute a real triumph for the policy of the Communist Party, universal recognition by the people of its great services.**

The election results are a resounding blow to the warmongers, to those who still bank on instability in the Soviet system. More than 110 million Soviet people demonstrated at the elections their firm determination to continue in the future to support the Communist Party which is pursuing the wise Stalin peace policy and fighting for a lasting peace between the peoples.

The elections in the U.S.S.R. took place, on a background of sharpening struggle between the two opposed camps into which the world is divided—the imperialist camp and the democratic camp. The election results show that the social and State system of the Soviet Union, heading the camp of peace and democracy, is more consolidated every year, that **today there is no force in the world that could turn the Soviet people backwards to capitalism.**

The significance of the elections in the U.S.S.R. is reinforced by the fact that they were not just a formal act of a legal character but, by virtue of the very nature of Socialist democracy, they constituted a nation-wide review of the results and achievement, a discussion of the plans and approval of the policy of the Communist Party which is directing the victorious construction of Communism.

During the past few years the Soviet system has won outstanding success in all spheres—economic, political and cultural. These successes provide irrefutable proof of the immense superiority of Socialism over capitalism, proof that the Soviet system is the best form of the organisation of society.

During the past 20 years the level of production in the U.S.S.R. increased annually by an average of 20 per cent, whereas in the U.S., there was an average increase of merely 2 per cent (mainly as a result of a drastic increase in production during the war). The capitalist countries in Western Europe are continuing to mark time round the 1929 level, while the U.S.S.R. has raised its production nine times compared with 1929. In 1949, industry in the U.S.S.R. exceeded the pre-war level by 41 per cent and in the fourth quarter of 1949 it surpassed the level envisaged for 1950—the last year of the Five-Year Plan.

At the same time the capitalist world is passing through decline, and is heading towards its inevitable doom. The general crisis of capitalism is sharpening. A new economic crisis besets the capitalist countries, production is declining, unemployment increasing, prices soaring and the standard of living of the working people steadily deteriorating. The capitalist world now counts at least, 45 million people wholly or partially unemployed. In the U.S., in January alone, about a million workers lost their jobs. Tens of millions of the working people in the capitalist world are suffering terrible hardships, hunger and living in shacks. The jungle laws of capitalism doom them to starvation. And this happens at a time when the big capitalists are making fabulous profits, when in order to maintain high prices thousands of tons of foodstuffs are burned or thrown into the sea.

The law of Socialism is all-round attention to improving the well-being of the working people. The law of capitalism is plunder and brutal exploitation of the working people. The law of Socialism is steady improvement in the conditions of all working people, the law of capitalism—absolute and relative impoverishment of the working class. Under Socialism broad masses of the working people are attracted to the realms of culture, whereas capitalism dooms the working people to

ignorance and illiteracy. Socialism emancipates the oppressed nations, guarantees the prospering of their economy and culture, while capitalism brings the people national oppression.

The imperialists are striving to consolidate in every possible way the monstrous dictatorship of the financial oligarchy. Terror against progressive personalities and against working class organisations has assumed monstrous forms in the U.S. Free thought is persecuted, all who advocate peaceful co-operation with the U.S.S.R. are blacklisted. According to Senator Morse 530 Negroes were lynched in the U.S. in 1948. In order to strangle every democratic movement and to prepare the rear for war, the American imperialists are artificially fomenting war psychosis. They are preparing to outlaw the Communist Party.

American imperialists are not establishing the fascist order in the U.S. alone. There is not a single capitalist country where they are not supporting ultra-reactionary anti-popular forces. In France, the Government, under pressure from the American imperialists, enacts monstrous laws designed to suppress democratic rights and the working class movement. In the French parliament Communist deputies upholding before the entire world the vital rights of the working people of France are beaten up by gendarmes and reactionaries. People protesting against war are threatened with death. In Greece election meetings organised by democrats were broken-up by troops, the entire election campaign was carried out in an atmosphere of rabid monarcho-fascist terror. Such is the countenance of present-day bourgeois "democracy". Such is the anti-popular character of bourgeois rule.

The brilliant victory of the Stalin bloc of Communists and non-Party people is the natural and lawful outcome of the great achievements of Socialism in the U.S.S.R. The Soviet Union was the first to pave the way for Socialism. It is an example for all peoples how to throw off the shackles of capitalist slavery,

how to build a free and happy life for the working people.

The world-historic significance of the Great October Socialist Revolution is that it awakened to the revolutionary struggle for national and social liberation the peoples in all continents. The victory of Socialism in the U.S.S.R., has exploded the myth that only the exploiters were capable of guiding society. **In the Soviet Union, the International revolutionary movement has a powerful base, a centre possessing immense attractive force, an inextinguishable beacon, illuminating the way to Socialism for all peoples.**

Every success of the Soviet Union gladdens the hearts of the advanced people of all countries, **since the stronger and more powerful the U.S.S.R.,—the stronger and more powerful the great camp of peace, democracy and Socialism.** That is why the latest evidence of the triumph of Soviet Socialist democratism evokes such joy in the ranks of the working people of the world. The successes of the Soviet Union awaken a bubbling energy in the ranks of the organised peace movement. The struggle will be developed with renewed force against the war provocateurs, against the Anglo-American imperialists and their Right socialist and Titoite agents. The workers and working people in many countries have openly declared, and have confirmed their declarations by concrete actions, that never under any conditions, will they go to war against the U.S.S.R. These declarations are a clear expression of the proletarian internationalism which permeates all the activity, of the Communist Parties. The example of the Soviet people who, by their labour and their iron determination are consolidating peace will, in the future too, give inspiration to all partisans of peace.

The Communist and Workers' Parties in all lands are rallying the forces of the working people in order to frustrate the plans of the imperialist aggressors, to curb them. A third, world war—and the Churchills and Trumans would do well to

remember this—will meet with such a rebuff from the peoples that would lead not simply to the defeat of one or another of the aggressor powers, but to the destruction of the entire world imperialist system. The guarantee of, this is the growing might of the U.S.S.R., the Chinese People's Republic, the countries of People's Democracy, the growing unity, the organised peace movement, the deepening consciousness of the working class and the strengthening of the Communist parties in all countries.

ALL SOVIET PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN ELECTIONS TO THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE U.S.S.R.

MIGHTY DEMONSTRATION OF MORAL- POLITICAL UNITY OF SOVIET SOCIETY

On March 9, electors in the Leningrad electoral district in Moscow for the election to the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. met their candidate, Comrade **G. M. Malenkov**. In his speech Comrade Malenkov described in length the outstanding achievements of the Soviet people in developing their Socialist economy and culture, and also devoted much attention to the international situation. Concluding his speech he said:

“Last year the Soviet Government suggested that the five great powers—the United States of America, Great Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union should sign a Pact to consolidate peace. The aggressors frustrated this suggestion, and, it follows, continue to cling to the positions of instigators of a new war.

“In reply to the adventurous policy of aggressors we declare before all sincere political and public leaders, irrespective of political views and convictions, that they can rely on the Soviet Union as the most resolute adversary of a new war; as the real, genuine and consistent champion of world peace.

“We are confident that the aggressive policy of the warmongers will end in ignominious failure.

“The Soviet Union, in close friendship with our great

friend in the East—China, and with the People’s Democracies in Europe, stands and will continue firmly to stand on guard for peace, will consolidate the peace supporters and expose the adventurous policy of the warmongers.

“The Soviet Government, true to the cause of universal peace, will not relinquish further efforts aimed at securing peace by every means, and is ready to be an active participant in all honest plans, measures and actions to prevent a new war and to preserve world peace”.

On March 10, **V. M. Molotov**, candidate for the Soviet of Union of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., addressed the electors of the Molotov electoral district of Moscow at a meeting in the Hall of the Columns in the Trade Union House. Comrade Molotov, who warmly thanked the electors for the confidence reposed in him, dwelt in detail on the successes of Socialist construction in the U.S.S.R. and on the consolidation of the camp of peace and democracy throughout the world. Referring to the peaceful policy of the Soviet Government he said:

“We stand wholly for the Lenin-Stalin principle of the peaceful co-existence of the two systems and for their peaceful economic competition. But we are well aware of the truth that so long as imperialism, exists, there will exist also the danger of new aggression; that the existence of imperialism and its predatory designs make war inevitable. Consequently, the supporters of lasting peace between peoples must not be passive, must not become do-nothing pacifists indulging in phrase mongering but must wage a daily persistent and ever more effective struggle for peace, drawing into it masses of people, and ready to take the corresponding measures should the imperialists attempt to unleash a new aggression.

“If the partisans of peace in all lands wage a steadfast struggle for lasting peace between the peoples, exposing each and every warmonger, steadily extending and consolidating

their ranks, the international peace movement will fulfil its historic task—to prevent the unleashing of new aggression and to mobilise against the aggressive forces of imperialism such peoples' power as will curb any aggressor.”

Great political enthusiasm marked the meetings of candidates to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. (Comrades **L. P. Beria, K. E. Voroshilov, L. M. Kaganovich, A. I. Mikoyan, A. A. Andreyev, N. S. Khrushchev, A. N. Kosygin, N. M. Shvernik** and hundreds of other candidates) with their electors. At these meetings the electors unanimously expressed their profound gratitude to the Bolshevik Party, to the Soviet Government and the great Stalin for the daily solicitude for the welfare of the working people, for the prosperity of the Soviet Fatherland, and assured them that they would vote for the candidates of the mighty Stalin bloc of Communists and non-Party people.

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The election of deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. took place on Sunday, March 12, throughout the Soviet Union in an atmosphere of great patriotic enthusiasm and political activity on the part of the people.

On the 13th. the district electoral commissions completed counting the votes cast for the candidate deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

The list of candidates put forward by the bloc of Communists and non-Party people secured complete and undivided victory.

On March 15, the Central Electoral Commission for the elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. published in the Soviet press a report on the election results, and the list of deputies. The report says:

The Central Electoral Commission has received detailed

results of the elections, to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. from all district electoral commissions. The total number of electors in all electoral districts has been finally established as numbering 111,116,373, of whom 111,090,010 people, or 99.98 per cent of the total electorate, participated in the elections of deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

In all electoral districts for the election to the **Soviet of Union** 110,788,377, or 99.73 per cent of all electors who went to the poll, voted for the candidates of the bloc of Communists and non-Party people. Of all electors who voted 300,146, or 0.27 per cent, voted against the candidates for the Soviet of Union. On the basis of Article 88 of the "Rules Concerning Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.", 1,487 voting-papers were found to be invalid.

In all electoral districts for the elections to the **Soviet of Nationalities**, 110,782,009 electors, or 99.72 per cent of the total electorate who went to the poll, voted for candidates put forward by the bloc of Communist and non-Party people: 306,382 votes, or 0.28 per cent of all electors who took part in the voting, voted against the candidate deputies to the Soviet of Nationalities. On the basis of Article 88 of the "Rules Concerning Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.", 1,619 voting-papers were found to be invalid.

In the Union Republics the results of the elections to the Soviet of Union and Soviet of Nationalities are as follows:

Name of Union Republic	Participated In Elections	Votes cast for candidates of bloc of Communists and non- Party people	
	Percentage of electorate	Soviet of Union Per cent who went to poll	Soviet of Nationalities Per cent who went to poll
R.S.F.S.R.	99.98	99.63	99.64

The Ukrainian S.S.R.	99.98	99.85	99.85
The Byelorussian S.S.R.	99.99	99.90	99.89
The Uzbek S.S.R.	99.99	99.90	99.86
The Kazakh S.S.R.	99.99	99.78	99.69
The Georgian S.S.R.	99.99	99.98	99.97
The Azerbaijan S.S.R.	99.99	99.90	99.87
The Lithuanian S.S.R.	99.88	99.76	99.74
The Moldavian S.S.R.	99.97	99.84	99.81
The Latvian S.S.R.	99.94	99.93	99.93
The Kirghiz S.S.R.	99.98	99.75	99.59
The Tajik S.S.R.	99.99	99.92	99.83
The Armenian S.S.R.	99.99	99.95	99.93
The Turkmenian S.S.R.	99.98	99.91	99.74
The Estonian S.S.R.	99.82	99.63	99.58
The Karelian-Finnish S.S.R.	99.95	99.72	99.46
Total for the U.S.S.R.	99.95	99.73	99.72

In all the electoral districts for the elections to the Soviet of Nationalities from the **Autonomous Republics, Autonomous regions** and the **national areas** of the total 8,726,204 comprising the electorate, 8,723,874 people, or 99.97 per cent, took part in voting. In these areas 8,684,806 people, or 99.55 per cent of all electors who came to polls, voted for the candidates of the bloc of Communists and non-Party people. 38,953 people voted against the candidate deputies to the Soviet of Nationalities from autonomous republics, autonomous regions and national areas. On the basis of Article 88 of the “Rules Concerning Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.” 115 voting-papers were found to be invalid.

On the basis of Article 38 of the “Rules Concerning Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.”, the Central Electoral Commission, having considered the materials for each electoral district separately, registered the election of deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. in all 1,316 electoral districts.

DEMOCRATISATION OF ORGANS OF POWER IN POLAND

The Polish Seim has just enacted an exceptionally important law regarding the local organs of unified State power. Until now a double form of local government prevailed in Poland: state and municipal Councils (Rada Narodowa). According to the new law the local authorities appointed by the Government (voivods, elders, etc.) are abolished, and on the basis of the present Councils, **unified** organs of power are being created, Regional, town, district and provincial Councils will be elected by the population of the given territorial unit on the basis of a democratic election law, providing electors with the right to recall deputies.

The local Council elects its own executive body—the Presidium. All the functions of the outgoing state organs are transferred to the Council and its departments. The Council approves the budget, and people's economic plan for the given territory on the basis of the general State plan. The order of subordination of each local Council to a higher body and also to the State Council and the Council of Ministers corresponds with the principles of democratic centralism.

The Councils (Rada Narodowa) will, as **unified** organs of power be able to extend their work of drawing the masses into the work of running the State.

GROWING STRUGGLE OF ITALIAN WORKING PEOPLE

The struggle of poor peasants and farm labourers in Italy is growing in scale. In Calabria, where in December last the peasants fought a large-scale struggle, they have seized an additional 30,000 hectares of land. The greater part of this land has not been cultivated during the past 70 years. Over 100,000 people from 60 villages, united in co-operatives, seized the estates of Barons Berlingeri, Baracco and others. Overcoming police resistance, the people began spring sowing, They have elected "Land Division Committees" for the purpose of directing the movement. In the Fucino district of Abruzzo, 4,000 farm labourers have resorted to the so-called "strike in reverse", that is, they remain at work repairing roads and draining canals and then demand payment for their labour.

Fourteen delegations of industrial workers recently left the towns to hand over food and money they had collected and to express their solidarity.

The workers of the "San Giorgio" factory in Genoa and miners in Valdarno have set examples of selfless and consistent struggle against the dismantling of industry. In, these actions the workers enjoy the, active support of the population. People San Giovanni Valdarno have taken over 600 wives and 700 children of miners into their homes.

Workers of the Fiat plants have decided that they will not produce "Vampire" jet aircraft.

NEW STATE BUDGET IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The National Assembly of Czechoslovakia is now debating the 1950, State Budget. The last fiscal year resulted in a considerable excess of income compared to the estimates. The 1950 budget is further proof of the steady development of Czechoslovak economy. It foresees an increase in expenditure from 89 billion crowns in 1948 to 132 billion in 1950, and at the same time foresees a revenue of 373 million crowns over expenditure.

The budgets of capitalist countries, which provide for huge expenditure on war preparations, are to a considerable extent, deficit budgets. For instance, the 1950 budget in U.S. has a deficit of over five billion dollars. Over 70 per cent expenditure of the U.S. budget is directly or indirectly connected with preparation for a new war, whereas the biggest single item in the Czechoslovak budget—32.07 per cent—goes for capital construction.

26.3 per cent of Czechoslovakia's budget is allocated for social services and public health; the corresponding sum for the U.S.A. is a mere 6.4 cent; in Czechoslovakia 11.9 per cent is spent on cultural needs, while in the U.S. only one per cent is earmarked for cultural requirements.

WORKING PEOPLE IN ALL LANDS TAKE VIGOROUS ACTION IN DEFENCE OF PEACE

PEACE MESSENGERS WELCOMED IN THE USSR

The welcome extended to the delegation from the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress in the U.S.S.R., demonstrated the unanimous desire of the working people of the Soviet Union to strengthen peace throughout the world.

A special session of the Soviet Peace Committee was devoted to a meeting with the delegation consisting of representatives of the U.S.S.R., France, Italy, Britain, U.S.A., Canada and Africa.

On March 8 the delegation was received in the Great Kremlin Palace by I. A. Parfenov, Chairman of the Soviet of the Union, and by V. V. Kuznetsov, Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, in the presence of the deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., representatives of the Soviet Peace Committee, the All Union Central Committee of Trade Unions and other public organisations and also foreign press correspondents. Yves Farge, head of the delegation, addressed the gathering and presented to V. V. Kuznetsov the message from the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. It contained the two points of the message addressed by the World Peace Committee to parliaments in all countries demanding an end to the armaments drive, immediate reduction in military budgets and the armed forces, and banning the atomic weapon.

V. V. Kuznetsov followed by reading the answer of the chairmen of the two members of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. to the visiting delegation. The reply stressed that the

proposals of the Permanent Committee would meet with the full understanding and support of the peoples of the Soviet Union, that they correspond to their unalterable striving to consolidate world peace, and that the message would be submitted to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. The text of the answer was then handed to Yves Farge.

Later on the same day the Permanent Committee delegation held a Press Conference. Among the spokesmen at the Conference were: A. A. Surkov, Yves Farge, James Endicott, Rockwell Kent, John Rogge, Johannes Steele, Mamadou Konate, Lussu d'Astier de la Vigerie. A statement by the Soviet Peace Committee was also read at the Press Conference. This statement protested against the banning of the delegations of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress from entering the U.S. and Holland in order to submit to the parliaments of those countries proposals designed to safeguard peace.

PEACE MOVEMENT IN RUMANIA

The creation of peace committees in all enterprises, offices, schools, city districts and in rural villages, envisaged by the January Plenum of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party, is now under way.

According to reports received from 45 districts (of 58) there were, at the beginning of March, 13,540 peace committees. Of this number, 1,625 were located in enterprises, 7,980 in villages and farms, and the remainder in offices, schools, on state farms, machine and tractor depots, collective farms, etc.

Members of peace committees number 182,818, of whom over 45,000 are workers, over 85,000 are working peasants and the remainder intellectuals, office workers and small

handicraftsmen; the Committees also include some 1,500 priests. A large number of women and youth have also been elected to these committees.

The committees are elected at public meetings. Speaking at these meetings, workers denounce the machinations of the imperialist warmongers, pledge vigilance towards intrigues of the class enemy, to participate more actively in securing overfulfilment of the production plan and to defend the gains of the working class. The working peasants are undertaking concrete obligations—to complete spring field work in good time.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF FIGHTERS FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM IN FRANCE

The Second National Congress of fighters for peace and freedom, which had been preceded by a national conference of cultural workers, was opened in the Exhibition Palace, Paris on March 10. Eight thousand delegates took part in the work of the Congress. Speeches were delivered by Yves Farge and Abbe Boulier. On Sunday, March 12, twenty thousand people attended a public meeting.

Amid great enthusiasm the Congress adopted resolutions calling for disarmament and prohibition of the atomic weapon, for freedom and struggle against colonial oppression, and also a call “addressed to the people of France urging them to strengthen unity among the partisans of peace and to struggle more resolutely for peace.

The Congress was greeted by representatives of the Soviet Union, United States, Germany, French Equatorial Africa and West Africa, Great Britain, Poland and Viet Nam.

**FRENCH RIGHT-WING SOCIALISTS—
LACKEYS OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM.
Francois Billoux, Member, Political
Bureau, French Communist Party**

The Right Socialists in France always play the role of bourgeois agents in the working class movement, the role of direct hirelings of the American imperialists in the realisation of their war plans and the enslavement of nations.

Conscious that the unity of the working class will secure the conditions enabling France to take the path of Socialism, Blum is employing against the Communist Party the old, venomous weapon of reaction—lies, slander and insinuation. He is corrupting the class consciousness of the Socialist workers, and the Party he heads contains people whose hands are stained with many scandals, who are ready to resort to anything in order faithfully to serve the U.S. imperialists. Blum has more than once boasted that he never abides by his Party's decisions but forges his own policy of the Socialist Party.

At the Socialist Party Congress in March, 1949, Blum, refuting Marxism, instead that any reference to "class struggle" in the rules of the Party should be annulled by Congress. He condemned dialectical materialism and rejected philosophical materialism as a world outlook explaining the phenomena of nature and society.

These statements by Blum on subjects of "theory" and practice aimed at showing the American imperialists that the Right Socialist Parties were their most reliable support and that the French Socialist Party in particular would best promote the Wall Street policy in France. Surely you can see, was what Blum wished to convey to the U.S. imperialists, that our activities are directed towards destroying the unity of the French working class which is the main barrier to the

realisation of your plans. To make the French people forfeit their national independence in your favour, we shall tell them, that renunciation of national sovereignty is part of Socialism. We shall confuse everything and explain your grabbing of French economy as a magnanimous and disinterested act.

In the spring of 1946 Blum travelled to Washington to sign agreements which further subordinated France to the Wall Street bankers.

To allow the American imperialists to harness France more closely to their chariot, one of the essential political conditions was the exclusion of the Communist Ministers from the Government, despite the fact that the Communist party polled more votes than any other Party in all the elections! Blum's party undertook to carry out this ignominious operation. As is known, in November 1946 Blum formed a Right Socialist government. It was this cabinet, in which the post of Colonial Minister belonged to the Socialist Moutet, that began the vile war in Viet Nam and unloosed cruel repression in all the colonies, including Madagascar. Never before had the Right Socialists acted so openly as "loyal capitalist administrators", as Blum himself expressed it.

A few weeks later, under the pressure of the masses, Blum's Government had to yield place to another cabinet in which Communists participated. But that did not suit the Americans. On their orders the might Socialist Ramadier did everything to exclude the Communists from the government a second time.

Since then each day brings fresh confirmation of the fact that Blum's party is one of the chief bulwarks of American imperialism in France. This Party had pledged itself to mislead the masses, to present in a rosy light the expansionist, aggressive policy of U.S. monopolies. And it is carrying out these pledges with a servile faithfulness. The Right-Wing Socialists became fervid adherents of the "Marshall plan" and

all the provocations that accompanied it: the Brussels war pact, the quartering of the foreign staff at Fontainebleau, the formation of the European Union, the Atlantic pact and so forth.

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The existence of two camps—the imperialist, anti-democratic camp, and the anti-imperialist, democratic camp fighting for peace, freedom and national independence—became clearer and clearer to the mass of the people. Under such conditions the Socialist Party attempted, aided by Jouhaux, Bouzanquet and others, to destroy the General Confederation of Labour by organising the breakaway “Force Ouvriere” on American dollars.

Preparation of repression against the working class was entrusted to Right-Wing Socialist Ministers. During the big strikes at the end of 1947 they drew up foul laws directed against the trade unions and the right to strike, in the autumn of 1948 the Socialist Minister Lacoste, refused to satisfy the miners’ demands, and the Socialist Jules Moch, then Minister of the Interior, stained his hands with their blood.

The Right Socialists, Depreux and Jules Moch, Ministers of Interior, introduced an unjust electoral system in order to deprive the Communist Party of control of hundreds of municipalities, hundreds of general councillors in departments and 70 seats in the Council of the Republic.

Thus, not content with the attempt to split the unity of the working class, the leaders of the Socialist Party took it upon themselves to operate the disgusting measures of the bourgeoisie directed against the working class.

At the same time the Socialist, Ramadier, Minister of National Defence, claimed, together with the Socialist Lejeune, Secretary of State for land forces, that the borders of France

were on the Elbe. Ramadier showed himself to be a zealous servant of the instigators of an anti-Soviet war, taking reprisals against the Communist deputies and activists when the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party courageously confirmed the determination of the French people never to go to war' against the Soviet Union. At the same time, acting on the orders of the U.S. capitalists, Ramadier destroyed the French aircraft industry, and handed over the French Army and the secrets of national defence lock, stock and barrel to the U.S. monopolists.

The leaders of the Socialist Party and their organ, "Populaire", are among those who are particularly zealous in war propaganda against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. The Right Socialist leaders are among the most fervid defenders of the foul trailers and spies of the Petkov, Rajk and Kostov type. Naturally, they welcomed with delight the treachery of Tito and his clique of assassins and spies. There is nothing surprising about this. All who, like the Right Socialist leaders and fascists from the Tito gang, are enemies of their own people and enemies of the camp of peace as a whole, serve one and the same master—American imperialism. But despite all the devices of the Right Socialist leaders and their capitalist masters, the discontent of the people continues to grow. This is strikingly proved by the fact that the Socialists were forced recently to withdraw from the Government. The discontent of the masses of the people is a consequence of the policy of poverty, reaction and war pursued by the American parties, including the Socialist Party.

The disruptive tactics of the Right Socialist leaders have not yielded the desired results. The General Confederation of Labour remains the strongest trade union organisation which unites the broadest masses of the working people in struggle against reaction. In the concrete struggle for peace and bread the unity of the working people is growing and gaining

strength. The prestige of the Communist Party and its influence among the masses are unshakable, despite all the slander and lies disseminated by the reactionary press, radio and cinema; despite the arbitrariness and repressions of Moch's police apparatus and despite the Blum-de Gaulle election combinations.

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The American masters are dissatisfied; they have failed to achieve their aims. New services are demanded from Blum and his party. The heralds of reaction, defeat and national betrayal have, with the help of Socialists, once again come to power. To-day the Right Socialists in France are helping in the regrouping of all reactionary, fascist forces. In the interests of the war policy the supporters of Blum seek to open the way for de Gaulle who, once again, is regarded by Americans as the best candidate for the job of ruling France. With the complicity of Bidault, de Gaulle is preparing a coup d'etat; he sends his insurgent gangs to towns and into working class streets, and tries to utilise for his own ends the recent scandal in which the R.P.F. (the de Gaulle party) is also involved. At the same time, seeking to lull the vigilance of the masses, Guy Mollet, General Secretary of the Socialist Party, claims there is no longer any danger from de Gaulle and that de Gaulle has no dictatorial aspirations.

The movement of the masses brought about the collapse of the Bidault Government, expressed in the withdrawal of Socialist Ministers. It is evident that the Right Socialist leaders will, in other ways, take part in carrying out the policy of war, of disrupting the working class and of fighting against the Communist Party.

Comrade Zhdanov justly pointed out that "the American monopolies and international reaction as a whole... trust neither

the British Labourites nor the French Socialists, whom, notwithstanding all their desire to please, they regard as ‘semi-Communists’, insufficiently worthy of confidence”. It is obvious that the Right-Wing Socialist leaders headed by Blum are ready to provide their U.S. masters with additional! evidence of their servile obsequiousness.

Now, more than ever before, they are making every effort to support American policy in France. That is why they come out in favour of an unjust electoral system the adoption of which would result in a considerable reduction in Communist representation in Parliament and would help to realise de Gaulle’s plans with regard to the seizure of power. That is why together with the other Marshallised parties they recently voted for the monstrous laws aimed at eliminating “freedom” of the press and at subjecting to monstrous repression democrats who engage in or support concrete actions against war.

But despite all the scheming of the Right Socialist leaders, the powerful united actions of the French working people grow in number and scale in the process of violent class struggle; the united front of Communist, Socialist, Catholic, and Republican workers—of all genuine and active partisans of peace—is growing steadily.

Inspired by the ceaseless struggle of the Communists for unity, supporting their strivings not to furnish the slightest pretext for disrupting unity in action, the working people and a;; democrats will frustrate the schemes of the enemies of the people, will foil the machinations of the American servants—de Gaulle and Bidault, who are supported by Right Socialist leaders. They will secure the formation of a government of democratic unity which will pursue the policy of peace and national independence.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF NORWAY CONSOLIDATES ITS RANKS. Emil Loevlien, Chairman, Communist Party of Norway

The preparations for and the work of the special Congress of the Communist Party of Norway, held February 20-22, showed that this Congress is of historic significance for the entire struggle of the Norwegian working class, and represent a turning point in the history of our Party.

For a number of years the trotskyite Furubottn group had carried on its subversive work in the Party. It introduced into the Party its incorrect, nationalist views and “theories”, and used its factionalist group and its “secret intelligence apparatus” against the Party and leading Party workers. It brought corruption into Party life, sowed discord and pessimism in the ranks of the Party and systematically paved the way for disruption and destruction of the Party.

This resulted in serious setbacks for the Communist Party of Norway in the October 1949 Parliamentary elections. When, immediately after the elections, Communists openly raised in the Central Committee the question of destroying the anti-Party faction, the Furubottn supporters attempted to utilise their flight from leadership in the Party as a prelude to an open split in the Party. At this moment—an extremely serious one for the Party—the Central Committee called on all Party members completely to rid the Party of the factionalists and disrupters, to conduct wide Party discussions in all branches and to elect delegates at district Conferences for the special Party Congress.

The discussions conducted in the Party revealed the universal indignation of the membership with the behaviour of

the enemies of the Party. Conferences were summoned in each of our 18 districts. Ninety-five per cent of the Party organisations were represented at these district Party conferences which elected a total of 210 delegates to the Congress.

Of the 564 delegates to the district conferences, 549 voted for the Central Committee line and condemned the factionalist Furubottn clique as out and out enemies of the Party. **Not a single Furubottn follower was elected to the Congress at any of the district conferences.**

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The struggle against the enemies of the Communist Party of Norway and for the unity of the Party also evoked wide interest among the fraternal Communist Parties.

During the first phase of our inner-Party struggle a number of other parties, including the Communist Parties of Denmark, Sweden and Britain, as well as the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, expressed themselves in their press on the situation in Norway, thus rendering valuable assistance to the Communist Party of Norway in its struggle against the anti-Party grouping.

At the special Congress of the Communist Party of Norway the fraternal Communist Parties and, above all, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) displayed solidarity with the stand taken by the Central Committee in its struggle against the Furubottn splitters.

Congress utterly reject Furubottn's anti-Marxist views on the national question, on the peasant question and also on the role of the Communist Party, and pointed out that **the complete liquidation of the Furubottn group in the Party and in the working class movement was a vital necessity and a pre-condition for further development of the Communist Party**

of Norway as the leader and organiser of the struggle of the Norwegian working class. The Party exposed these trotskyite double-dealers and falsifiers. Amid great enthusiasm Congress unanimously adopted the draft resolution submitted by the Central Committee on this question, which read:

“At its special Congress, the united and consolidated Communist Party of Norway stands on the firm base of Marxism-Leninism. Through the medium of Congress the Party announces its resolute determination to participate more actively and with more vigour in the grant common co-operation of Communists in all countries who, under the banner of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin, are the leading and organising force in the struggle of millions of people for peace, freedom and Socialism”.

The report, discussion and the resolutions adopted by Congress stressed the need for sharp self-criticism of the Party’s work, **to strengthen revolutionary political vigilance in relation to the enemies who penetrate into the Party and the need for a resolute struggle against Right opportunism and Left sectarianism.**

A resolution which was adopted unanimously, fully endorsed the line of the Central Committee in its struggle against the enemies of the Party and placed the following tasks before the Party:

- to conduct a reporting-back campaign on the results of the Congress with the aim of improving political-educational work directly connected with the solution of practical tasks and with raising the ideological level of the membership;

- to concentrate the efforts of the Party on work among the masses, on consolidating the bonds between the Party and the masses, and on the steady strengthening of the Party positions in the factories and in the trade unions;

- to secure greater political initiative on the part of branch organisations in the struggle for immediate demands so that

each Party branch, each section, each district committee becomes a vigorous, independently functioning entity;

in view of the organisation of widespread Party studies to accelerate publication of the classics of Marxism-Leninism.

In addition, the Congress unanimously agreed on a special decision which will rid the Party once and for all of its enemies. Furubottn and twenty-one of his colleagues were expelled from the Party. Congress approved the measures adopted by the district committees and the local organisations against other Furubottn supporters and formulated the political conditions on the basis of which those members who were deceived by Furubottn's anti-Party group will be restored individually, to Party membership.

The reaction of the Furubottn group immediately after the Congress shows, however, that the Party must display the **maximum vigilance towards its enemies**. The day after the Congress finished its work, the leadership of the factional group circulated a resolution announcing "dissolution" of the group and calling on its supporters to remain "loyal" members of the Party. Apparently Furubottn thinks he can lull the vigilance of the Party and make the Norwegian comrades forget that double-dealing and deception are methods of anti-Communist activity employed by enemies of the Party.

The Communist Party of Norway will not fail to draw correct conclusions from this manoeuvre the Party as a whole will display **greater** vigilance towards its enemies. Those Furubottn supporters who remain in the Party in order to continue their subversive activities must be exposed and mercilessly hunted out of the Party.

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In the resolution on the tasks of the Party, which was unanimously adopted, the Congress pointed out that the course

events and the general situation in Norway confirm the political line formulated in the reports and decisions of the November Meeting of the Information Bureau of Communist and Workers' Parties. In this connection Congress resolved that the Party's main task is "to rally all forces in the struggle for the Party's main task is **“to rally all forces in the struggle for the maintenance and safe-guarding of peace, in defence of the national independence of the country and the democratic rights of the people, for working class unity in the struggle to raise the standard of living.”**

A feature of the present situation in Norway is that there is now a U.S. "arms mission" in Oslo, headed by U.S. Admiral Jennings who arrived on the day the special Congress of the Communist Party opened. The Communist Youth League organised a protest campaign against the presence in Norway of American warmongers, and the police, who sought to suppress it, rounded up Communist Youth League members who were circulating leaflets. Leading members of the organisation were arrested.

The day after the arrival of the American military mission, workers in Oslo marked "Colonial Youth Day" with a demonstration in the streets of the capital, one of the main slogans being: "Mr. Jennings, clear out of Norway."

The Party Congress emphasised that it was a matter of fighting against all the consequences arising from the inclusion of Norway in the Anglo-American military bloc. It was a matter of **active struggle** against American arms deliveries, **active struggle** against the arming and militarisation of the country, **active struggle** against the U.S. demand to force up prices, against restricting the right to strike, against the sweating system in industry and other methods of intensified exploitation of the workers.

Congress advanced vital slogans of the political and economic struggle of the workers and insisted that the Party as

a whole make a radical change in its work among the masses, devoting its main efforts to strengthening its influence among workers in the factories and in the trade unions, to isolating the Right Social Democratic traitors from the masses and dislodging them from the positions they hold in the working class movement. Only in this way, by organising unity the working class among the rank and file, will it be possible to create the necessary conditions for the realisation of the main slogan of the Party: **“Norway must break with the Anglo-American war bloc! The people of Norway will never go to war against the Soviet Union and the People’s Democracies!”**

A great responsibility now rests on the new Central Committee, on every district committee and on the leadership of sections and units. The membership of the Party is rallied round the Central Committee. By ridding itself of its enemies the Party has been strengthened. But this purge must be carried out thoroughly and completely. Communists must sharpen their revolutionary vigilance towards all open and concealed enemies of the Party in every section of the Party and the working class movement.

By consolidating its forces and decisively improving its work among the masses, by fully utilising the favourable objective possibilities, the Communist Party of Norway will extend and strengthen its fight for peace, democracy and Socialism.

FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN HUNGARY. Zoltan Vash, Member, Political Bureau, Central Committee, Hungarian Workers' Party

Relying on the historical experience of planned Socialist economy in the U.S.S.R., the Hungarian Workers' Party in the spring of 1947, prepared a draft Three-Year State Plan for the complete economic rehabilitation of the country. According to this Plan, output, with the help of large capital investments, was to reach pre-war level and in certain decisive sectors considerably to exceed it. Within three years living standards of the working people were planned to rise by 80 per cent, surpassing the pre-war level by 8 per cent.

Comrade Mathias Rakosi pointed out that the fulfilment of the Plan depended on the success of the struggle waged against reaction by the Hungarian working people under the leadership of the working class to build and consolidate the people's democratic State. This struggle has ended victoriously both in the political and in the economic sphere.

The Hungarian people completed the Three-Year Plan seven months ahead of schedule and over-fulfilled it. In 1949—the last year of the Three-Year Plan—the national income was 24 per cent higher than before the war; industry topped the targets by 21 per cent, surpassing pre-war level by more than 50, per cent; total agricultural production reached the pre-war mark. Productivity of labour in industry doubled, exceeding, in 1949, the pre-war level by 20 per cent. The number of factory and office workers increased by 37 per cent. Unemployment was abolished. Capital investments were 27.4 per cent above the planned amount.

The Three-Year Plan also secured considerable achievements in agricultural reorganisation. The 640,000 new

peasants who received land under the land reform were considerably strengthened economically. The State facilitated this by granting certain tax privileges, by providing selected seeds, artificial fertilisers, a large number of agricultural machines and pedigree cattle and by extending the contracting system.

Two hundred and twenty one machine-tractor depots were opened. The area under State farms increased from 50,000 to 400,000 holds. One thousand five hundred agricultural producer co-operative with a total of 350,000 holds of land, were formed (a hold equals 0,57 hectares).

Following the nationalisation of the banks and of all large-scale industry and, later of all medium-scale industry, Hungarian industry has now become Socialist. During the fulfilment of the Three-Year Plan and especially during the last year of the Plan, the development of a Socialist sector in agriculture was begun.

The people of Hungary, assisted by the Soviet Union, fulfilled and surpassed their Three-Year Plan ahead of schedule.

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On January 1, 1950, a Five-Year National Economic Plan for the Hungarian Republic was launched—a plan described by Comrade Rakosi as the road of the People's Democracy towards a strong, prosperous Socialist Hungary.

The Five-Year National Economic Plan will achieve the following main tasks: a rapid development of industry, especially in the iron, steel and engineering industries—which is a pre-condition for the development of light industry; the mechanisation and modernisation of transport and the re-organisation of agriculture along Socialist lines. Thus. the question is one of transforming Hungary from an agrarian-

industrial country into an industrial-agrarian one—into a country in the economy of which industry will play the decisive role, but which will at the same time, have a developed Socialist agriculture.

Moreover, the Plan envisages a further increase in general living standards, the preparation of conditions to eliminate the contradictions between town and countryside, improvement in housing conditions, satisfaction of the steadily growing social and cultural demands of the working people and the strengthening of the defence capacity of the country in the interests of safeguarding peace.

Capital investments in national economy will amount to 50.9 billion forints—five times more than that provided by the Three-Year Plan. Of this amount 41.9 per cent is allocated for the development of industry, 15.6 per cent for agriculture and 14.8 per cent for the modernisation of transport. Four and a half billion forints, or 8.7 per cent of the total capital investments, are allocated for public health, social and cultural purposes and for the building and development of towns and villages.

Whereas under the Horthy regime the national income increased by an annual average of merely 1.9 per cent, the national income of the Hungarian People's Democracy will, within five years, increase by 63.1 per cent. Before the war, 3.9 per cent of the national income was set aside for capital investments. At present 21.4 per cent is used for this purpose.

In the last year of the Five-Year Plan industrial output is estimated to be 86.4 per cent above the 1949 level. The main industrial development lies with heavy industry. This is evident from the fact that the level of production in this branch of industry will more than double, by 1955 and will comprise 204.3 per cent of the 1919 level. Light industry will reach 173 per cent of the 1949 level in the last year of the Five-Year Plan.

During these five years agricultural output will increase by

42.2 per cent, the income from crops by 35 per cent and from stock-raising by 51.1 per cent.

Figures for transport will rise by 60 per cent during the Five-Year Plan and, in 1954, will exceed the 1938 level by 70 per cent.

Capital investment provided by the Three-Year Plan served, mainly, the aim of rehabilitation. Capital investments envisaged in the Five-Year Plan are planned for the further development of the new Socialist industry. The economic map of the country will change radically, particularly because 243 of the 263 new industrial enterprises will be built in the provinces which will, in essence, eliminate the abnormal situation created by capitalism when three-fourths of large-scale industry in Hungary were concentrated in Budapest.

Development of production does not mean only the construction of many new factories but also the introduction of new, modern technique into industry, agriculture and transport—without which the building of Socialism is inconceivable. The grandeur of the tasks becomes clear if one considers that over half of the machine-tools in the engineering industry in Hungary will have to be replaced under the Five-Year Plan.

To make labour easier mechanisation will be effected wherever work is difficult and arduous. In the mining industry, for example, the introduction of modern cutting and loading machines will do away not only with the pick but also with much other manual labour.

The great scale of the mechanisation programme is evident from the fact that during the five years of the Plan, machine output for industry will increase seventeen times; output of engines, three and a half times; means of transport doubled, and agricultural machinery, two and a half times.

To promote the Socialist reorganisation of agriculture the Five-Year Plan will, alongside a considerable development of

State farms, give support also in the first place to producer co-operatives of the working peasantry. Extensive mechanisation will be carried out especially by organising new machine-tractor depots and by the development of existing ones. In 1954, the country will have 19,500 tractors, which will permit the cultivation of 60 per cent of the total crop area by machines. Supplies of artificial fertilisers will rise by 450 per cent; of natural fertilisers, 31 per cent. The average crop yield during the Five-Year Plan will increase by 25 per cent.

Experiments with a view to cultivating many new crops, such as cotton, will be undertaken. According to the Plan, 100,000 holds of land will be sown to cotton in 1954. By afforestation and the planting of forest protection belts we shall overcome the harmful consequences of the years of rapacious exploitation of forest resources by the capitalists.

Great significance is attached to the development of animal husbandry, of improving the quality of stock and securing its numerical increase.

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The serious increase in the living standards of the working people envisaged by the Five-Year Plan means that in the last year of the Plan, living standards of the working people will be 85 per cent above pre-war level. A higher level of consumption will be secured on the one hand by the provision of a greater amount of food products and on the other by a great increase in the production of consumer goods.

Cotton fabric per head of the population will increase by 40 per cent; woollen fabrics, 51 per cent and leather footwear by 95 per cent.

Improvement in housing conditions, extension of the health services, increased social security and a greater satisfaction of

cultural demands—all these will serve the aim of raising the living standards of the working people. During the Five-Year Plan 180,000 new apartments will be built.

The Plan also allocates 1,080 million forints for the further construction of hospitals, mother and child welfare centres, maternity homes, creches, kindergartens, clinics and also rural health institutions and rest homes. During the last year of the Five-Year Plan the number of working people able to spend their vacation in rest homes and sanatoriums will increase by 200,000 compared with 1949.

The Five-Year Plan provides for a great extension of elementary, secondary and higher education and also of technical education. The need for technical education arises from the tremendous demand for man-power, since the fulfilment of the Five-Year Plan calls for a great number of highly qualified workers, technicians, engineers and agricultural specialists in the service of the national economy, and for a considerable increase in scientific workers.

In industry alone 480,000 new factory and office workers will have to be drawn in, including 250,000 highly skilled workers, 92,000 semi-skilled workers, 80,000 unskilled workers and 53,000 mental workers.

The realisation of these great tasks will undoubtedly demand considerable effort from the Hungarian working people and from their leader—the Hungarian Workers' Party. But the realistic nature of the tasks raises no doubts, since the Plan has been widely supported by the working people. This is borne out also by results achieved in increasing labour productivity, particularly during the emulation movement in honour of the 70th birthday of the great Stalin. The stakhanovite movement has also become a mass movement and its achievements in increasing labour productivity have already effected a considerable advance. The first conference of working people from agricultural producer co-operatives and

machine-tractor depots, which was held recently also welcomed with great enthusiasm the Socialist path for the development of agriculture outlined in the Five-Year Plan.

Greater vigilance by the working people in relation to internal and external enemies a firm alliance between workers and peasants in building Socialism. in defending peace and in peaceful creative labour are further pre-conditions for the successful realisation of the Plan. Of great significance for the fulfilment of the Five-Year Plan is the further development of bonds with the Soviet Union and with the People's Democracies.

The people of Hungary have embarked upon the Five-Year Plan—the plan of laying the firm foundations of Socialism in town and countryside. They are confident of their victory because they believe in their Party and in the great cause of Socialism.

WORKING PEOPLE OF PARIS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST FASCISM AND WAR



Working people of Paris demonstrate against fascism and war. March past of Viet Nam people residing in Paris. Placards carried by demonstrators say: "Full independence for Viet Nam!", "Down with Bao Dai!", "Immediate withdrawal of expeditionary corps!"

Working people of Paris demonstrate against fascism and war. March past of Viet Nam people residing in Paris. Placards carried by demonstrators say: "Full independence for Viet Nam!", "Down with Bao Dai!", "Immediate withdrawal of expeditionary corps!"

IN THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

CONFERENCES OF PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES

The Central People's Government Council and the Government Administration Council of the Chinese People's Republic have issued regulations defining the activities of people's conferences of all circles of the population and of people's governments at provincial, city and county levels, as well as the nature and structure of people's democratic organs of state power. According to the regulations, provincial, city and county people's conferences of all circles shall be convened on the basis of representation from democratic parties and groups, people's organisations, garrison troops, the military control committee and the people's government. These conferences shall hear and verify the reports of provincial, city and county people's governments, verify the local government budgets, submit proposals and resolutions on the policies of these people's governments and elect the government councils. The government councils shall direct the work of the administrative organs subordinate to them, ensure the maintenance of public order, the observance of laws and the protection of citizen rights, direct economic and cultural affairs and draw up annual budgets.

As reported by "Jenmingjipao", "Incomplete figures show that by the middle of February, people's conferences of all circles had already been held in 21 provinces throughout China."

RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural plans for the current year have been elaborated by the People's governments of Honan, Hopei, Kiangsi, Hunan provinces and foresee an increased grain yield of 1,650 million catties (one catti = 500 grammes) and extension of cotton sowing to 10,270,000 acres.

THE POPULATION OF NORTH-EAST CHINA GREETES THE DECISION ON ISSUING A LOAN

The decision of the North-Eastern Government to issue a loan for industrial reconstruction of the North-East was warmly greeted by the people of north-East China.

On February 28, the Executive of the Consultative Conference of representatives of all circles of the population of Mukden discussed measures concerning the sale of bonds. A decision on realising the first 4,250 thousand bonds, one fourth of the total number of bonds earmarked for sale in Mukden, was adopted.

The youth and women's democratic organisations and people's representative conferences of all circles of Changchun, Anshan, Harbin, Suekiang, Heilungkiang, Liaosi, called upon the population to help actively in realising the loan.

TROOPS OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY IN CHINA TAKE PART IN CONSTRUCTION WORK

In response to a call by Mao Tse-tung to take part in

production activity the Second Army group of the People's Liberation Army besides taking part in other work, has allocated 25,400 soldiers for rebuilding the Tienshui-Lanchow Lunghai railway. Work will begin on April 1. The Third Army of the same Army group will take part in building four irrigation installations in Wuwei, Shantan, Kulang, Lintse districts. This irrigation work will supply water for 65,900 mow (1 mow = 1/16th of a hectare).

COAL OUTPUT IS ON THE INCREASE

Coal production in Shantung has now surpassed the pre-war level by 8.3 per cent. This represents seven times the 1948 output. Out of a total of 109 pits, only 15 were in working order when Shangtung was finally liberated, by the end of 1949, 35 pits had been restored.

YOUTH IS STUDYING

East China has 78,000 schools, colleges and universities with nearly 6,250,000 pupils and students. More than 70,000 youth in East China were sent to work in Government departments, factories and the Army after graduating from the Revolutionary Academy and other military and political schools.

STRENGTHENING OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE COLLAPSE Of TITO CLIQUE AGENTS IN ITALY. Pietro Secchia, Deputy General Secretary, Italian Communist Party

Zellerbach, head of the U.S. economic mission in Italy, recently submitted to the U.S. Senate a report on the economic situation in Italy. In his report Zellerbach wrote that the outlook was better compared with the time of his previous report. The situation with regard to unemployment and exports to the dollar zone however, remained difficult, he added. The desired successes in emigration had not been achieved and this particular situation remains almost unchanged.

To encourage U.S. Senators who are upset over the failure of the “Marshall Plan”, Zellerbach struck an optimistic note and added that due to Marshall “aid” the strength of the Communist Party, in Italy had diminished and its membership had fallen by 20 per cent during the last two years. He also declared that simultaneously.

To encourage U.S. Senators who are upset over the failure of the “Marshall Plan”, Zellerbach struck an optimistic note and added that due to Marshall “aid” the strength of the Communist Party in Italy had diminished and its membership had fallen by 20 per cent during the last two years. He also declared that simultaneously, other Socialist forces were passing through a period of discord.

The falsehoods with which Zellerbach regaled the American Senators were so ridiculously absurd that they evoked laughter in democratic circles and great disappointment among Italian reactionaries.

Everyone knows that the Italian Communist Party has, within two months, succeeded in exchanging the Party cards of nearly all its members. Renewal of Party cards can be considered as having been completed by January 31.

The important fact is that everywhere our organisations have gained considerably in strength. Party membership has increased, compared with 1949: in the Matera federation by 46 per cent; Trapani, 37 per cent; Cosenza, 20 per cent; Ragusa, 24 per cent and so on. In January alone, 97,368 people applied for admission into the Party. The Milan federation accepted 6,805 new members; Turin, 2,793; Genoa, 3,053; Bologna, 5,486; Modena, 2,500; Forli, 2,699; Rome, 6,000; Catanzaro, 2,500; Salerno, 2,500; Naples, 6,126 and so on. The Communist Youth Federation has already exchanged the cards of 367,250 young Communists. This gives ground for the belief that in 1950 the total number of Communists in Italy will be 2,500,000.

The speed which marked this year's exchange of Party cards testifies to the growing influence of the Italian Communist Party and to its strengthened organisation.

Another feature is that the renewal of Party cards took place in circumstances of large-scale struggle of the working people for their rights, both in the North (Milan, Genoa, Modena) and in the South (Naples, Calabria, Abruzzo) and at a time when the Party, together with other democratic organisations, was engaged in carrying out vital campaigns such as that in connection with the Modena events, the drive against the unloading and transportation of American arms, etc.

The Italian Socialist Party has also had great success in exchanging Party cards this year, which resulted in the growth of its membership by many tens of thousands.

That the actual situation is really so is known also to Zellerbach; certainly the U.S. Embassy in Italy knows it perfectly well. Not long ago U.S. consuls in Italy were

summoned to Rome to report on the situation in their areas regarding the possibility of unloading and transporting U.S. arms. Following the presentation of their reports—rather pessimistic ones—those present stated that the situation (from the point of view of the U.S. imperialists) was obviously unsatisfactory.

The U.S. Embassy commissioned its consuls and agents to find out why the activities of the Tito clique agency in Italy were so unsuccessful and why the desire of U.S. imperialism and of the de Gasperi clerical Government to inflict a blow on the Communist and Socialist Parties of Italy with the help of Tito provocateurs, had failed ignominiously.

IMPERIALIST ATTEMPTS TO SPLIT WORKING CLASS UNITY

U.S. imperialists and their agents in our country resorted to every method in an attempt to split the unity of the working class and of the working people in Italy. First of all, they created the Saragat Party whose job was to detach from the Communist and the Socialist Parties the middle strain in the towns and countryside, the intelligentsia and sections of the labour aristocracy, technicians and skilled workers whom it would be possible to lead astray into passivity, opportunism and corruption. But the Saragat followers failed to weaken the influence of the Communist Party and today, two years after it was founded, Saragat's Party is in a crisis of profound disintegration, and already broken up into three splinter groups.

Second, the Americans sought to disrupt trade union unity by forming so-called "free" trade unions which were given the job of defeating strikes and organising strike-breaking. This second attempt also failed ignominiously, for although the Christian-Democrat and Saragat leaders left the Italian General

Confederation of Labour, the working people did not follow them. The “free” trade unions actually proved incapable of life and activity. They come to the fore only during strikes when they denounce them and call on the working people not to participate in them, though, so far, trade union strike-breakers have not succeeded in splitting, weakening or frustrating a single action of the working people.

The third method to which the Truman agents resorted was the attempt to implant fascist agents of the Tito clique in Italy. The Tito provocateurs were to undermine the democratic movement from the Left. They were entrusted with the job of detaching from the Communist and Socialist Parties groups of partisans and former fighters of the liberation struggle, as well as certain extremist elements and groups of vacillating workers who had tired of the long struggle.

The fascist degenerates—Tito agents—who had once concealed themselves behind the noble name of Communists were commissioned to form a disruptive opposition inside the Italian Communist Party, to push the working people into committing rash actions and thus provide Scelba and de Gasperi with a pretext and opportunity to strike at the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the democratic organisations.

But the failure of these attempts of the Tito clique agents was even more rapid and complete than that of the Saragat followers.

EXPOSURE OF FASCIST PROVOCATEURS

Tito, his protectors and agents in Italy have exposed themselves as utterly unscrupulous adventures and traitors, as organisers of espionage and political banditry. The open and direct interference on the part of the Yugoslav Embassy in

Rome in the struggle, the printing and delivery to Italy of newspapers, pamphlets and leaflets containing Titoite propaganda and slander against the Italian Communist Party and the Soviet Union, gave rise to aversion and indignation on the part of the working people and brought about the speedy exposure of these gentlemen.

The Yugoslav fascists, through the medium of the press and the radio, are waging a violent anti-Communist, anti-Soviet campaign, openly siding, with the capitalists against the working people. For instance, during the recent general strike of 32,000 workers in Trieste who had struck work for higher wages, the Titoites, broadcasting from Capodistria, savagely denounced the strike. First they alleged that the demands of the workers were too limited, then they dwell on the “right to work” and ended by calling for the organisation of strike-breaking.

To this should be added that certain Italian partisans who visited Belgrade, were promised “generous” reward for undermining activities in Italy in favour of the Tito clique. This opened the eyes of even those who had been taken in by the Titoites.

Symptomatic in this respect is the case of two people from the Marche region, who had been expelled from the Italian Communist Party for refusing to cut their connections with certain Titoite agents in Italy. When the news of their exclusion was published they were invited to the local chief of the carabinieri who congratulated them on their stand and suggested that they should continue their activities, stating that they would be given necessary assistance and support. These two men became aware of their mistake, they realised that if Scelba’s carabinieri were ready to help those who intended to establish groups of Tito “followers”, it meant that the Tito followers were not Communists but agent provocateurs, enemies of the proletarian democratic movement in Italy.

Finally, the decisive factor in the exposure and collapse of the Titoite agents in Italy was the backing they received from the Christian Democratic and fascist press. Tito, who prior to his shameless betrayal was daily vilified by the reactionary press now became for the reactionary press the “glorious marshal”.

One Italo-American newspaper with a large circulation recently conducted a noisy campaign urging the need for a meeting between de Gasperi and Tito with a view to initiating “a policy of friendship and co-operation with Yugoslavia.” This newspaper wrote about the “inevitability of the transformation of the Italian airfields at Foggia or Campofornio, Brindisi or Comisso into transit points for Anglo-American aircraft which, according to a secret agreement reached at the London meeting of U.S. Ambassadors in West European countries last autumn, will be used for supplying Tito”.

Such are the calculations of the American warmongers and their Italian lackeys whom the reactionary press has the insolence to boost.

Nor are the neo-fascists in Italy losing time in expressing sympathy for Tito. The fascist newspapers are now the most ardent supporters of a speedy agreement between the de Gasperi and Tito Governments. The motion submitted by the notorious fascist leader Alfredo Cucco, to the conference of the Central Committee of the “Italian Fascist Social Movement”, held in Rome on January 15, is symptomatic in this respect. This resolution reads: “The Italian Social Movement expresses its dissatisfaction with the weakness, lack of understanding and restraint in the Government’s foreign policy at a time when a country bordering us in the East, which is threatened by all neighbouring countries, is in vital need of our mutual understanding etc. etc.” There is not a single neo-fascist paper in Italy which does not openly express sympathy for Tito.

GREATER REVOLUTIONARY VIGILANCE!

The democratic forces in Italy and, in the first place, the Communist Party, have been waging a struggle to defend peace and democratic rights, to secure belief conditions for the working people and the realisation of the social reforms proclaimed by the Republic's Constitution. The malicious attack of the Tito gang and its agents against the Italian Communist Party, their disruptive activities in favour of the de Gasperi-Scelba clerical-police government at a time when sharp class battles were in progress could not but expose this gang in the eyes of public opinion.

Everyone realised that the Titoite provocateurs represent all American agency for the preparation of War. The American imperialists know that Italy will not be an instrument or outpost in their aggressive schemes so long as there exists a powerful peace movement, a strong General Confederation of Labour and an active and influential Communist Party.

The imperialists have attempted and will attempt to use all possible means to split, weaken and destroy the Democratic Front. To this end they use Titoite hirelings. But this instrument proved to be more fragile than the imperialists had reckoned. Even those who do not fully share Communist views or the policy of our Party, even the wavering and inconsistent elements against whom the joint efforts of the Titoite fascist and American imperialists were directed, were not deceived. They realised that the Tito clique is a gang of bandits and political criminals.

The collapse of the Tito agency in Italy is, undoubtedly, a big victory for the Communist Party and the democratic forces. But this must not lull our vigilance. We know that American imperialism is too interested in securing stable positions in

Italy. Most certainly it will not refrain from further attacks against the peace forces, from provocations and disruptive efforts. All Communists and all democratic organisations must display more vigilance than ever before; they must rip the mask from and expose the Titoites who are working hand in glove with American agents and with OVTA (political police of Mussolini restored by Scelba).

Ceaseless struggle against the Titoite agency is part and parcel of the struggle for peace, for the freedom and independence of Italy.

UNIFIED AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. R. Slansky, General Secretary, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia

At the Ninth Congress of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Comrade Gottwald outlined the task of winning the countryside for Socialism. Compared with the Socialist reorganisation of industry, this task undoubtedly, is more difficult and complicated. In industry we had to deal, on the one hand, with a relatively small number of capitalists, and, on the other, with a numerous and conscious working class which firmly supported the nationalisation of industry. In agriculture we encounter, on the one hand, the numerous class of the rural rich, and, on the other, hundreds of thousands of small and medium peasants, who vacillate and have many prejudices about socialism.

But we have one great advantage—the experience of the Soviet Union and of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks) which has shown us the correct way to the solution of this task. This experience has shown how to help poor and medium peasants to get rid of the age-old back-breaking toil, poverty and dependence on exploiters; and how to bring agriculture to progress and prosperity. This is the path of the gradual unification of the small agricultural households into to large-scale collectivised, co-operative farms. The 300 Czechoslovak peasant delegates who recently visited the Soviet Union saw for themselves that due to the fact that Soviet agriculture was marching along this path it had become the biggest, most advanced and the most mechanised agriculture in the world, had secured for millions of Soviet collective farmers a really prosperous and cultured life.

Only now, when in our country the power of bankers,

manufacturers and other enemies of the people has been abolished, when the working people, headed by the working class, have become masters of the country, have the conditions of the working peasantry also changed. The people's democratic State became the champion of the working peasant: it gave him the landowner's land, released him from the bondage of debt to the kulak and urban capitalist, eased the tax burden for him, guaranteed a market and fixed prices for his products, provided him with cheap credits, gave him a pension in old age and made him the free master of his land.

The Communist Party seeks to secure that capitalist elements in the countryside are restricted and removed from all leading positions and deprived of their influence. That is why when assessing deliveries of agricultural products to the State the rural rich are given a higher quotas and are taxed more than the small and medium peasants; that is why tractors and heavy agricultural machines are purchased from rural exploiters to prevent them from exploiting the small peasants. In less than three months the unified agricultural co-operatives and the State machine-tractor depots purchased nearly 4,000 tractors and the same number of trailers, 2,181 binders, 3,087 threshing-machines and 5,133 other machines which had formerly belonged to kulaks.

The agricultural co-operatives receive ever greater assistance from the State. Industry supplies them with an increasing number of tractors; the network of machine-tractor depots is growing; State farms provide co-operatives with best quality seed and pedigree cattle; the State helps them with cheap credits and subsidies; factory patronage renders them material and political help.

When we first began to propagate the idea of unified agricultural co-operatives, rural reaction succeeded in organising opposition to them and even in bringing vacillation into the ranks of the Party. After the Ninth Party Congress,

held last May, when we explained to the peasants the importance of the unified agricultural co-operatives, the enemy arguments began to lose their significance.

At present we have 2,412 unified agricultural co-operatives and 1,316 preparatory committees for organising co-operatives. The membership of these unified agricultural co-operatives amounts to 110,000. Unified co-operatives or preparatory, committees have been established in 3,728 villages, or in nearly every fourth village in the country. But the majority of the co-operatives have so far displayed only slight activity. Only a few hundred of them are taking the initial steps to organise joint cultivation of land. But even this first experience has evolved considerable comment among the peasants. Even now the first results of the work of unified agricultural co-operatives have vividly demonstrated to the peasants the superiority of large-scale agricultural production.

According to the figures of the Ministry of Agriculture joint harvesting effected a 46 per cent economy in manpower, 60 per cent in the work of draught animals, and reduced financial expenditure by 23 per cent. In nearly all co-operatives the work, particularly the labour of women, has been made easier. By combining the scattered strips of land into large fields sown to one crop, the peasants not only economise in man-power and draught animals but also reduce expenditure in the use of machines. According to official figures, as a result of joint work during the autumn sowing, the co-operatives economised 62 per cent in man-power, 85 per cent in draught animals and reduced expenditure by 39 per cent. Particularly good results were achieved in those places where the co-operatives engaged in joint sowing and ploughed up the boundaries between the strips, thereby paving the way for utilisation of large machines and for the introduction of really co-operative, large-scale production. Moreover, by ploughing up the boundaries these co-operatives received additional tens

of lectures of land.

The co-operatives have realised that joint cultivation of the land demands a just reward for the work put in by each member. Formerly, many co-operatives did not pay for work, the co-operatives members simply worked together on the field. However, it soon became clear to the poor peasants that this method benefited only the peasants who possessed more land, and they advanced the correct principle of reward on the basis of the hours put in by the members. They also sought to secure that work done by hand should be more favourably rewarded than work done with the help of draught animals, since this also benefited the poor peasants.

As is known there is still a considerable section of poor peasants in our country who having no draught animals of their own use those of the rural rich on the condition that they work for them. By joining agricultural co-operatives these peasants free themselves from exploitation by the rural rich.

We now have the first dozens of co-operatives in which the members have pooled their land and draught animals into a common undertaking, keeping for personal use only a garden, 1-2 cows, 1-2 calves, pigs and poultry.

At present in the Czech lands there are 124 unified agricultural co-operatives which we call model co-operatives because they systematically perform field work on the basis of a joint plan for sowing, and make joint use of draught animals and machines. These model co-operatives can be divided into three types according to the degree of joint cultivation of land, utilisation of draught animals and machines.

First, there are co-operatives which operate on the basis of joint sowing plans, while maintaining the old boundaries. They jointly organise field work and make joint use of co-operative and privately owned machines and draught animals. In these co-operatives each member gets the crops harvested on his own plot. Then there are the co-operatives which engage in joint

sowing without any boundaries between the strips; they engage in joint cultivation and share the crops between members on the basis of their land plots. Finally, there are the co-operatives whose members have pooled their land for joint cultivation. In such co-operatives members are rewarded more on the basis of the work they have put in, and to a lesser degree receive payment based on the amount of land pooled in the co-operative.

In all these co-operatives the land remains the private property of members. Consequently, these co-operatives are not as yet a Socialist form of producer co-operatives, since, crops are distributed partially on the basis of work and partially on the basis of the amount of land. In addition to Socialist elements there are also private-property elements in the co-operatives. However, this fact notwithstanding, these co-operatives, being an elementary school of collective work, show the peasants the way to Socialism, they are pioneers of the future Socialist reorganisation of the countryside.

The most important condition for switching the countryside on to the Socialist road is to bring home to the small and medium peasants, on the basis of their own experience, the advantages of social co-operative labour in agricultural production. Steady, patient and systematic work by our Party is essential in order to convince the hundreds of thousands of small and medium peasants in our country of this, in order to get them, voluntarily, to take the path of co-operation.

We shall go ahead along the path of systematically creating the political, organisational and material pre-conditions for switching the countryside over to Socialism.

The first and the main pre-requisite is that our policy of Socialist reorganisation of the countryside should be understood, supported and applied daily by all members of the Party. Without this basic pre-requisite, without overcoming all vacillations and negative attitudes towards the co-operatives in

the ranks of the Party, it will be impossible successfully to realise the construction of Socialism in the countryside, a construction which has already begun.

It is further necessary that all co-operatives should concentrate on achieving the main task, i.e. common cultivation of the soil. This is decisive from the standpoint of switching the dispersed peasant farms on to large-scale co-operative production. The conditions for granting credits, for capital building, discount in purchasing fertilisers, pedigree cattle and seeds, privileges granted by the machine and tractor depots, must be Joint sowing, joint cultivation, and, when conditions permit, joint live-stock raising. Simultaneously, care must be taken that members of co-operatives should themselves utilise to the full all their possibilities and resources.

The unified co-operatives must be protected against the influence of the rural rich who more and more often declare their desire to join the co-operatives, sometimes pose as initiators of co-operatives, penetrate them and occasionally exercise influence on the co-operative committee. The undermining activities of the rural rich must be exposed and the ranks of the co-operatives cleared of kulaks. All Communists are obliged to convince the small and middle peasants that capitalist farmers cannot be admitted to the unified co-operatives. We must combat the tolerant attitude of some Communists in relation to the rural rich. The transition to Socialism in the countryside can only be effected in relentless struggle against the rural exploiters who are resisting at every step the advance towards Socialism.

Our main support in the countryside are the industrial workers, farm labourers and poor peasants. Some Communists in the rural localities hold mistaken views on the question of small peasants who simultaneously work in industry, who they allege lack interest in the co-operative since their main work is

in the factory. But it is just this quite numerous section of the rural population which, by its class character, is the most reliable support of the Party in the countryside. Therefore, the task of the Party is, to draw these small worker-peasants into active work in the co-operatives. The unified producer co-operatives. must take good care they do not unite only the small peasants, while the middle peasants stand aside. Lenin and Stalin teach us that without the middle peasant who is the central figure in the countryside. the transition to large scale co-operative production is impossible.

It is not fortuitous that the organisation of unified producer co-operatives in the border regions is proceeding at somewhat, faster pace and that half of the best cooperatives are concentrated there. People who have settled in the border areas understand that only by means of the unified producer co-operative can they overcome their serious difficulties, particularly the shortage, in man-power and agricultural implements.

At present our main task is to draw the peasants into all lower and higher forms of joint cultivation of land in the unified producer co-operatives. We shall encourage the striving which aims at getting the members of the unified producer co-operatives gradually and on their own initiative to pass on from the lower forms of co-operative activity to the higher; that in sharing the common income the reward for labour shall continue to rise and the amount allocated for land ownership shall decrease. But in doing this we must convince the middle peasants to the correctness of such system of distributing income.

Our main task in this phase of Socialist construction is still to consolidate the existing unified producer co-operatives and to introduce and extend all forms of joint cultivation of the land.

If members of the co-operative decide to distribute the total

income only on the basis of work performed and to go away with sharing out based on personal ownership of land, every such decision must be submitted for approval to the central organs.

Now, on the eve of spring work in the fields, the co-operatives must be given practical assistance in the organisation of joint sowing; skilled and conscious comrades must be sent to help them and visits of co-operative members to the best unified producer co-operatives should be organised so that they can learn from their experience. The task of the district Party committees is to find for every unified producer cooperative a factory that will take patronage over it, that will help the co-operative in political and organisational work and in maintaining the machinery. Each of the unified producer co-operatives must organise joint field work this spring and this development must be encouraged by organising emulation between co-operatives.

Good management in the unified producer co-operatives, of necessity, entails elaboration of a financial plan. The unified producer co-operatives must keep records of work performed, fix the remuneration for work done, for use of draught animals and define rates of pay for the various types of work. Financial accounting in the co-operative is not purely an administrative but an important political matter which must be done simply and in a way understood by all.

Finally, it is essential that Communists should draw women and youth into active work in the co-operatives.

Our machine and tractor stations become of ever greater assistance to the unified producer co-operatives. By January 1 they disposed of a total of 5,599 tractors, 2,153 binders, 103 combines and 80 threshers. Machinery is increasing in quantity. During last year's harvesting and autumn sowing, machine and tractor stations gave much more help to the working peasants. However, the machine and tractor stations

are, as yet, able to cultivate only a small part of the total acreage.

A serious shortcoming is the fact that the tractor drivers and indeed the entire personnel in the machine and tractor depots are not sufficiently politically conscious. Another big weakness which the machine and tractor stations must overcome in the shortest possible time is the still low productivity of labour. A series of important measures based on the experience of the Soviet Union are being taken to eliminate these shortcomings.

The same can be said about state farms which the Ninth Congress of the Party confronted with the important task of becoming models of large scale Socialist production.

The state farms, of which, last year, the acreage increased from 183,621 hectares to 530,017 hectares have, despite serious difficulties, made the first step forward in some spheres of work. They achieved their greatest success in raising livestock. The elimination of the basic shortcomings in the work of some of the state farms is indivisibly linked with the question of cadres and higher labour productivity.

The work of the Party organisations in the countryside improved considerably after the Ninth Party Congress. Many of them initiated the organisation of unified producer co-operatives in which summer and autumn field work was done jointly and a more determined struggle was launched against rural exploiters.

A good school in the struggle against the rural rich was provided by the work done in purchasing agricultural products and in fixing assignments for 1950. Despite various shortcomings and harmful tendencies, the majority of the Party organisations succeeded for the first time in carrying out in practice, and on a considerable scale. Comrade Gottwald's instructions that the rich must deliver more in order to ease the position of the small peasants.

However, there are quite a few Party organisations in rural localities which do not carry out this Party policy due to lack of political consciousness among their members or because some of the Party committee members are under the influence of the rural rich. There have also been cases of the rural rich penetrating Party organisations and its committees where they decide matters. These organisations must be rid of kulak elements and Party functionaries under their influence replaced.

Simultaneously, attention must be paid to leftist tendencies of some comrades who, under the slogan of fighting the rural rich, are causing injury to the small and middle peasants. We must further remember Comrade Gottwald's words emphasising that the task at the moment is not the complete elimination of the village rich, the task is merely to restrict them and dislodge them.

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This month the annual reporting-back meetings and election of functionaries are being held in all Party organisations. Measures have been taken to ensure at these meetings of Party organisations in the countryside a critical review of the work done in winning the poor and middle peasants for the unified producer co-operatives, in effecting the purchase of agricultural products, in apportioning the production plan and quotas for 1950, and in carrying out the Party line in respect to increasing quotas for the rural rich and reducing the obligations of the small peasants. At the same time the new Party Committees will replace the useless, incompetent functionaries with reliable, and politically conscious comrades. Finally, measures will be taken to ensure the carrying out of spring work, the organisation of this work in connection with the joint cultivation of land and also measures

for drawing the poor and middle peasants into unified producer co-operatives.

In our countryside we shall go along the path of progress and Socialism, the path indicated to us by the Soviet Union, the path which will bring prosperity to our agriculture and happiness and abundance to our peasantry.

STRIKE MOVEMENT OF FRENCH WORKING PEOPLE. André Lunet, Member, Central Committee, French Communist Party

At the end of February a powerful strike movement developed in France.

The French working class is putting up a determined fight against the onslaught on its standard of living by the industrialists and the Government who subordinate their policy to the greatest exploiter of many peoples of the world—American capitalism. As far back as September 17th, 1949, Harriman, the “Marshall Plan” administrator cynically declared in Paris that there must be no wage increases for the French workers.

French capitalists obeyed this order. The purchasing power of the working people dropped from 67 per cent in 1947 to 51 per cent in 1950 (compared with the 1938 level). In this period the declared profits of the capitalists increased by an average of 300 per cent. The capital of many enterprises has increased by hundreds of millions of francs by means of allocating sums to reserves which are nothing more than concealed profits.

The growing impoverishment of the working people of France is reflected in the distribution of the national income. In 1938 12 million employed workers received 45 per cent of the national income. The share of the capitalists was 29 per cent. In 1950 the distribution of the national income changed radically in favour of the parasite class, whose share in the national income increased to 50.5 per cent while that of the workers dropped to 34 per cent.

The policy of Marshallising France, the war in Viet Nam, the feverish preparations based on the Atlantic pact for aggression against the Soviet Union, the People’s Democracies

and against the peoples of the world, are the chief reasons for the growing impoverishment of the working people in France. A State with a military expenditure of more than 600 billion francs a year, i.e. more than one third of the entire budget, obviously thinks least of all about satisfying the economic requirements of the working people.

To ease the steadily deteriorating economic position of the working people, the General Confederation of Labour, at the end of 1949, demanded a wage increase of 3,000 francs a month for all categories of working people. On the basis of this extremely popular demand united action committees which headed the struggle for this demand were set up in factories. The mass movement forced the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions and the breakaway Socialist "Force Ouvrière" to join the common struggle of the working people.

On February 11, a Bill was passed concerning collective agreements, allowing both the manufacturers and the workers freedom of action to establish wage levels—wages during the last two years were actually frozen by the Government. The passage of the Bill made the workers even more determined to obtain their lawful demands. The trade unions opened negotiations with employers associations. Workers and employees in the public services also demanded from the Government a 3,000 franc increase. The reply of both the manufacturers and the Government was identical: a maximum wage increase of five per cent; whereas the demand of the workers for a 3,000 franc increase signifies an increase of at least 15-20 per cent.

This humiliation answer aroused strong feeling among the working people having in impoverished conditions. The strike movement spread throughout the country. An overwhelming majority of workers in factories and building sites together with office employees expressed themselves by a secret ballot in favour of strike action. A few days later 200,000 iron and

steel and metal workers stopped work in the Paris district. Their strike acquired the character of a national issue since the wages of a number of categories of working people, such as miners, for instance, depend on the wage level of the metal workers in the Paris district. Strike committees formed at the factories included Communist, Socialist and Catholic workers belonging to various trade union amalgamations, and also unorganised workers.

The strike for a wage increase of 3,000 francs spread and involved iron and steel and metal workers in all industrial centre in France, airport ground personnel and enterprises of the building and chemical industries. On March 8th all workers employed at the power stations and gas works throughout the country struck work. The strike movement then embraced the textile workers, the dockers, employees of insurance companies, and the workers of the municipal enterprises in Paris. On March 13 public welfare workers also struck work. At Marseilles, where the strike movement is growing in intensity, seamen of the American ship "Exeter" refused to scab in the dock workers' strike. Strikers have already gained victory in more than a hundred enterprises.

During the first few days of the strike the workers not only clashed with the industrialists but also with the Government, whose leader, Bidault, in a rabid anti-labour speech at Saint-Etienne, called on the capitalists to reject the demands of the workers.

On the night of February 22, the Government—a puppet of American imperialism—hurled against the striking workers of the Renault plant 6,000 soldiers of the "Republican Security Detachments" and gendarmes supported by tanks and guns. Workers at 120 engineering factories in the Paris district stopped work immediately, in protest against this provocation.

The entire police force was placed at the disposal of the industrialists. The police occupied factories and attacked

pickets. People circulating leaflets or collecting money for the strikers were arrested. The Government radio and the Marshallised press bent all its efforts in an attempt to demoralise the workers who had risen for the struggle. Making futile attempts to stop the strike in the gas works and power stations, the Government, in violation of the Constitution, reintroduced war-time regulations permitting the direction of all workers in enterprises which the Government considers “essential to ensure the needs of the country.”

But reaction directed its main efforts to splitting the unity of the working people. The splitters achieved their end with regard to the railwaymen, and also with the employees of the Paris metro and bus depots who returned to work achieving only to increase in pensions.

In a communique issued on March 7, the Bureau of the General Confederation of Labour emphasised that both the employers and the Government are worried about the striving of the working masses for unity and struggle. “They overestimated their possibilities to use strike-breakers to stab the working-class in the back. The unity of the working people and the trade union organisations upset their calculations. Both Government and employers realise that if the working people maintain their unity they will have to yield their just demands. That is why the government and the manufacturers are intensifying their splitting manoeuvres.”

The Bureau of the General Confederation of Labour is also exposing the manoeuvres of the splitters who declare that the strike of the workers in defence of wages of a political character. “Repeating the slander and lies of the government, manufacturers and reactionary politicians, the splitters themselves are linking the strike with the policy of the Government and the capitalists.”

Among those who played the part of splitters the first that must be mentioned are the leaders “Force Ouvrière”, the

Christian Federation of Trade Unions and the Federation of Railwaymen affiliated to the General Confederation of Officials. In face of the striving of the railwaymen for struggle and unity, the splitters declared that a five per cent increase in wages was enough, thus supporting the Government policy of reaction and war.

But if the splitters achieved certain success in individual sectors and weakened the common front of the struggle, the working people, in spite of this, scored numerous victories. The struggle continues, showing that an overwhelming majority of the French workers are firmly resolved to maintain unity of action. This unity is deeply rooted. It was achieved at factories and developed into a real militant comradeship between Communist, Socialist, Catholic and unorganised workers.

All strata of the population are uniting in a broad solidarity movement around the working class which is coming out in a united front against poverty and oppression.

In the course of the struggle the working class of France sees that it is attacked by the combined forces of employers and the Government. It realises more and more clearly that there is a close relationship between the despatch of tanks against the Renault strikers, the occupation of the power stations by the police force and the enactment by Parliament of foul laws which enable the Government to inflict unheard of repression against dockers and railwaymen fighting against the despatch of munitions to Indo-China and against the unloading and transportation of American arms in France; laws which also enable them to persecute all democrats who support these actions of the working people. In both cases the question is one of opening the way for war-time measures and for a fascist regime, and of intensifying the enslavement of the working class.

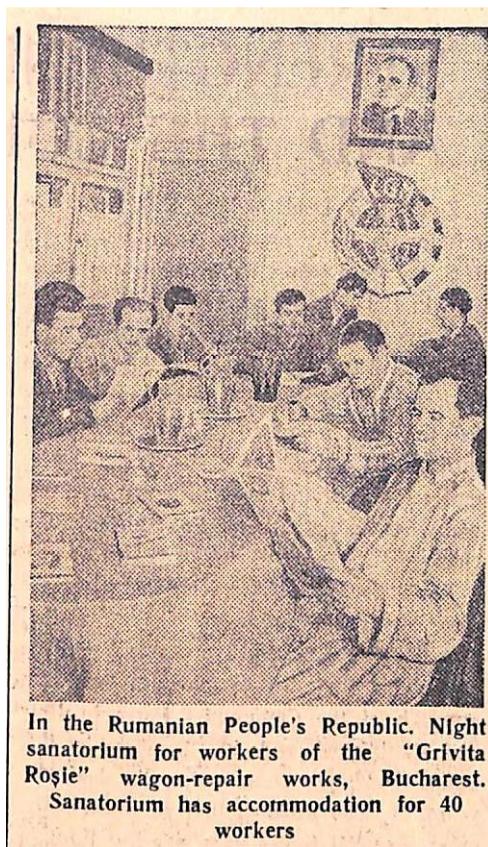
The exploited and oppressed masses of France, who have risen in struggle against poverty and repression, compare the

deterioration of their conditions with what is taking place in the Soviet Union where the Government decision to cut prices testifies to the constant concern of the Socialist State for the interests of the people, in securing a steady rise in the material and cultural level of the working people.

The Government and the capitalists in France, on the contrary, reject the demands of the working people for higher wages, while increasing simultaneously, the huge profits of the employers and military expenditure, and seeking to break any resistance in the country to their aggressive policy. This comparison helps the working people to realise even more that their real salvation lies along the path of Socialism, which spells freedom, prosperity and peace.

Under these conditions nothing can break the struggle of the working people, the struggle which coincides with the irresistible pressure of the forces of democracy and peace throughout the world. This struggle will grow in intensity. And notwithstanding the machinations, falsehoods and violence of the Government, the working class of France will bring this struggle to victory.

IN THE RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC



In the Rumanian People's Republic. Night sanatorium for workers of the "Grivita Rosie" wagon-repair works, Bucharest. Sanatorium has accommodation for 40 workers.

UNITED YOUTH ORGANISATION IN HUNGARY

Hitherto young people in Hungary belonged to one or another of the various organisations catering for the working class peasant, and student youth. All these organisations have now agreed to form single youth organisation similar to the Communist Youth League in the Soviet Union. The united youth organisation, sets itself the aim of organising and mobilising the masses of young people for work and study, to promote the Socialist education of youth.

DEMOCRATIC FRONT BEING FORMED IN INDONESIA

As reported in the Dutch press, a Democratic Front is being formed in Indonesia. The Communist, Socialist, and Workers' Parties and also the trade unions have decided to enter the Front. The programme of the Democratic Front stresses that all effort should be made to preserve the independence of Indonesia.

ANTI-IMPERIALIST DEMONSTRATIONS IN WESTERN GERMANY

120,000 working people took part in a number of demonstrations against the dismantling of enterprises of civilian industry in Watenstedt-Salzgitter by the British occupation authorities. The demonstrations were held under the slogans:

“Withdraw British troops and the German police hirelings from Watenstedt-Salzgitter!” “Strike throughout Western Germany in solidarity with the people of Watenstedt-Salzgitter!”

The British authorities issued orders for fire to be opened on the demonstrators and also brought in tanks. Workers jumped on to one of the tanks moving in the direction of the demonstrators, removed his helmet from one of the crew and spat in his face, the people shouted to the British soldiers telling them to go home. The soldiers then advanced against the crowd with rifles at the ready.

The blast-furnace scheduled for dismantling and transfer to Tito, was blown up by the workers who decided to occupy the enterprises together with their wives and children.

The protest demonstrations continue.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP CARDS IN SOCIALIST PARTY OF ITALY

Commenting on the results of the campaign for renewal of membership cards in the Socialist Party of Italy, Pietro Nenni, General Secretary of the Socialist Party, stated that 620,000 membership cards had already been handed in. In the Rome Federation of the Socialist Party membership has increased this year from 12,980 to 19,961.

POLITICAL NOTES

1. American Spies in Bulgaria

“The Voice of America” and the entire sinister chorus of mercenary Wall Street hack-writers in the U.S. and in Western Europe have launched a fierce campaign against the People’s Democracies. They try to ennoble their poisonous slanders with crocodile tears about “downtrodden” rights and liberties in the People’s Democracies. The Bulgarian People’s Republic is the main target of these vile and slanderous inventions: Why all this furore?

The trial of American spies which took place in Sofia early in March, revealed the various gangster methods employed by the Anglo-American imperialists in their struggle against the People’s Democracies. There were phials of prussic acid designed to silence forever the victims; special compasses designed to help U.S. intelligence agents to make a get-away across the Bulgarian-Turkish border; seals stolen from Bulgarian Government offices, forged documents, identity cards, secret meeting places in dark attics; there were former ardent Hitler admirers who had later passed into the service of Wall Street; there were former big rose oil manufacturers, who, after the nationalisation of the industry could no longer sell the goods so they sold their honour; there were women who for the sake of sipping whisky, smoking “Chesterfields” and wearing nylons sold themselves to the suppliers of these symbols of the “American way of life.” All these objects, the phials of poison, special compasses, forged documents and the other attributes of espionage bore the trade mark “Made in U.S.A.” since everything was delivered, forged, prepared and turned over to

their agents personally by members of the American Legation in Sofia. Hrabovski, Gibbs, General Bland, Captain Martin, John Horner, Charles Black, Raymond Cortner, Robert Strong and other hardened spies—all these with Donald Heath, the U.S. ambassador in Bulgaria at their head—figured alongside their Bulgarian agents as defendants at the trial, with only this difference—they were not in the dock. When these spies in diplomatic dress were caught, their Washington masters hastily recalled them from Sofia, breaking off diplomatic relations on February 20th.

Departing from Bulgaria, Mr. Donald Heath was able to carry away in his diplomatic bags various items of intelligence which he received not only from defendants at the trial but also from other spies and plotters of large and small kidney whom he had tirelessly recruited for espionage and undermining work during his two years stay in Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Government knew all this, its vigilant organs tracked down, one by one, the mercenary agents, but Mr. Heath coolly continued his undermining activities. But when at the trial of the Kostov gang in December 1949, it was established that Mr. Heath maintained criminal relations with this gang, directed against the State sovereignty and independence of Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Government could no longer tolerate this state of affairs. The contacts and “counsel” given by Mr. Heath went far beyond the bounds of the permissible and took the form of a vile plot against the liberty, integrity and independence of Bulgaria. In these circumstances the Bulgarian Government performed what was the elementary duty of any Government zealously safeguarding the national and State sovereignty of its country: it declared Mr. Donald Heath to be “*persona non grata*” and requested that the U.S. Government immediately recall him. How did Washington react to this? The makers of American foreign policy who are suffering defeat after defeat in the international arena are trying

to make good their loss of face by playing for prestige i.e. by a “tough” policy towards all countries which remain outside the dollar orbit. The State Department demanded, in the form of an ultimatum, that the Bulgarian Government withdraw its Note, i.e. that Donald Heath be allowed to continue his undermining activities and espionage. The State Department shows no desire to understand that Bulgaria, like every other People’s Democracy, is not a U.S. colony but an independent State which has not the slightest desire to submit and will not submit to an ultimatum directed towards the undermining of its national sovereignty. The Bulgarian Government insisted upon its request, after which the U.S. recalled not its ambassador alone but the entire personnel of the U.S. Legation in Sofia, i.e. they broke off diplomatic relations with Bulgaria.

The underlying purpose of this hostile act by the U.S. Government is perfectly clear. It can only be regarded as a brazen attempt to exert pressure and instil fear, actions which in recent years, have become the basic method of U.S. foreign policy. On the other hand severing diplomatic relations pursues aims of giving moral support to those reactionary in Bulgaria, to activate them in the new conditions when, as a result of the vigilance of the Bulgarian authorities, the U.S. Legation has been deprived of the possibility of giving direct leadership to its agents. This was the sole aim of the presence of the American diplomats in Sofia and in every other capital in the People’s Democracies.

The fact that Mr Heath continued his activities against Bulgaria, even after the decisive warning of the Bulgarian Government, shows that this is the sole purpose of the American diplomats staying in a country. As was proved at the March trial in Sofia, Heath, after he had been warned, continued to conceal on the premises of the American Legation the chief defendant Mikhail Shipkov, simultaneously preparing for his flight to Turkey or to Greece.

The Bulgarian Government did no more than express a situation of fact when it declared the American diplomats in Sofia to be “*persona non grata*.” In the eyes of progressive mankind outside Bulgaria their position is also the same; the representatives of reactionary American diplomacy—the diplomacy of the Atlantic pact, the Marshall plan, the atom bomb and the frenzied preparation for a new war: all these have long ago become “*persona non grata*” on a world scale.

2. The Colonisers Are Scared!

The ruling circles in capitalist countries have provided another example of what is the actual price of their vaunted “freedom of press”. In a number of countries the journal “For a Lasting Peace, For a People’s Democracy!” has been banned. Of course, the imperialists do not ban the sheets of the fascist Tito gang. On the contrary, in France, Norway and in other countries the police have become active disseminators of these new-Zubatov creations of the Yugoslav fascists!

Why have the imperialists such a dislike for the organ of the Communist Information Bureau? Why have the modern slave-owners in the Union of South-Africa become so scared of the 15 copies of “For a Lasting Peace, For a People’s Democracy!” which until recently entered the country? Prosecution and a year’s imprisonment for anyone found reading our journal shows that the imperialist slave-owners in South-Africa highly appreciate the organ of the Information Bureau. This is all the more significant because the journal has not contained a single article on the conditions of the working people in this colony of imperialism. This is, certainly, a slip on our part which we will endeavour to make good. As is known, the brutal treatment of Indians is residing in South-Africa has evoked the indignation of world public opinion, and

made even such a “democratic” government as the Nehru government raise this question UNO.

One thing, however, stands out. The very Government which not long ago was shocked by the actions of the South African slaveholders is now itself making hasty efforts to score over its alleged enemies when it is a matter of our journal “For A Lasting Peace, For A People’s Democracy!” The Bombay authorities make short work of the Journal: they do not deliver it to subscribers but dump it in the warehouses. Similar action is taken by other minions of the British “Socialist” rulers. In Australia the imperialists fear “For a Lasting Peace, for a People’s Democracy” no less than the South African slaveholders and their Indian colleagues.

At first the imperialists tried to hush up the existence of our paper, pretending to know nothing about the publication of the organ of the Information Bureau. And when finally the bourgeois press did make up its mind to speak about the paper it stuttered and stammered, finding it impossible to pronounce the words “For a Lasting Peace, for a People’s Democracy”. This is understandable! The words “cold war”, “bomb”, “destroy”, “military pact”, ‘outposts” are the household language of the imperialists whereas Lasting Peace, People’s Democracy are difficult words for the bourgeois press to pronounce.

But silence proved of little avail. “For a Lasting Peace, for a People’s Democracy!”, has found its way to the heads of millions of working people in the capitalist countries, inspiring them in the struggle for peace and democracy, for freedom and national independence. That is why fifteen copies of our paper have caused such terror; why the imperialists now use the argument of prisons and a crop of repressions; why they are concealing the organ of the Information Bureau in the cellars of the police departments. You imperialist gentlemen thus reveal only your bestial fear of the words of truth; fear of the ideas of

peace and Socialism; fear of your inevitable doom.

Jan MAREK

EDITORIAL BOARD

FROM THE PUBLISHERS

The Publishing House of the journal “**For a Lasting Peace, for a People’s Democracy**” announces that beginning April 1, 1950, instead of May 1, as announced earlier, the journal will appear also in the **Spanish** language.

All distributors, firms, and readers interested in securing copies of the journal should apply for details to “**MIR**”, **Bucharest, Rumania**.

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