

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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TO COMRADE MAURICE THOREZ

Dear Comrade Thorez!

Permit me to greet you and to congratulate you on the occasion of your fiftieth birthday.

All the peoples of the world, the workers of every country, know and esteem you as the tried leader of the Communists in France, as the leader of the French workers and the toiling peasants, as the valiant fighter for the consolidation of peace and the victory of democracy and Socialism throughout the world.

The Soviet people know you and love you, moreover, as their friend and as the dauntless fighter for friendship and alliance between the peoples of France and the Soviet Union.

I wish you further successes in your work for the welfare of the French people and the working people of the world.

I firmly clasp your hand.

J. Stalin

THE PRESS—SHARPEST WEAPON OF THE COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

The first issue of the popular workers' daily newspaper "Pravda" came off the press in Russia on May 5, 1912. "Pravda's" birthday has become the day of celebration by the Press of the Communist Parties of the world.

The great teachers of international proletariat, Lenin and Stalin, laying the foundation of the Marxist Party of a new type, attached tremendous significance to the creation of a militant revolutionary Press. A highly ideological Party Press in the hands of the Communist Parties is, as Comrade Stalin pointed out, the strongest and sharpest weapon by means of which the Party daily and hourly speaks with the working class in its own language, the language which is necessary for it. "There is no other means, no other such flexible apparatus for extending the spiritual threads between the Party and the Class" (J. Stalin).

In the Soviet Union which is successfully building Communism, and in the People's Democracies which have taken the path of Socialism, genuine freedom of the Press is ensured. In these countries the Press has become a gigantic effective force. At the present time, more than 7,700 newspapers and 1,400 journals are published in the U.S.S.R. Soviet papers now have a total circulation of 33,500,000 copies daily which, compared with 1913, represents an increase of twelve and a half times. China publishes more than 250 papers and journals. The total circulation of Polish papers has risen from 900,000 copies before the war to 4,200,000 copies; in Rumania—from 2,500,000 in 1945 to 4,604,000 in 1950; Bulgaria publishes eleven dailies with a total circulation of 1,046,000 copies; Hungary prints more than 360 papers and

journal of which “Sabad Nep” alone, the central organ of the Hungarian Working’ People’s Party, is published daily in 460,000 copies. “Rude Pravo”, organ of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, which in February 1948 had a circulation of 461,000, now appears in a circulation of 738,000. In the U.S.S.R., the Chinese People’s Republic and the People’s Democracies, the Press educates millions of working people in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism, rallies them round the Communist and Workers Parties and draws them into active work in building a new life. In these countries, the Press devotes close attention to the growth and development of the national economy; to popularising the experience of advanced workers; to strengthening the alliance between the working class and the peasantry; to exposing the manoeuvres and intrigues of the class enemy to the struggle against reactionary bourgeois ideology; to educating the masses in the spirit of proletarian internationalism and to all-round development of criticism and self-criticism.

The Communist and democratic newspapers play a most vital role in the struggle against the imperialist camp and the intrigues of its agents, in the peace movement and in developing new forms of organisation of this movement.

The intense activity of the working people in the U.S.S.R. and the People’s Democracies, their close contact with the popular periodical Press, are expressed in the enormous number of letters sent to the editorial boards of newspapers and journals by the working people. Thus, the Polish peasants’ paper “Gromada”, receives an average of 6,000 letters a month. Newspapers in the People’s Democracies are developing criticism and self-criticism on an ever wider scale, making good use of the contributions by factory and rural correspondents; they develop and multiply the forces and creative activity of the popular masses and help them to become genuine masters of their country.

Ceaselessly cementing its ties with the broad masses of working people and continually under enemy fire, the democratic Press in France, Italy and in other capitalist countries is growing and gaining strength. The outstanding Communist papers, "Humanite" and "Unita" which have a big daily circulation, enjoy a tremendous and well-deserved prestige among the working class and the mass of the working people. Boldly and tirelessly they fight for the interests of the working class, for the national independence of their countries, for peace throughout the world. The Communist and democratic press in the capitalist countries rally the masses for concrete action in defence of peace, against colonial wars, against the unloading and transportation of American war materials and organises the collection of millions of signatures to the appeal of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress.

The growing influence and the ever increasing circulation of the revolutionary Press, published legally and illegally in the capitalist countries, evoke fury among the capitalists. The democratic Press is subjected to ever greater persecution, there are more and more frequent reports about the arrest of progressive journalists and of court cases taken against revolutionary and progressive new papers.

The rabid terror against the progressive Press is closely bound up with the so-called ideological "preparation" of the masses with the aim of preparing a new war. The ideological expansion by American imperialism as one of the means of realising its insane plans of world domination, finds clear expression in aggressive forms. The monopoly Press trusts do not restrict themselves to the American market. They flood European countries with American newspapers and journals; in the countries dependent on the U.S., they buy up newspapers, together with their owners and the entire personnel, inoculating them with the disgusting methods of the

American imperialist Press—lies, slander, bribery and corruption. Masking itself with phrases about the “defence of free countries”, about the “freedom of the Press”, about its ostensible objectivity, the capitalist Press, including the Press of the Right Social Democrats and the Titoites, propagates ultra reactionary, misanthropic, anti-Communist theories; it is a factory of war hysteria, foul slander and lies against the Soviet Union and the People’s Democracies and the mouth-piece of “total propaganda” for a new war.

The task of the Communist and democratic Press is daily to wage struggle against the slanderous campaign of the reactionary Press, ceaselessly to expose the instigators of a new war and to counteract its preparations. The main task of the Communist Parties, democratic organisations and of all progressive mankind in the present phase is the **struggle for peace**. Constantly raising its ideological-political level, the revolutionary Press will, with ever greater consistency and inspiration, propagate the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, the peace policy of the Soviet Union; it must, on the one hand, constantly acquaint the masses with the successes and the might of the camp of peace and democracy headed by the Soviet Union and, on the other, show the degradation, the growing crisis and poverty in the capitalist countries: it must ruthlessly expose all “theories” about the inevitability of war and warn the masses against under-estimation of the war danger, a point which, on the orders of the American imperialists, is being plugged all the time by the false and foul Tito press.

The main link in the general chain of measures in the struggle for peace at the present moment is the campaign for millions of signatures to the appeal of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress concerning the prohibition of the atomic weapon and the denunciation as a war criminal of that government which first uses this weapon. The

Press can render an invaluable service to the peace movement, securing for it the broadest scale by quickly and simultaneously bringing the propaganda for peace to the broadest sections of the masses of the people. The democratic Press will explain on a wider scale the aims and tasks of the struggle for peace; it must expose the false bourgeois Press which remains silent about the all-people's movement for peace and for the prohibition of the atomic weapon; it must daily illuminate the course of the campaign in its own country and all over the world. The Press will generalise in its columns the experience of the work of Party and mass organisations, of peace committees, and develop and support the creative initiative of the masses and popularise the new organisational forms of the struggle for peace.

Rallying millions of fighters for peace, irrespective of their political and religious views, the democratic Press will direct the broadest masses of the people along the path of bold, resolute struggle for peace all over the world, for democracy and for Socialism.

WORKING PEOPLE OF ALL LANDS CELEBRATED MAY DAY UNDER SLOGAN OF DEFENCE OF PEACE AND PROHIBITION OF ATOMIC WEAPON

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The May Day demonstration in Prague, in which 340,000 people took part, lasted six hours. Mighty May Day demonstrations were held in all towns in the Republic. A hundred thousand working people took part in the demonstration in Bratislava. The May Day holiday was happily and enthusiastically celebrated in Morava Ostrava. One hundred and fifty thousand took part in the demonstration at Brno.

Throughout the Republic, 5,195,000 people took part in the May Day demonstrations.

Demonstrators carried posters bearing these slogans: “The Soviet Union—Bulwark of Peace!” “Down with the Warmongers!” “The Forces of Peace are more Powerful than the Forces of the Provocateurs of War!” “Peace Will Triumph over War!” “Working People of the World, Unite in Defence of Peace!” “Together with the Soviet Union—for Peace, for Socialism!” “Glory to the great Stalin, the Teacher and Leader of all Working People!”

RUMANIA

By the eve of May Day, the number of people in Rumania who signed the appeal of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress had reached 6,641,68. Of these, 4,679,713 were rural inhabitants, together with workers and peasants, prominent workers in science and culture and representatives of the Orthodox and Catholic clergy have signed the appeal.

The May Day demonstrations in all towns and villages of Rumania were held under the slogan of the struggle for peace and Socialism. All enthusiastic demonstration of 450,000 working people in Bucharest demonstrated their firm determination to strengthen and extend their gains, to uphold peace and consolidate friendship with all peoples who, headed by the great Soviet people, hold dear peace and freedom. The demonstrators carried portraits of J. V. Stalin, leader of the peoples, portraits of the leaders of the Rumanian Workers' Party and of the fraternal Communist Parties in the People's Democracies and in the capitalist countries.

Meetings, attended by many thousands of people, were also held in Brasov, Cluj, Timisoara in the Jiu Valley coal basin. Baja Mare, Resita, Hunedoara and at construction sites along the route of the Danube-Black Sea Canal.

BULGARIA

The working population of the People's Republic of Bulgaria took part in the May Day demonstrations with feeling of justified pride in their big successes in increasing Socialist production (the plan for the first quarter of 1950 was fulfilled by 101.6 per cent which, compared with the corresponding quarter of 1949, means a 21.7 per cent increase) and in the struggle for peace, (5,161,890 signatures had been obtained, by April 29, for the Appeal calling for prohibition of the atomic

weapon). This explains the great enthusiasm which prevailed during the May Day demonstrations. Nearly 300,000 people took part in the demonstration in Sofia. Mass demonstrations were held in the towns of Stalin, in Stara-Zagora, Yambol, Vratza, Kazanlik, and in the mining town of Dimitrovo.

Bulgarian peasants celebrated May First by completing the spring sowing. The 1949 crop area was exceeded by 226,000 hectares. In many villages practically the entire population took part in the demonstrations. Members of the agricultural producer co-operatives displayed particular enthusiasm in the demonstrations.

ITALY

The working masses celebrated May Day in Italy with militant enthusiasm. At May Day demonstrations, millions of working people in town and countryside expressed their firm resolution to uphold peace. Hundreds of thousands of landless labourers and peasants once again stressed their militant demands, "Land, not war!". "A Peace Committee—in every League!". Speakers at the meetings included representatives of party and mass democratic organisations.

Di Vittorio, General Secretary of the Italian General Confederation of Labour, speaking before 100,000 people in Rome, stressed the close relation of the peace struggle with that for social reforms, for the defence of wages, a forty-hour week and to end unemployment. Comrade Palmiro Togliatti, speaking at Biella, pointed to the great disparity in the sum which the government allocated for maintaining the police, compared with that allocated for public works. May Day was also marked by big demonstrations in Milan, Bologna, Florence, Naples, Palermo and other towns.

CUBA

A May Day demonstration was held in the sport stadium in Havana. Speakers praised the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union and vigorously denounced the policy of the U.S.A.

INDO-CHINA

The police arrested many May Day demonstrators who attempted to rally on the Market square in Saigon.

U.S.S.R.

May Day celebrations in the Soviet Union were held in an atmosphere of great enthusiasm. An enormous demonstration, attended by more than a million people, took place in Moscow. The demonstrators were greeted by Comrade Stalin as well as by V. I. Molotov, G. M. Malenkov, L. P. Beria, K. E. Voroshilov, A. I. Mikoyan, L. M. Kaganovich, N. A. Bulganin, A. A. Andreyev, N. S. Khrushchev, A. N. Kosygin, N. M. Shvernik, M. A. Suslov, P. K. Ponomarenko and M. F. Shkiryatov. The appearance of Comrade Stalin and of the leaders of the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet State on the tribune of the Lenin Mausoleum was received with great applause.

Many guests from various countries attended the military parade and demonstration in Moscow including trade union delegations from China and Bulgaria, representatives of the working people of Poland, of Germany, of the France-U.S.S.R. Society, the Netherlands-Soviet Society, the Austrian Society for the Promotion of Cultural and Economic Relations with the

Soviet Union, The Czechoslovak-Soviet Society, a British workers delegation, a delegation from the Italian General Confederation of Labour, Belgian-Soviet Society etc.

Demonstrations were held in all towns and districts of the Soviet Union under the slogan of support and approval of the Lenin-Stalin foreign pulley, under the slogan of mobilising the forces of the Soviet people for the further successful building of Communism.

CHINA

May Day demonstration in Peking, capital of the Chinese People's Republic, began with an artillery salute, bands playing the national anthem and the "International".

This was the first time in history that the Peking workers marched in the May Day demonstration under the Government of the Chinese People's Republic. More than 300,000 people participated.

The demonstrators heartily cheered the leader of the Chinese people, Mao Tse-tung, the leaders of the people's government, the leaders of the glorious Chinese Communist Party. Mao Tse-tung, was on the tribune together with Liu Shao-chi, Soong Ching-ling, Chang Lan, Li Chi-shen, Deputy Chairmen of the Central People's Government; Chu Teh, Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army and Chou En-lai, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Demonstrators marched with slogans for peace, against the instigators of a new war, for the strengthening of eternal friendship with the great Soviet Union, the first Socialist Slate in the world, and international solidarity of the working class the world over.

HUNGARY

By May 2, a total of 6,375,585 people in Hungary had signed the Appeal of the Permanent Peace Committee. Budapest accounted for 1,328,811 of these signatures. By the end of April, over 20,000 peace committees had been formed, of which 8,023 were in Budapest and 12,206 in towns and villages throughout the country. Affixing signatures to the appeal has become a genuinely popular peace ballot. This mass movement, unprecedented in scale, is attracting even those who until now held the view that there was no need for them to engage in politics. These people, in addition to signing the appeal, also deliver speeches at peace meetings.

The working people of the large enterprises are heading the struggle for peace. Some 500 peace committees are functioning at the Mathias Rakosi combinat, the “Mavag”, and “Hofer” factories, at the waggon-building works, shipbuilding yard and electro-technical works. The working people in these enterprises by means of improving their work and by new and outstanding achievements are strengthening their country and the camp of the champions of peace.

Peace meetings attended by many people are also being held in villages. The masses of the medium peasants are taking part in the campaign for signatures to the appeal, which is being signed also by a growing number of rural clergy. Peace meetings are being held by soldiers of the people’s army, by young workers, students, and by the entire youth of Hungary, who are ready to combat by deeds the evil schemes of the warmongers.

FRANCE

On May First the working people of France held powerful demonstrations in support of their immediate demands, against fascism and for the prohibition of the atomic bomb and for peace.

A particularly mighty demonstration in Paris continued for five hours. The demonstrations gave a rousing welcome to Maurice Thorez, members of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party, and to Joliot-Curie, Chairman of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress. Parisians warmly applauded columns of workers who marched past under the common slogans of the General Confederation of Labour, the French Christian Workers' Confederation and "Force Ouvrière". The posters carried by conscripts from the Seine Department read "We are soldiers of peace!"

In Marseilles 100,000 people marched in the May Day demonstration, in Saint-Etienne 30,000; Forbach, 20,000; Bordeaux, 20,000; Strasburg, 15,060 and in Lens, Toulouse and Nice, 10,000 in each town.

The May Day celebrations gave new impetus to the campaign for signatures to the appeal of the permanent Committee.

The appeal of the Permanent Committee was signed by 95 per cent of factory and office workers in the motor-car factory "Chenard et Walker" in Gennevilliers. An overwhelming majority of the working people in the main factories in the Paris area have also signed the appeal. Collection of Signatures in the Paris area continues. 340 of the 345 workers in the Limoges arsenal have signed the appeal. Two soldiers of the 8th Sapper regiment in Poitiers collected 100 signatures from their comrades and are collecting more signatures.

The campaign for signatures to the appeal of the Permanent Committee is being extended in the countryside. Many new

peace committees are being formed, particularly in the Landes and l'Indre Departments. A feature of the campaign is the door to door collection of signatures. The slogan of the campaign is: Not a single family without a petition form containing the text of the Permanent Committee's appeal!

POLAND

The movement for peace in people's Poland is developing on a most extensive scale. On the eve of May Day it assumed a particularly mass character. Between April 24-29 workers throughout the country arranged peace shifts during which they achieved particularly high production achievements.

Million of workers and peasants, women and youth, took part in May Day demonstrations under slogans of struggle for peace. More than 300,000 people participated in the demonstrations in Warsaw and Lodz. Tens and hundreds of thousands of people attended demonstrations in other towns.

Tremendous organisational work is under way for the widest possible network of peace committees. According to far from complete returns, the number of peace committees at present exceed ten thousand. Hundreds of new committees are coming into existence every day. In Lodz, for instance, peace committees have been elected to all factories and offices. House and street committees are being set up. Similar reports come from Cracow, Katowice, Wroclaw, Poznan and other provincial centres. Extensive organisational work has recently been carried out in the countryside. The election of regional peace committees is nearing completion and a big campaign is under way to set up village peace committees.

As the work of organisation is completed, the local peace committees commence the collection of signatures to the appeal for banning the atomic weapon.

GERMANY

The German democratic Press devotes much space to the splendid May Day Demonstration in Berlin, in which 800,000 people took part.

The demonstration was held under the slogans of the struggle of the German people for lasting peace, for the democratic unity of Germany and its capital—Berlin.

The distinguishing feature of the May Day demonstration in Berlin this year was, as is generally acknowledged, the far greater participation of working people from the Western sectors than in the previous year.

Long before May Day, the military authorities of the Western powers concentrated armoured cars in the Western sectors of the city. On the morning of May 1, considerable quantities of ammunition were stacked in the devastated Reichstag under the supervision of American and British military police. However, no provocations threats or repressions could prevent the working people in the Western sectors together with the working people of the whole of Berlin and Germany, from demonstrating their determination to fight for peace and the democratic unity of the country.

On May Day, collection of signatures began in the German Democratic Republic to the appeal of the Permanent Committee for the unconditional prohibition of the atomic weapon. The campaign is proceeding with great enthusiasm. Thus, all the citizens of Schwerin signed the appeal within two hours. Similar reports have been received from many towns and districts in the Republic.

Preliminary returns show that 2,500,000 people in the Saxony-Anhalt land, or two-thirds of the entire population of the land, had signed the appeal by May 3. In the town of Aue (Saxony) 96 per cent of the population had signed.

U.S.A.

Seventy-five thousand people participated in the May Day demonstration in New York City, which lasted for six hours. The demonstrators carried slogans demanding peace and the prohibition of the atomic weapon and for opening negotiations with the Soviet Union for a peaceful settlement.

JAPAN

At the May Day meeting held in the square near the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, 500,000 trade union members participated. Sandso Nosaka addressed the assembly calling for the speedy signing of the Peace Treaty and cessation of war preparations.

INDONESIA

In Jakarta about 30,000 Indonesians rallied in the central park of the city to attend the May Day meeting. Above the tribune from which trade union leaders spoke to the assembly were large portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin. Stalin and Mao Tse-tung.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

The workers of the most densely populated regions of the Union of South Africa—Witwatersrand and Johannesburg—did not work on May 1st.—celebrating «Liberty Day».

MASS PROTESTS AGAINST THE DISMISSAL OF FREDRIC JOLIOT CURIE

The French Government has dismissed Frederic Joliot Curie, the great scientist, ardent patriot and courageous fighter for peace, from the post of High Commissioner of Atomic Energy.

This fascist measure, taken on instructions from American warmongers, has roused all working people, intellectuals and all democrats in France. All scientific institutions in Paris struck work in protest. The General Confederation of Labour, the Women's International Democratic Federation and the International Association of Educational Workers have lodged strong protests. During a big protest meeting in Paris, a committee was formed to fight for the reinstatement of Frederic Joliot Curie.

Protests against the persecution of Joliot Curie were made by peace organisations and by the democratic Press in Italy, Finland and many other countries.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR MAURICE THOREZ

Maurice Thorez, General Secretary of the French Communist Party, received congratulations on the occasion of his fiftieth birthday from the following fraternal Parties: The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Communist Party of China, the Italian Communist Party, the Polish United Workers' Party, the Rumanian Workers Party, the Hungarian Working People's Party, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the Communist Party of Bulgaria, the Communist Party of Algiers, the Communist Party of Tunis, the Communist Party of Morocco, the Communist Party of the Saar, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the German Communist Party, the Communist Party of Japan, the British Communist Party, the Communist Party of U.S., the Communist Party of Brazil, the Communist Party of Spain, the Communist Party of Argentina, the United Socialist Party of Catalonia, the Communist Party of Australia, the Communist Party of Holland, the Communist Party of Denmark, the Communist Party of South Africa, the Communist Party of Uruguay, the Communist Party of Colombia, the Mexican Communist Party, the Communist Party of Israel, the Communist Party of New Zealand, the Belgian Communist Party, the Communist Party of Austria, the Communist Party of Sweden, the Communist Party of Luxemburg, the Progressive People's Party of Costa Rica and from Yugoslav revolutionary emigrants in Czechoslovakia.

**MAY 9—SYMBOL OF CZECHOSLOVAK-
SOVIET FRIENDSHIP. Klement Gottwald,
Chairman, Communist Party,
Czechoslovakia**

On May 9, the people of Czechoslovakia, celebrate the fifth anniversary of the day when the glorious Soviet Army, having liberated Prague, completed the rout of Hitlerite Germany. The people of Czechoslovakia celebrate this day with a feeling of profound gratitude to the Soviet Union, to its army and to their great friend Generalissimo Stalin, on whose orders Marshal Konev's army, by a lightning manoeuvre, delivered the last smashing blow to the Hitlerite bands, brought freedom and salvation to our capital, and, in this way, to our entire country.

The peoples of Czechoslovakia have not forgotten and never will forget that they emerged from the Austrian prison of the peoples as a result of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Never will they forget that the Soviet Union—alone of the great powers—stood solidly side by side with them in the dark days of Munich and that their most powerful support and defence was always the first Socialist State in the world. That was why five years ago the Czechoslovak people, with boundless joy, showered the Soviet tanks with flowers and greeted with outstretched arms the heroic Soviet soldiers, the men who enabled them once more to unfurl the flag of freedom over the ancient Hradcany and, after the victorious revolution, to begin a new, happy life. The Czechoslovak people, as a token of gratitude, have named the Constitution of their new people's democratic State, the Constitution of May 9th, and on the emblem of their reborn statehood have forever inscribed friendship and alliance with the Soviet Union, the guarantee of their independence and Socialist future.

In the five years since the end of World War Two, the working people of Czechoslovakia have convinced themselves time and again of the selfless and fraternal aid of their great ally. This aid enabled them, in the days immediately after the driving out of the invaders, to begin the restoration of their independent economic life and the formation of a new army. Due to this aid, the people of Czechoslovakia overcame the consequences of the 1947 drought and were saved from the hunger which home and foreign reaction sought to use for their foul aims, directed not only against Czechoslovakia but also against the Soviet Union and all the People's Democracies.

The working people of Czechoslovakia know full well that the Soviet Union has extended to them a fraternal helping hand, and with the long-term trade agreement, laid the mighty granite foundation of the new economic life at a time when the American imperialists are ruining the economy of their Marshallised "allies", forcing them to pursue a policy directed against the interests of their own working people and against the liberties of the peoples. Our people, working at their benches in the rehabilitated and newly-built factories, are daily becoming aware of the extent to which economic co-operation with the Soviet Union and its allies—the People's Democracies—enables them to realise the Five-Year Plan of construction in Czechoslovakia and to achieve the rapid transformation of our homeland into a Socialist country. They know that the Soviet Union has never refused to extend a helping hand and that on the contrary, it is rendering ever greater assistance as can be seen from the recently concluded new economic agreement.

That is why the working people of Czechoslovakia value so much their friendship with the Soviet Union, why they so resolutely swept away reaction in February 1948, a reaction which made criminal attempts to destroy the fraternal Czechoslovak-Soviet alliance and return to power. The answer

of the working people of Czechoslovakia to these attempts was, and always will be, one and the same: together with the Soviet Union for all time!

The gratitude and friendly feelings of the Czechoslovak people to the Soviet Union and its brilliant leader Comrade Stalin, have been expressed at every possible opportunity. However, the most touching expression of profound affection by our people for their great friend—Generalissimo J. V. Stalin—was shown on the occasion of his 70th birthday when the working people sent to distant Moscow their message of congratulations containing almost nine million signatures and a trainload of birthday gifts in which their skilful hands had embodied their profound attention and boundless admiration for the great champion of peace and the happiness of the peoples.

At present we value very highly the unswerving peace policy of the Soviet Union which gives to Czechoslovakia and all the People's Democracies powerful support and protection against imperialist discrimination and war threats. The U.S.S.R. enables us, in the ranks of the 800,000,000 peace-loving people in the peace camp, headed by the Soviet Union, calmly, confidently and without fear to go ahead with the building up of our Socialist State and to enjoy the first fruits of our free labour. For this reason the peoples of Czechoslovakia will never, in any circumstances, swerve a single step from the path of eternal friendship with the Soviet Union; from the path which they took many years ago and which they have cemented by the blood shed jointly at Kiev, Bielaya Tserkov, in the Dukla, in partisan actions and in Hitlerite torture chambers. That is why nothing can erase May 9th, 1945 from their memories, the day when the defenders of the Prague barricades and the heroic soldiers of the Soviet Army—the liberators of the people of Czechoslovakia—met in brotherly embrace.

SUCCESSSES OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN FIGURES

People's Democratic Czechoslovakia has registered substantial successes in building Socialism.

The Socialist sector of the national economy is making steady headway and the capitalist elements are steadily declining. By the end of last year, the Socialist sector in industry was already 98 per cent; in large-scale home and foreign trade, 100 per cent; in wholesale trade (Czech lands) 66.5 per cent (in Slovakia it was greater) and in small artisan production, 14.3 per cent.

The Five-Year Plan sets the task of increasing industrial production compared with 1948 (the end of the Two-Year Plan for rehabilitation of the' economy) by 57 per cent; output of the machine-building industry will rise by 93 per cent; coal output by 35 per cent and metallurgical production by 49 per cent. Heavy industry will have the highest rate of development.

During these five years, agriculture will receive 30,000 tractors. Agricultural production will increase, compared with 1948, by 37 per cent, including live-stock by 86 per cent. The Socialist reorganisation of agriculture is underway.

Big tasks have been set in the sphere of raising the living standard of the working population, in advancing culture, and in industrial expansion in Slovakia, on the basis of which the economic and social level of Slovakia is being brought up to the level of the Czech lands.

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The programme of the first year of the Five-Year Plan in industry has been fulfilled by the working people by 102 per cent. Compared with 1947, industrial production rose by 27.9

per cent. Labour productivity in industry has also grown (16 per cent compared with 1947 and 3.2 per cent compared with 1937).

Output per capita of the population is 47 per cent above the 1937 level.

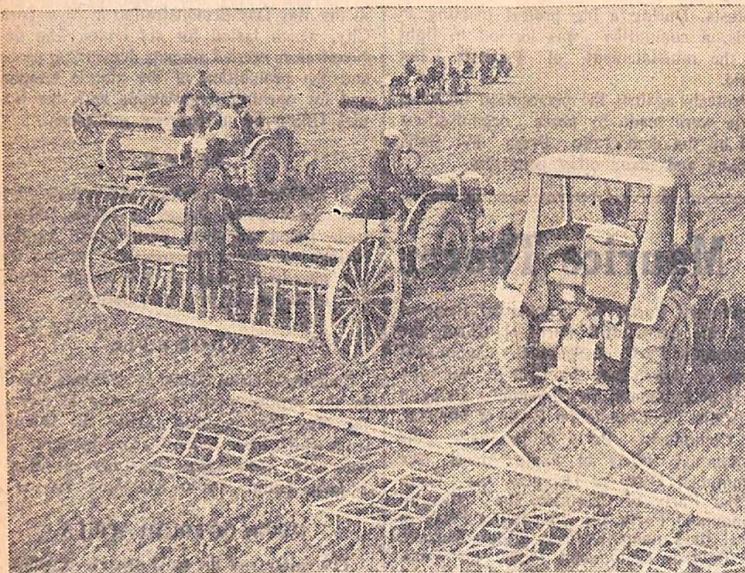
Due to the development of Socialist emulation and shock-work, wages in the Course of last year alone, rose by 15 per cent. Market income of peasants is up 11 per cent.

Simultaneously with the increased income of the working population, the amount of food and consumer goods on sale has increased and prices in the free shops and on the market have been lowered considerably. The lower prices have saved consumers some 28 billion crowns. After the abolition of bread and cereal rationing last October, consumption of wheat-flour increased by 35 per cent; of rye-flour by 15 per cent.

Last year, (calculated in pre-war currency) State expenditure on social insurance doubled; three times more was spent on education, while expenditure on public health was twelve times the 1937 figure.

The working population of Czechoslovakia is carrying out the programme of the second year of the Five-Year Plan with great enthusiasm. Industrial production this year is scheduled for a 13.4 per cent increase. Very big tasks face building workers and workers in heavy machine construction. A decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia provides for an accelerated expansion of heavy industry. A special task of the current year is the construction of big enterprises in the Ostrava district. Tens of thousands of voluntary workers especially from the ranks of the youth are taking part in this construction. Considerable construction is also underway in Slovakia.

**THE STATE MACHINE TRACTOR STATION
IN HORNÁTKY (CZECHOSLOVAKIA)
CULTIVATES LAND OF THE
AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVE IN
BYSKOVICE**



The State machine-tractor station in Hornátky (Czechoslovakia) cultivates land of the agricultural co-operative in Byskovice.

*The State machine-tractor station in Hornátky
(Czechoslovakia) cultivates land of the agricultural co-
operative in Byskovice.*

TASK OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THE MAIN PRINCIPLES OF THE RULES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER CO- OPERATIVES*

The question of the path of the Socialist transformation of our rural economy is now being raised sharply and insistently by life itself, by the profound, political, social and economic changes effected after September 9, 1944, the successes already achieved in, our Socialist construction which is now underway.

Our successes show that we are firmly and resolutely marching along the path of Socialist industrialisation, that we have made a serious beginning in the Socialist transformation of agriculture.

But in speaking about our successful forward movement along the road to Socialism we must clearly realise the present large discrepancy between the development of our industry and that of agriculture. Our agriculture is seriously lagging behind the rate of development in industry. Whereas industrial output has greatly exceeded prewar level, agriculture is still approximately at the same level.

Our industry is developing rapidly. The number of new enterprises is growing; new industrial settlements are coming into being and the number of workers is increasing. In 1950 alone, the number of factory and office workers will increase by more than 21,500 and, in the national economy as a whole, by 87,600.

* Report to National Conference of agricultural producer co-operatives, Bulgaria, held April 5, 1950. Abridged.

Considerable quantities of raw materials and food are essential and which agriculture must provide.

But can our agriculture, as it is at present, successfully increase output to keep pace with the rate of development in industry? No, it cannot. The petty, dispersed, low-productive, private farming is an obstacle to this.

To overcome the present lag, agriculture must be enlarged. It is necessary to place agriculture on a new technical basis, on the basis of large-scale production so that the countryside can follow the Socialist town and overtake it in the future.

Comrade Stalin teaches that to realise the task of the Socialist transformation of agriculture a number of preliminary, main conditions are essential: above all, the power of the working class is essential, which would help peasants to take the path of collective farming; second, it is necessary to drive out the capitalists and big landowners and declare their enterprises, factories and land people's property; third, it is necessary to curb the kulaks, to deprive them of their machines and tractors; fourth, it is necessary to declare that only poor and medium peasants united in collective farms can use machines and tractors; fifth, it is necessary to industrialise the country, to build new agricultural machinery plants so that industry can saturate collectivised agriculture with tractors, machines, fertilisers, and so on.

But even given these main preliminary conditions, the following, as Comrade Stalin teaches, are also essential for mass collectivisation of agriculture: the entire mass of the Communist Party membership should be convinced of the correctness of the policy of collectivisation, and the broad mass of the Party membership should support the Party leadership in carrying out this policy; a mass movement for entering the collective farms should exist among the peasants; peasants should not be afraid of these farms, should join these themselves and should convince themselves from their own

experience of the superiority of collective farming over individual farming; the state should have the necessary material and financial means with which to support the State and collective farms.

Which of these conditions indicated by Comrade Stalin exist in our country?’

We have people’s democratic power, the power of the working class in a close alliance with the working peasantry, relying on the support and selfless assistance of the Soviet Union.

We have the rich experience of Socialist construction in the Soviet Union and are learning from this experience, following the all-conquering revolutionary theory and practice of Bolshevism, of Lenin and Stalin.

This is a great and decisive factor.

The capitalists and the big landowners have been excluded from any participation in the leadership of our country. Their factories have been declared people’s property and their land has been distributed among the poor peasants.

Land in our country has not been declared State property. But the fact that private property in land exists (which undoubtedly is a factor hindering the transition of the peasants to Socialist forms of farming) is not, under conditions of people’s democracy, an insurmountable obstacle in the way of this transition. This circumstance merely shows that the transition will be a more complicated process in our country than was the case in the Soviet Union and will take place in somewhat specific forms.

In no circumstances do the specific forms, means, methods and rate of the peasants transition to the co-operative, Socialist method of production mean a denial of the path along which Soviet peasants advanced to Socialism, the path blazed and illuminated by Lenin and Stalin; does not signify any special, Bulgarian way to Socialism. This signifies only that the general

law of the transitional period, established by the great teachers of Marxism-Leninism and realised in the Soviet Union, acquires in our country certain specific features.

Our specific feature in switching agriculture to Socialist forms of production will be that the question of the nationalisation of the land, without which it is impossible completely to introduce the Socialist method of production in the countryside, will be solved in practice by the peasants themselves.

The agricultural producer co-operatives are called upon to solve this task. In our conditions, agricultural producer co-operatives must facilitate the switching of private small and medium peasant households to large-scale collective farms equipped with modern agricultural technique, to Socialism.

We are pursuing a firm policy of curbing the kulaks. By means of the progressive income tax and by the system of state quotas we are resolutely restricting the kulak. Machines and tractors have been taken from the kulaks and are now in the hands of the State. Peasants united in the agricultural producer co-operatives are using the machines and tractors.

We do not possess that minimum of industry which the Soviet Union had when it embarked upon Socialist construction in the countryside. But, enjoying the support of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies and developing our own industry, we are able to supply agriculture, to an increasing degree, with machines and tractors.

Consequently, we have the preliminary condition for the Socialist transformation of our agriculture. What is the situation with regard to the other conditions?

Undoubtedly, the Communist Party is convinced, in its mass, of the correctness of the policy of mass co-operation; the broad masses of Party members support the Party leadership in carrying out this policy.

But can we say that the main masses of the peasants in our

country are convinced of the superiority of the co-operative farms, that they are ready to join them? No, as yet we cannot say this. A great majority of our peasants, poor and medium, are seriously, very seriously pondering over their plots of land; they are all looking around, hesitating, and weighing the “pros” and “cons” of co-operative farming.

The question is that the Communist Party and the Government should facilitate, help in the historically inevitable, voluntary turn of the peasants to the co-operative farms. The point is to get the peasant convinced of the superiority of collective farming.

That is why our main task at present is: all-round strengthening of the existing and newly organised agricultural co-operatives; to secure an exemplary organisation of labour in them. to raise the crop yield, to transform the co-operative members into well-to-do peasants.

A considerable section of the peasants has already taken the path of collective farming. The others will inevitably follow their example. It is necessary patiently, persistently and tirelessly to work in this direction. It is necessary to convince the peasants, really **convince** them of the superiority of co-operative farming. Haste and every action which is not based on convincing a peasant, on his completely voluntary decision, is harmful.

Successes and Difficulties of the Agricultural Producer Co-operatives

In recent years and particularly during last year we had extremely big successes in productive co-operation among, the peasants. By the beginning of 1950 we had 1,605 agricultural producer co-operatives which united 161,000 members and disposed of 560,000 hectares of co-operative land. In 1949, the

area cultivated by agricultural co-operatives increased by 89 per cent compared with 1948. The agricultural co-operatives own nearly 30,000 horses, 60,000 heads of large horned cattle, more than 600,000 sheep and 30,000 hogs. In 1949, in agriculture and above all, in agricultural co-operatives, there were over 6,000 tractors of an average 15 horsepower capacity, which last year ploughed nearly 1,200,000 hectares.

By the beginning of 1950, the agricultural co-operatives had grown considerably and their membership had increased. New co-operatives were also organised. During the first three months of this year, 28 co-operatives with 2,390 members and 8,850 hectares of land were organised. The older co-operatives have admitted 16,500 new members with the total of 53,600 hectares of land. At present, more than 175,000 rural households have joined agricultural co-operatives. The total number of people embraced by these co-operatives amounts to 600,000 and the land area already exceeds 600,000 hectares.

Big successes were registered in the productive activities of the co-operatives.

In 1949, the harvest of the co-operatives was 15-20 per cent above that of individual farms. Individual peasants see all this and are becoming more and more convinced of the correctness of the co-operative path for the development of the countryside.

But the formation of agricultural co-operatives is encountering great difficulties. I want to speak frankly about these difficulties.

The first difficulty arises from the fact that the agricultural co-operatives are a new form of economic organisation, they have not yet acquired sufficient experience and there are many problems still to be solved. We must make a closer study of the experience of collective-farms in the Soviet Union, apply this experience in our work, make a closer study of the experience of the better co-operatives and apply it to the more backward

ones. In this way we shall make fewer mistakes. I think it would not be at all bad if we sent 100-150 of our best members of the agricultural co-operatives to the Soviet Union in order to become better acquainted with the experience of the Soviet collective-farms.

The second difficulty is that we have not enough trained cadres in the agricultural co-operatives. But experience, as is known, can be acquired. Soon we shall have a good many trained cadres. I think it would be a good thing if we organised in Sofia a central higher school to train leading co-operative workers, approximately 200-250 people. It is necessary also to think about district schools, particularly about training book-keepers from among members of co-operatives.

The third requirement is to unite all the land of the agricultural co-operative into a single entity. Without this it is practically impossible to organise the work correctly. Here we come up against the interests of the private households whose land cannot remain within the boundary of the agricultural co-operative. Replacing the land of these peasants must be carried out in such a way as will protect the interests both of the co-operative and the individual peasants and to avoid any friction between them.

The fourth difficulty is the sharpening class struggle in the countryside. We shall not admit to producer co-operatives, kulaks and persons deprived of the franchise and we shall exclude those who prevent the consolidation of the co-operatives. This will sharpen the class struggle in the countryside. The struggle will assume new forms. The kulak is agitating and will continue to agitate against the agricultural co-operatives. Kulak agents may penetrate the co-operatives and engage in undermining and wrecking activities. Consequently it is necessary to intensify our revolutionary vigilance, our irreconcilability to all those who interfere with the building of the new life in the countryside, to expose and to

put an end in good time to their hostile activities.

Other difficulties are that some of the peasants who join the agricultural cooperatives are poor, some middle and some well-to-do peasants. Some contribute more land and some less to the common pool. Some more cattle, others less. This is a source of the contradictions between members of agricultural co-operatives in connection with the assessment of land rent, the amount of the indivisible fund, the inventory contributed and so forth. These difficulties should be, solved at general meetings of members on the basis of the rules of the agricultural co-operatives.

All these difficulties can of course be surmounted. The Communist Party, our Government, the local people's councils and all members of the Party are rendering the peasants all-round assistance in overcoming them.

Basic Principles of the Draft Rules for the Agricultural Co-operatives

The draft rules of the agricultural cooperatives, submitted for discussion and approval by the Conference (adopted by the National Conference on April 7th, 1950. **Ed.**) constitute a document of the greatest political significance for the future development of our countryside. It aims at the further consolidation of the foundations of Socialism in agriculture.

The draft rules formulate the aims and tasks of the co-operative farms. The agricultural co-operative is a voluntary association of peasants who pool their land, means of production and their labour with the aim of establishing large co-operative economies, to secure victory over the kulak, to liquidate backwardness in agriculture, eliminate poverty, build up model farms, ensure a better and more prosperous life.

The agricultural co-operative leads the peasants along the

path to Socialism.

The draft rules regulate the conditions for the use of land, namely, they stipulate that all co-operative lands should be united into one whole, that correct crop rotation is organised, that definite sectors of the fields are attached to each production learn.

Simultaneously, the draft rules stipulate that not more than half a hectare of land, together with livestock, poultry and bee-hives, shall be available for personal use. This ensures that co-operative and personal interests are provided for.

The draft rules define the fundamental basis of the means of production. Members of the agricultural co-operative contribute to the common pool their inventory and machines, draught animals and cattle (excluding that which is felt for personal) use and enterprises for processing agricultural produce. Contribution of inventory is based on the amount of land contributed.

The draft rules clearly define the duties of agricultural co-operatives and of all their members. These duties provide that the agricultural co-operatives and all their members undertake to work according to plan, to fulfil in good time their obligations to the State, to adopt measures aimed at raising the crop yields, correctly to utilise the co-operative land, machinery and implements, to organise co-operative livestock farms for market production, to improve the breed of cattle and raise the productivity of the herd.

The draft rules define eligibility for membership of the agricultural co-operative. Every poor or medium peasant, male or female who is 18 years of age and who personally works in the co-operative can become a member. It goes without saying that we cannot allow kulaks and persons deprived of the franchise to become members of the agricultural co-operatives.

The draft rules clearly define the exact method of

sharing income. In distributing income, provision is made first and foremost for the fulfilment of obligations to the State, the creation of seed and fodder stocks and also the allocation of part of the produce for free sale; the creation of an indivisible fund, a mutual aid fund, and the distribution of income in accordance with the work performed by members and the land contributed to the common pool. It is proposed that 30 per cent of the clear profit be allocated for rent and 70 per cent as payment for labour.

Rent payments in the agricultural cooperatives issue from the right to private ownership of land. Rent constitutes unearned income for the members of the agricultural co-operatives. It is a hangover from private ownership.

A high level of rent affects the interests of those members of the co-operative farms who have contributed less land and who, to receive higher incomes, must work much more than those members who have contributed more land. On the other hand a low level rent affects the interests of those members who have contributed more land. The job at the present stage is to fix the most satisfactory scale for land rent.

The draft rules outline questions of organisation, payment and labour discipline. All work must be performed exclusively by the labour of the members or the co-operative. (Only specialists may be employed and, in exceptional cases, workers (or temporary, urgent work). This eliminates the possibility of exploitation of man by man. In accordance with the draft rules, all members of the co-operative are organised in production teams.

The draft rules provide for the management of co-operatives on a basis of broad democracy. All important economic issues can be decided only by the general meeting of the members. Daily guidance in between meetings is effected by the board of the co-operative within the framework of the terms of reference delegated to it by the general meeting.

Broad co-operative democracy is the basis for strengthening the co-operatives, for bringing forward new cadres and should therefore be guarded as the apple of one's eye.

Concerning the Social Nature of Agricultural Producer Co-operatives

What is the social nature of the agricultural producer co-operative; to what type of enterprises does it relate?

The agricultural producer co-operative as a large scale, co-operative, public economy in agriculture; founded by the peasants.

a) on land which is the private property of individual peasants. Consequently, we have absolute ground rent, unearned income of persons who own less land. This circumstance by no means implies that the agricultural co-operatives preserve and operate the capitalist principles of the organisation of production; the land of the cooperatives is for common use by members of the co-operative and not for individual use; rent is determined not by the individual peasant. not on the basis of the average capitalist profit but by the collective; moreover rent is regulated by the State which permits its payment within the bounds only of a definite maximum.

b) on common means of production (traction power, agricultural inventory, farm buildings) accruing from entrance fees, irrecoverable contributions, and contributions in implements, indivisible stocks, which constitute co-operative, Socialist forms of property, owned by all members of the cooperative.

c) on means of production (tractors, agricultural machinery) which belong to the State.

d) on the utilisation of common labour, the labour of members of a given co-operative only, without bringing in outside manpower;

e) by applying the Socialist principle in the division, organisation and remuneration for work performed on the one hand, and, on the other, application of the principle of (the right to private property which yields unearned income; these two principles conflict and clash and will continue to be the cause of strife;

f) on permitting within the co-operatives subsidiary economy (a personal plot and livestock) for the satisfaction of the personal needs of members of the co-operative.

Consequently, the co-operatives have much in common with the collective-farms but there are also substantial differences. These differences arise from the fact that the greater part of the land in the co-operatives remains the private property, though in a restricted way, of the co-operative membership.

The co-operatives now rest on two foundations: on the basis of Socialism, which is growing all the time, and on the right to private property in land, which is steadily diminishing and will ultimately disappear. These are conflicting bases which give rise to struggle.

Above all, this determines the class struggle inside the co-operatives.

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State power in Bulgaria is in the hands of the working class, in alliance with the working peasantry; we have the dictatorship of the proletariat—our People's Democracy is one of the forms of proletarian dictatorship. State industry occupies a leading position of the credit system is in the hands of the State; we have socialised and State means of production in the

agricultural co-operatives; the land is concentrated in co-operative entities; a Socialist economy is conducted in these entities; a Socialist principle prevails in the distribution, organisation and remuneration of labour—in view of all this, **the agricultural producer co-operative can be nothing other than a specific form of a Socialist agricultural enterprise in the process of formation, with remnants of private ownership, mainly private ownership of land, which gradually, will become the property of the co-operative.**

Everything will depend on the content given to this form. For us, the agricultural co-operative as a new form of economic organisation is but an instrument. The question is who wields this instrument and against whom it is aimed? Therefore, the question of leadership of the co-operative movement and the agricultural co-operatives acquires a special significance in our country. We must so arrange things that the old and newly established agricultural co-operatives are headed by people boundlessly loyal to the cause of Socialism, people who fear no difficulties, people who are capable of securing a really prosperous and cultured life for the members of the co-operatives.

The success of the agricultural producer co-operatives depends now on this.

**MILITARY ALLIANCE OF U.S.
IMPERIALISTS AND SPANISH FASCISTS.
Enrique Lister, Member, Political
Bureau, Communist Party of Spain**

The whole world knows that the Anglo-American imperialists make use of the fascist regime of Franco in preparing for a new world war. This is mentioned in the letter of the U.S. State Secretary, Acheson, who openly suggests the inclusion of fascist Spain as an active factor in preparing a new war.

Acheson seeks to appear as a friend of the Spanish people, but facts expose him. The American imperialists are deadly enemies of the Republic, of democracy and of the Spanish people. As far back as 1945, fearing that Franco fascism would be destroyed and the Republic established, they took a number of measures of a military nature, assisting Franco to create special units and to prepare the army for an armed struggle against the Spanish people. This is precisely the essence of the so-called training plan for the Franco army, elaborated by the American General Staff.

The training of Franco's armed forces by the American imperialists was accompanied by other measures aimed at transforming Spain into an American military base. This is evident from the following facts: Franco's civil air-fleet numbers less than 50 planes, while the military airforce consists of 300 old models. Yet over one hundred airfields capable of accommodating the most powerful aircraft have been laid out in Spain. Construction work began after an agreement was reached between Franco and the American imperialists in November 1944.

As is known, the mercantile marine and the fishing fleet of Spain consist of vessels which are completely unseaworthy and

literally go to the bottom, taking hundreds of seamen with them. At the same time Franco spends billions of pesetas on building warships and harbour installations and in equipping a large number of ports. All this is done with obvious military-strategic aims, in order to be ready to accommodate Anglo-American warships and transports “in the decisive hour”, as was cynically blurted out by the Franco bandits themselves when confirming the fact of tours of inspection by American experts.

Spanish railways are in a catastrophic state. The number of railway crashes, all kinds of accidents and the lists of casualties are the source of considerable alarm among the Spanish people. According to the obviously under-estimated Franco figures, between February 12 and December 31, 1949, there were 106 accidents with 90 killed and 1,492 injured. At the same time, branch lines and junctions, the strategic significance of which are obvious, are being built, construction work being built, immediately following a visit paid by an American commission. Visits of this nature were repeated in the course of construction work.

Franco is an obedient lackey of his masters—the American imperialists. This is evident from the plan of adapting his army to meet the stipulations of the American imperialists arising from the Atlantic Pact. This is the precise meaning of the latest Franco decree concerning changes in the army staff and new forms of organisation for military units. The American General Staff wants the **Spanish** army under **its** command, and the Francoites, trading their country, and submitting to the Americans in everything, are playing an altogether base and disgusting role.

Francoism spells hunger and poverty. And the most revolting thing of all is that, in these conditions, the American imperialists talk endlessly of their alleged desire to help the Spanish people to escape from this poverty. The facts show,

however, that the American imperialists are but adding to the absolute impoverishment of the working masses of Spain. After the Americans had seized Spain in their grip and Franco had begun to turn the country into an American military springboard, the poverty of the masses increased, since the main resources of the country were diverted to war preparations.

Ever since 1939, the Francoists have been allocating considerable budgetary sums for military and police expenditure. But since 1945, that is, since the time Spain became an American military-strategic base, military-police expenditure considerably surpassed all other expenditure of the Franco State. At present 74 per cent of the budget is devoted to preparing the country for war and for the continuation of Franco's war against the people.

Apart from the above-mentioned official figures, Franco, under cover of budgetary allocations of other Ministries, conceals his military-police expenditure. Moreover, compulsory loans are floated for the construction of harbours, airfields, communications, and so on. This work is carried out under the guise of commercial interests, although everybody knows of the military significance and the military aims of this work.

In justification of their support for Franco, the Anglo-American imperialists talk about their alleged desire to prevent useless bloodshed. But actually, Yankee imperialism is fanning the internal war of Franco against the Spanish people since this war is a component part of its plans for preparing an aggressive war against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

According to absolutely reliable—although incomplete—figures, between 1945 and 1949 when the Anglo-American imperialists, taking over the blood-stained legacy of the Hitlerites, seized Spain in their grip, the Francoites have killed 1,754 Spanish patriots, of whom 362 were executed after being

sentenced by military tribunals, and 1,392 were killed while “attempting to escape.” Under the watchful eye of the American Government and with the assistance of its agents, the punitive forces of Franco intensified their war against the Spanish people. Many of the types of arms used by the “civil guard” (Franco gendarmerie—**Ed.**) are of American origin. Transport facilities, gasoline, radios and so on, which are supplied to these punitive expeditions, are also American.

War preparations in Spain are being carried out under the leadership of the dollar magnates. The Franco press, which reported that in 1949, 12,500 American tourists visited Spain, is silent about the fact that among these “tourists” there were 206 American officers who made 79 inspection trips to military bases in Spain. Of these visits, 46 were to airfields and 33 to ports. To this should be added the visit by units of an American squadron under the command of Admiral Connolly and the routine visits by permanent members of the Yankee military missions in Madrid. Last year also, 19 American Senators, 10 Congressmen, 19 special representatives and representatives of big U.S. banks and trusts visited Spain.

The transformation of Spain into an American military base has other aspects as well. American monopoly capital is penetrating Spanish economy ever more brazenly and on an ever great scale. American firms recently established control over Spanish airlines. By a decree of December 19, 1949 Franco abolished all obstacles which interfered with the penetration of foreign capital into the Spanish colonies in Africa and, particularly, in Guinea and Fernando Po. A Franco order—dated November 23, 1949—ceded to the “Standard Oil” Company, for an unlimited period, 9,563 square metres of ground in the port of Puerto de la Luz (Canary Islands) for the construction of installations for fuel stocks for the navy. American engineers have erected a chemical factory in Aranjuez. Another chemical factory will be built near Burgos.

In Bilbao a company controlled by the American imperialists is planning to build a factory for electric motors. The American “Norberg” firm intends to invest three million dollars in the construction of a steam power station in Pasajes (Guipuzcoa). Many other similar examples could be quoted.

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In contrast to the criminal policy of the Right-Socialist and Anarchist leaders who are currying favour with Franco and the American imperialists, the Communist Party of Spain calls upon all Spanish patriots to fight against the war plans. The Spanish people have learned to distinguish between friends and enemies. Despite brutal terror and enormous difficulties, a powerful movement for peace is developing in Spain. This is evident from numerous facts of leaflets newspapers, posters appearing in the streets calling the people to struggle against the war preparations carried out by the Francoites. The activities of the resistance Committees are growing in intensity they are organising an active struggle against the Franco regime and their American master in the factories, in the towns, suburbs and villages.

In different parts of Barcelona, posters appear on the walls; in the factories, offices, at social evenings and in the streets, leaflets are circulated, carrying the slogans: “The youth of Catalonia will never go to war against the U.S.S.R.!” , “Franco means war. The Republic means peace!” , “Death to Franco!” , “Long live the Republic!” , “Unite in the struggle against Francoism!” and so on.

In Galicia, Communist Party organisation and parties— detachments carry out large-scale propaganda work in defence of peace and in organising the masses for the struggle against the war preparations and against American penetration in Spain. A recent issue of “Mundo Obrero” wrote:

“To the preparations for war by Francoism and American imperialism against the Soviet Union and the People’s Democracies, the Galician youth say ‘No!’ We will not take part in such a war and will use arms only to end Francoism and to restore the Republic...”

In Levant a call by the Communist Party district committee and by the Levant and Aragon Partisan Association, urging the organisation of an intensified struggle against the war preparations of the Francoites, was widely circulated among the population.

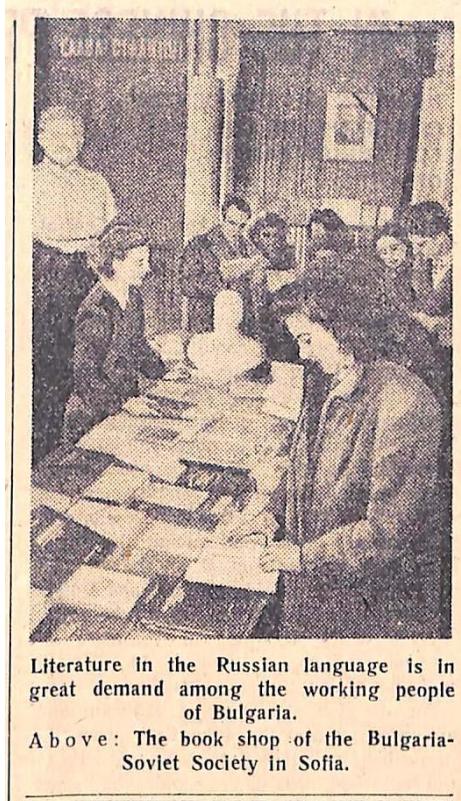
Thousands of Spaniards in emigration are also actively fighting for peace. Hundreds of peace committees are functioning in France, Britain, in North Africa, Mexico, Cuba, Uruguay and other countries. These are unity committees in which Communists, Socialists, members of the National Confederation of Labour, Republicans and non-party Spanish patriots are taking part.

These committees are daily intensifying their propaganda and organising activities, conducting hundreds of meetings and rallies, collecting signatures for the appeals to fight for peace, publishing manifestos and other material exposing the war preparations carried out by the imperialists and calling for intensified struggle in defence of peace.

The Spanish people have no desire to be cannon fodder in a war against the Soviet Union and the People’s Democracies. They are fighting and will fight ever more resolutely to frustrate the bandit plans of the imperialists, to bring about the destruction of the hated Franco regime, for the victory of the Republic and to bring Spain into the camp of peace and democracy.

THE BOOK SHOP OF THE BULGARIA-SOVIET SOCIETY IN SOFIA

Literature in the Russian language is in great demand among the working people of Bulgaria.



Above: The bookshop of the Bulgaria-Soviet Society in Sofia.

PUBLICATION OF V. I. LENIN'S WORKS IN HUNGARY

During the past five years, V. I. Lenin's Works have been issued in one million two hundred and fifty-four thousand copies in Hungary. All were quickly sold out and a second edition of eleven volumes published. "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism" was reprinted a third time. A two-volume edition of Selected Work of Lenin was issued in 100,000 copies. There is not a single library in Hungary without Lenin's Works.

A recently published selection of Lenin's works, containing articles relating to literature, are invaluable in solving the main questions of cultural life in Hungary.

Three highly important and topical works: "Lenin and Stalin on the Party and Party Building", About Labour, and the Youth, will be published shortly. Publication in the Hungarian language of the complete works of V. I. Lenin, in 40 volumes, will be commenced this year by "Szicra", the publishing House of the Hungarian Workers' Party.

STRIKE MOVEMENT IN THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES

U.S.

On April 20, after fruitless negotiations with the employers, the worker of a big steel smelting mill in Homestead (Pennsylvania) struck work.

The strikers who are protesting against the short-time introduced in July 1949, have called upon other workers to join them.

The New York “Daily Worker” writes that the moment the local leaders of the Steel Workers’ Union heard of this strike they immediately declared it illegal since it had been commenced without their “permission”.

TRIESTE

A two-hour general strike in protest against the lawlessness and violence of the Yugoslav occupation authorities during the “elections” in zone “B”, in the Free Territory of Trieste, took place in Trieste on April 22. The strike had the support of the two trade union organisations in Trieste—the Chamber of Labour and United Trade Unions.

Solidarity demonstrations with the Italian working people of the Free Territory of Trieste, suffering from the Titoite terror, took place in Milan, Catania, Ancona, Modena and other Italian towns. In each case the demonstrators were dispersed by police.

STRUGGLE OF ARGENTINE PEOPLE FOR PEACE

Peace can only be preserved if the peoples fight for it and force the imperialist provocateurs of war to retreat “The struggle for peace is the duty of all peoples!” was one of the slogans of the Stockholm session of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress.

The session addressed the masses of the people of all countries, pointing out that they must fight for peace by constantly extending the movement of the partisans of peace, by raising the struggle for peace to higher levels by uniting all people of good will through the collection of signatures for the prohibition of the atomic weapon. This struggle must be waged on the basis of concrete actions against war preparations by imperialist aggressors.

Progressive people in the Latin American countries, headed by the working class, with the mass of the peasants taking an ever greater part in the movement, are gradually realising that the struggle for peace merges with the struggle of patriots for national sovereignty and independence.

American imperialism is intensifying its economic, political and ideological penetration in Latin America and is exerting increasing pressure on our people to the extent that its influence is weakening in other parts of the world. Latin America, according to the “theory” of American imperialists, is to supply the American monopolies with raw materials and manpower and to provide them with military bases. Latin America is to become the object of unrestricted exploitation by American imperialism; an appendage of the “Marshall Plan”. Tens of millions of dollars are allocated to buy our enterprises while American goods are increasingly flooding our markets,

preventing any economic development in our respective countries.

While British capital investment throughout Latin America has shrunk by over half and by nearly a quarter in Argentine, American investments are steadily increasing. Argentine formerly a British sphere of influence—American investments take first place among other foreign capital investments, particularly in the refrigerator, chemical, electro-technical, metallurgical and oil industries and in transport. American capital derives immense profit from this investment. And precisely because of this it is demanding utmost “freedom” for its operations and is opposing any legislation for the defence of the national economy of Argentine.

The General Peron Government always yields to Yankee demands, and facts refute Peron’s claims about alleged “economic independence”, in contrast to these claims the government is coming more and more under the influence of American imperialism and always submits to the dictate of its reactionary and aggressive policy. Thus, Peron’s demagogy about some kind of a “third path” stand exposed even in the eyes of those who were deceived by it.

The country has been involved in profound crisis. Industrial development is paralysed and ever more tangible signs of growing unemployment are making themselves felt. The government, which was ready to sacrifice agriculture and stock-raising for the sake of industrial development has scrapped its industrial plans and is now preaching “back to the land”; that is, support and backing for the latifundia system. Peron recently told peasants that they should no longer think about the promised distribution of land, nor should they reckon on credits and mechanisation. And this at a time when the area sown to various crops has been reduced by 50 per cent!

Expenditure on the State, bureaucracy and military apparatus is growing. Basic necessities are becoming scarcer.

Under such conditions, workers' strikes and protests on the part of the broad masses naturally become more frequent.

In the process of the struggle for concrete and immediate demands, a growing consciousness of the need for unity of the working class and the masses of the people is making itself felt.

The Government which, with the help of the devoted trade union bosses, controls the trade unions on corporate-fascist lines, has outlawed strikes and mercilessly suppresses them. The police murder working-class leaders—as for example, Aguirre in Tucuman—and deport them, as for example, Seijo. Repression has hit even moderate Peronists.

A rampant police State intensifies draconic measures in direct proportion to its growing weakness in the economic sphere. The alteration in the Constitution and the reactionary legislation reflect the government's desire to legalise brutal repressions; to deprive the people of the remnants of freedom of assembly, speech, press and cultural activities. Radically-minded deputies are expelled from Parliament; opposition party premises are closed; workers' and democratic personalities are arrested on a mass scale. The special police departments practise, with sadistic brutality, fiendish methods of torture. In the sphere of culture the country is experiencing open and complete decline. Secular education has been eliminated and replaced by religious education. The spirit of medieval, colonial and retrograde "Spanishism" penetrates the whole of the educational system from elementary school to university. More than 1,200 teachers have been expelled from the universities where the reactionary spirit also prevails and which hampers the student movement and the utilisation of even the rudiment of democratic rights. Periodicals and publishing houses are under government control. The entire democratic press is persecuted in exactly the same way as the advocacy of progressive thought, while decadence in the sphere of culture acquires threatening dimensions.

All this corresponds to the interests of American imperialism. As for foreign policy, Peron has categorically declared that in the event of a new war Argentine “will be on the side of the United States of America”. That is why he is continually intensifying measures against the partisans of peace who despite repression, have succeed in extending the movement throughout the country; in setting up and multiplying working class and popular committees; in creating organisations for the struggle for peace; organisations which unite workers, women, the youth, trade unionists and intellectuals. All these organisations are grouped round the Argentine Permanent Peace Committee. It is necessary to stress also the increased activity of the working class which has extended its influence throughout the country.

The militancy of the partisans of peace is growing. Despite police repression, protest demonstrations were held when Major de Seversky and Miller, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. State Department arrived in the country.

The struggle for peace is linked with that for the immediate demands of the working class and the popular masses, with that of the students and intellectuals, with the struggle in defence of national sovereignty and economic independence.

The partisans of peace and, above all, the Communists are aware that the difficulties will be overcome only in struggle. They are intensifying their activities, fully confident that the forces of peace, headed by the Soviet Union, will triumph.

IDEOLOGICAL AND EDUCATIONAL WORK IN THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. Luigi Amadesi, Member, Central Committee, Italian Communist Party

At the December 1949 session of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party, Comrade Togliatti emphasized: “To-day, it is clear that it would be impossible to outlaw the Communist Party, that our forces have not diminished but grown, that our ideas and Gramsci’s analysis of Italian society is penetrating all social strata. Anti-Communism is becoming the brand of the weak-minded.”

The Italian Communist Party has achieved all this as a result of its great work in the spheres of ideology and culture, in the struggle against the conservative, and reactionary bloc created on the basis of rabid anti-Communism under the aegis of the Vatican and American imperialism.

At the same time, in the conditions of the struggle of the working masses, which exposed the profound and incurable contradictions of Italian society, the Communist Party has succeeded in finding the correct solutions to vital national problems and in giving decisive, battle to its enemies in the ideological sphere.

There is no longer any doubt at all that the Italian bourgeoisie has forfeited its one-time leading role in the cultural and ideological life of the country. Representatives of bourgeois culture and ideology are helpless before the new great problems of social life, science and art.

The proletariat is on the way to winning both ideological and cultural hegemony. Numerous groups, of intellectuals are gradually breaking with idealism and are becoming ever more

convinced of the efficacy of Marxism as the most progressive world outlook, as a really scientific method of investigation, of education and labour, and are taking their place in the ranks of the Communist Party under the banner of Marxism-Leninism.

Marxism-Leninism is winning increasingly firm positions in Italy and is becoming a weapon in the struggle of the wide masses of workers, peasants and intellectuals for peace, work and freedom.

The forces of clerical obscurantism, acting in close alliance with the agents of American imperialism, in the sphere of economy, politics and culture, are striving to create in the country an atmosphere of blind obedience and passivity which would enable them to suppress the progressive forces of labour and culture and to prepare the masses for a new war. They rise against any sign of progressive, scientific and critical thought; against all that is progressive and valuable in the Italian national culture, counterpoising to them dogmatic intolerance, excommunication from the Church and the undisguised apologetics of fascism and American imperialism. Simultaneously, the Right Social Democrats, the Republicans and the Liberals in Italy are trying to cloak their complete capitulation before clerical obscurantism, their anti-patriotic activities in the interests of American imperialism in the propaganda of cosmopolitanism.

The Italian Communist Party is countering this activity on the part of reaction by increasing the publication of democratic and Marxist literature, by establishing a network of popular Communist libraries, by holding Communist press months, a popular book month, by the systematic organisation of conferences throughout the country on ideological, economic, scientific and technical problems, by organising debates on science, the establishment of scientific, cultural and educational circles, the organisation of meetings between the working people and scientists, between producers and actors,

the development of mass amateur theatricals, the organisation of art exhibitions, popular theatres and by helping the work of the Italy-U.S.S.R. Society.

Wide masses of the working people are taking part in these measures of the Communist Party, which enjoy ever growing support and fruitful co-operation from the intelligentsia.

On the main problems of national life, including questions of peace, the economic rehabilitation of the country, land reform and other fundamental problems, the ideological work of the Communists is receiving wide popular support for it helps the struggle of the masses against war, the struggle for the right to live and work, for freedom and for national independence.

The journals “Rinascita”, “Vie Nuove”, “Calendario del Popolo” and “Societa”—journals which express the viewpoint of the Communists on political, economic, ideological and cultural problems are steadily increasing their circulation. “Unita” central organ of the Communist Party has doubled its circulation in the past year.

The ideological struggle within the Communist Party was directed primarily against opportunism, against the tendency of passively waiting for the conditions of the Italian people to change as the result of a change in the international situation. The Communist Party explained to its members the perspective of the political struggle, raised their militancy, called upon them to be vigilant and orientated them for the intensification of the struggle for the vital interests of the working people.

The Party devoted and still devotes particular attention to greater educational work among its cadres. During 1919, three central Party schools completed nine series of three month and six month courses attended by 359 students, of whom 250 were secretaries or members of provincial Party committees and the remainder—leading workers in co-operatives, labour chambers, provincial and national trade unions, organisations

of the Communist Youth federation, large local and factory Party organisations.

The central schools of the Italian Communist Party have set themselves the task of raising the ideological level, the political initiative and activity of the leadership of the local Party and mass organisations which are primary and decisive links for the correct carrying out of the Party's policy in local conditions.

The regional Party schools last year organised 25 three-month full-time courses, including five refresher courses for trade union cadres, five for women and five for youth cadres. These courses were attended by 566 students drawn from the Party apparatus in the provinces, district leaders, the leadership of sections and from the large factory organisations of the Party.

The provincial Party schools organised 37 full-time courses which lasted from three weeks to three months and which were attended by 754 students, including the leadership of sections, branches, trade unions, co-operatives, the local mass women's and youth organisations. Altogether 1,679 students attended Party schools in 1949. The number of regional and particularly provincial schools will be increased this year.

A conference of directors and teaching personnel of the schools recently held by the Central Committee, discussed the tasks of the full-time schools. It was decided to revise the curricula of the schools with a view to making them fit in better with the new conditions, more appropriate to the type of school, to the level of the students and in line with the political tasks the schools are designed to solve. It was also decided to devote greater attention to a study of the successes of the Soviet Union in the carrying out of the post-war Five-Year Plan, to the foreign policy of the U.S.S.R. laying the foundations of Socialism in the People's Democracies, to questions relating to vigilance and to combating enemy

infiltration into our ranks—particularly Tito’s fascist gangs. Teaching must be imbued with greater political alertness in relation to anti-Communist slander, the Christian Democrats, the Vatican, the Right Social Democrats and the American imperialists in order to teach our comrades how daily to recognise and expose the enemy, how to display initiative which will facilitate joint activities of working people who are under bourgeois influence.

It was further decided to devote more time to individual study, to the fulfilment of assignments and to the practical work of students in the Party and mass organisations in the town where the school is situated. All schools devoted special days for the students to prepare reports on political, economic and ideological subjects including for example: “The life and work of Comrades Lenin, Stalin and Gramsci”, “The foundation of the Italian Communist Party”, “The plan of the Italian Confederation of Labour”, “The struggle of the Communist Party for peace”, and so on. This work must end in the contribution of articles to Party newspapers and journals, text books for schools and booklets. The more capable students at the Central Schools become assistant teachers, in charge of classes, deliver lectures, lead conferences and discussions.

Two new tasks have been set before the full-time Party schools. First, all schools must keep in touch with their former students, continue systematic educational work with them by the publication of “School Notes”, including the texts of lectures, bibliographies and notes. Secondly, the schools must become the organisational and guiding centres of educational work in the area in which they are situated. Central Schools will organise instruction tours for their teaching personnel to regional and provincial schools extending sometimes over a period of several months:

The practical work of the students—which previously was confined mainly to the study of the experience and the work of

certain Party organisations—has also been modified. At the present time students are given definite assignments and are allocated for work by various departments of the Central Committee. For example, students of central schools made a valuable contribution to the carrying out of the Communist press month and in registering and drawing in new members in a number of provinces, and also to the work of organising the movement in defence of peace. This is, simultaneously, the best way of showing students the positive and negative aspects of various Party organisations.

Mention should also be made of the steady development of the Party evening schools which, during eight months of 1949 alone, were attended by nearly 20,000 people. The specific feature of these schools is the variety of the study programmes which conform to the type of activists attending the schools.

The Federation of Modena, for instance, organised 44 different courses in 1949 attended by 1,098 men and women members of the Party. The students included—apart from factory workers—farm labourers, sharecroppers, small property owners, handicraftsmen, office workers, intelligentsia, housewives etc. Lectures at these courses were delivered by heads of Party provincial and public organisations, many of the lecturers having previously been students at the central, regional or provincial Party schools.

There is also a Party correspondence school. There are eleven syllabuses, each of which has been printed in 20,000 copies, for this school. Another edition is being published in view of the big demand.

The Party publishing house has recently increased considerably the circulation of the works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism.

Despite this there are still serious shortcomings in the organisation of individual study. Party newspapers, rarely contain articles on ideological questions, consultations have

been organised in only a few places. Communists engaged in individual studies seldom meet for joint discussions.

The mass of Party members and activists show a growing desire to study Marxism-Leninism. This creates favourable conditions for the extension of the school network, the study groups and consultation centres with a view to a qualitative improvement in the entire work of the Italian Communist Party of the sphere of ideological education of the masses.

LEOPOLD III—HENCHMAN OF ANGLO-AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS. Edgar Lalmand, General Secretary, Belgian Communist Party

The royal question in Belgium is directly linked with the policy of war preparations. Therefore, the struggle in Belgium against the return of Leopold III is connected with the struggle waged by the anti-imperialist peace camp on an international scale against the camp of imperialism and war.

The peace front in Belgium has grown and gained strength in recent months. The various actions organised by the Belgium Union for Defence of Peace and by the Belgian Women's Union for Defence of Peace have been very successful. The dockers' struggle against the unloading of American war materials marked the beginning in our country of active resistance to the warmongers.

The war preparations in Belgium, as in other Marshallised countries, are accompanied by a decline in the living standard of the working population.

Preparations for an aggressive war inevitably bring in their wake fascisation of Government policy in order to secure the rear of the imperialists. Hence, it is clear that the warmongers see in Leopold III a "strong man" capable of accelerating the fascisation of the country's State life.

It is not difficult to understand that if, having broken the resistance of the working class, the democrats and the partisans of peace, international reaction should succeed in securing the return of the former king to Belgium, the position of the war camp would gain considerably in our country. And not in Belgium alone! It is perfectly obvious that the success of the Belgian "experiment" would stimulate the imperialists to repeat this "experiment" in other countries too.

The Belgian Government hardly wailed for the results of the plebiscite before resorting to the fascisation of its policy. Communists were removed from certain parliamentary commissions and a number of special measures were taken against them.

All the brutality of class justice, without even the pretence of conforming to legal formalities, was visited upon members of the Communist Party. The homes of Communist Party members are being raided more and more frequently. The police and gendarmerie, sparing no effort in attempting to demoralise the Communists, resort to every conceivable intimidation.

On their part, the Right-Wing trade union leaders have also organised an “anti-Communist witch hunt”, steadily ousting Communists from leading positions in the trade unions.

During the preparation for the referendum, reaction did not hesitate to employ terrorist methods. Detachments of thugs in steel helmets and soldiers’ jackboots again appeared on the streets in an attempt to terrorise the opponents of Leopold III. The thugs attacked the “People’s Houses” and the premises of the Communist Party. Several speakers, opposing the return of Leopold III, were beaten up, some being seriously injured. The Rexist fascist gangs who terrorised Belgium on the eve of World War II are being revived.

Working people—Communists and Socialists—have united to administer a resolute rebuff to the provocations of the neo-fascists.

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The referendum was held on March 12. Actually this was a real plebiscite since the electorate was required to answer “yes” or “no” to the question: “Are you of the opinion that King Leopold III should resume his constitutional powers?”

Who is Leopold III? Even prior to the war he was the initiator of the so-called neutrality policy which, in effect, facilitated the realisation of Hitler's predatory designs. In 1940 the King, as Commander-In-Chief of the army, capitulated and gave himself up to the Germans. By his conduct during the occupation of the country by the Hitlerites he directly encouraged collaboration with the enemy. It was clear that he had banked on a German victory. In 1944 the Germans provided a sanctuary for him in the Austrian Tyrol where he was "liberated" by U.S. troops.

Despite the resistance of the Social-Christian Party, a majority passed a bill in parliament on July 19, 1945, concerning the King's impossibility to reign due "to the enemy" and stipulated that "the King can only return and resume his constitutional prerogatives after a joint decision of both Houses."

Subsequently, the Communists, Socialists and the majority of the Liberals demanded the abdication of the King, while the Social Christian Party made the return of Leopold III a fundamental point in their programme.

The result of the plebiscite showed that in Flanders 72 per cent of the voters favoured the King's return, 48.1 per cent in Brussels, 42.2 per cent in the Walloon area and 57.68 per cent in the country as a whole.

In reply to a request to express his opinion on the outcome of the plebiscite, Leopold III stated that he relied entirely on the decision of parliament. The King's supporters sought to secure his immediate return, while the opponents his return continued to resist with greater or lesser energy and sincerity.

Immediately after the plebiscite, the working people, following the slogans of the Communist Party, went into action. After certain hesitation, the Right Socialists decided that it would be dangerous to resist this movement and that it would be futile to make any further attempt to continue the struggle to

parliament.

Twenty-four hour warning strikes took place both in the Walloon area and in Flanders. Despite the attempt of the leaders of the Christian trade unions—appendages of the Social-Christian Party—to frustrate the movement, and the fact that Right Wing elements in the General Federation of Belgian Workers tried to hold it back, the movement was spreading on an ever greater scale. Soon the first success was achieved—the government resigned.

The Belgian Communist Party called upon the working people to strengthen unity of action on a broad basis and to combine the struggle against the return of Leopold III with the struggle for bread and peace. The movement attained particularly great scope on March 24 when a political strike embraced 300,000 factory and office workers in state and private enterprises.

The working people in Flanders and in the Walloon area are uniting in the struggle. Communists and Socialist working people are acting jointly despite the opposition of the Right Socialist leaders who seek to disrupt the unity of the movement. The working class has demonstrated its fighting quality. The working people see that Leopold III is acting more and more like a fascist dictator whom international reaction has assigned the job of breaking the resistance of the Belgian people to the policy of war and poverty. Catholic, Liberal and Right Socialist leaders are alarmed at the growing resistance of the masses of the people.

Despite their show of irreconcilability, the Catholics reveal more and more differences among themselves, not only on tactical questions, but also on the final aim of the struggle; some express themselves for irreconcilable struggle against the opponents of the King's return, others for agreement with them.

Many Liberals are for the return of Leopold III with his

subsequent abdication at a date to be determined later. As for the Right Socialists, they remind one of an ill-starred conjuror. They wanted to make political capital out of their make-believe opposition to the return of Leopold. They neither foresaw the unity of action nor scale of the protest movement. They never anticipated that, from the very first day, they would be caught up in his movement.

And so, in their own particular way, the Right Socialists are trying to “rectify the situation”. Attempting to disrupt the united actions of the working people, which are growing stronger, the Right Socialist leaders are resorting to new manoeuvres. Following the demagogic campaign waged by them in the country against the return of the King, the Socialist leaders tried to reach a compromise with the Leopoldists, agreeing to the transfer of the King’s functions to his heir, Prince Baudouin.

Such are the tactics of the splitters aimed at disrupting, corrupting and immobilising the masses and to get them to capitulate to reaction. However, recent events show that these tactics are not always successful. Catholics, Liberals and Socialists failed to reach agreement on the Royal question. Van Zeeland refused to form a government; Parliament has been dissolved, and new elections will take place in June.

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The Belgian Communist Party is fully conscious that in connection with the struggle against the return of Leopold III it is necessary to expose the manoeuvres of the splitters who are preparing capitulation in the interests of Washington it is necessary to expose the policy which pursues the aim of steadily sapping the splendid fighting qualities of the masses.

It is necessary to rally ever wider sections of the population, to intensify their activities, linking the struggle

against the return of Leopold III with the struggle for the immediate demands of the working masses who bear the entire burden of the policy of preparing war and also with the powerful struggle now waged on the world arena by the champions of peace.

It is necessary to strengthen unity of action, turning the movement for unity which arose on the basis of action against Leopold III into organised and long-term co-operation between the Socialist and Communist workers. It is necessary relentlessly to expose the Right Socialists who strive to divide and corrupt the working class.

It is necessary to ensure that working people, all democrats and partisans of peace unite in the struggle against Leopold III—this would-be dictator—and to bar the way to those who bring war and poverty.

COURAGEOUS STRUGGLE OF ANTWERP DOCKERS

A strike of 12,009 dockers, demanding higher wages and an end to dismissals, began in Antwerp on April 24. The strikers also demanded the abdication of Leopold III—Wall Street’s henchman—and refused to unload American arms. All work at the port came to a standstill. The authorities resorted to special measures in an attempt to suppress the strike. Considerable forces of police and gendarmerie equipped with armoured cars were concentrated in Antwerp. Martial law was proclaimed in the city. The heroic struggle of the dockers, who, resolutely resisted the police provocations, continued for several days.

With the help of the Right Trade Union leaders who declared the strike unlawful, and by resorting to violence, the authorities succeeded in defeating the dockers. Members of the Dockworkers’ Action Committee and the Communist Member of Parliament—Van den Branden—were imprisoned.

A wave of protest against the brutal police action against the strikers swept the country. “The Belgian Union for Defence of Peace”, the “People’s Youth”, “Belgian Women’s Union for Defence of Peace”, and workers in various enterprises in Brussels; dockers in Ostend, Ghent and other towns declared their solidarity with the Antwerp dockers.

IN THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

DECISION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA

In the second half of April the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China decided to develop criticism and self-criticism in the Party press on a wide scale.

The introductory part of the decision says that under present conditions with the Communist Party occupying leading positions in the State, the shortcomings and mistakes in the work of Party organisations and of its individual members might easily jeopardise the interests of the broad mass of the people. Conceit and complacency lead to disregard for or even suppression of criticism both inside and outside the Party. Thus, says the decision, if we do not take measures to develop large-scale and timely criticism and self-criticism, we can be easily infected with the harmful influence of bureaucratism and will not be able to fulfil the tasks of building a new China.

The decision stresses that criticism and self-criticism are the essential means of strengthening contact between the party and the broad mass of the people, the means of securing the democratisation of the Party and the State and accelerated social progress. The people must be able freely to criticise and make suggestions, confident that no one will be scorned or laughed at even if, in some cases, such criticism or suggestions may not be fully mature or may not be entirely correct.

To ensure the broad development of criticism and self-criticism, the Central Committee has suggested the following measures to the central and local Party press:

1. To put an end to the incorrect practice in the past of submitting' articles criticising the Party or Government organisations and individuals "for the approval" of these organisations and individuals before publication.

2. To pay more attention to worker and peasant correspondents. Not to allow individuals to misuse their power to suppress criticism by worker and peasant correspondents or to take reprisals against them.

3. To give more space to readers' letter.

4. To ensure that criticism and self-criticism should not remain unanswered by government and Party organisations.

The decision specially refers to the need to intensify ideological work among press workers in connection with the development of criticism and self-criticism and recommends study of the experience of the Soviet press.

PARTICIPATION OF TRADE UNIONS IN MANAGING INDUSTRY

An article by Liu Ning-yi, Vice-President of the All-China Federation of Labour, published in the May issue of the journal "People's China" (Peking) quotes figures concerning the steady strengthening of Chinese trade unions and the increased participation of workers in managing industry.

The National Conference of the All-China Federation of Labour held in August 1949, set the task of drawing broad masses of workers into the trade unions. Up to the present, trade unions in the leading industrial cities have enrolled more than 50 per cent of all workers as members. In certain enterprises trade union membership is as high as 80 and 90 per cent of workers.

Trade union organisations are taking an active part in the reorganisation of the old system of management and in

developing and strengthening the new, democratic system of management. With this aim in view, workers' committees are being organised at factories in China, with the task of helping the management in running the enterprises. Such committees have already been set up at 987 main factories and coal mines throughout the country. The formation of the committees heightens the sense of responsibility for production among workers, leads directly to increased labour enthusiasm and initiative and strengthens labour discipline. As a result, productivity of labour is steadily growing in China's enterprises, quality of production is improving and the cost of production is going down. The rapid growth of labour productivity is facilitated by the widespread development of shock-work. For example, during the last five months, nearly 20,000 new individual and collective production records were made in enterprises in North China. During the last quarter of 1949 labour productivity was 13 per cent over the third quarter and the average labour productivity last December was approximately 33 per cent over that of June in the same year.

In this way the working masses of liberated China respond to the solicitude displayed for them by the Communist Party and the People's Government.

LIBERATED PEOPLE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ELEMENTS

In the old Kuomintang China, severe spring floods in the Yangtse. Yellow, Huai and other rivers often had disastrous consequences. The central and provincial Kuomintang rulers and officials paid little care to the dykes and dams along these rivers and usually appropriated the fund allocated for maintenance. Neglected and unrepaired for years, dykes and dams on these rivers often failed to withstand the pressure, and

the rivers, having overflowed their banks, flooded the plains for hundreds of kilometres. During such devastating floods, hundreds of thousands of people were drowned, crops were destroyed and hunger followed.

The People's Government of China regards large-scale anti-flood measures as one of its main tasks. The Sinhua Agency reports that the huge plan to prevent flooding, which was adopted by the People's Government of China for 1950, has been fulfilled by more than 60 per cent. The scale of this work is evident from the fact that more than three million people are taking part in it and that over 210 million cubic metre. of soil were excavated during the last two months. As a result the level of dykes on the Yangtse, Yellow and Huai Rivers will be raised by one and one and a half metres, compared to the high water level in these rivers in 1949.

SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE ALBANIAN PARTY OF LABOUR

The second Conference of the Albanian Party of Labour took place recently. This conference demonstrated the unity of the Party and confidence in its Central Committee headed by Comrade Enver Hodja, General Secretary. It manifested boundless affection in and loyalty to the Soviet Union, to the great Bolshevik Party and the brilliant teacher of all progressive mankind, Comrade Stalin.

Concerning the political, international and internal situation, the resolution adopted at the Conference pointed out that, since the time of the first Congress of the Party, imperialism and its lackeys surrounding Albania and organised by Anglo-American imperialists, had engaged in new, venturesome assaults against the People's Republic of Albania. In carrying out their plans they used the Titoites, the Greek monarcho-fascists and the Italian neo-fascists. The fascist Tito clique has openly demonstrated that it is a dangerous imperialist agency in the Balkans. Belgrade has become a centre for American espionage where new criminal plans directed against the camp of Socialism and peace are being prepared. Defending peace against the instigators of a new war is, at the present moment, the cause of all peoples.

The resolution outlined the tasks of the Albanian Party of Labour in connection with the international and internal situation: to intensify the struggle of the Albanian people in defence of peace, steadfastly to strengthen solidarity with the struggle of partisans of peace throughout the world, tirelessly and resolutely to expose the aggressive and predatory plans of the Anglo-American imperialists, to expose the Titoites as the most dangerous agency of American, imperialism directed

against the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies, and against Albania in particular, to deepen still more the affection for and boundless loyalty to the Soviet Union, to the Bolshevik Party and the great Stalin, to build eternal friendship between the Albanian people and the U.S.S.R.

The resolution on economic questions stated that the revolutionary enthusiasm, tireless work of the Albanian Party of Labour and the Albanian people and, above all, the vast, generous aid received from the U.S.S.R., and from the People's Democracies made it possible to achieve successes in the struggle for fulfilment of the plan, in improving the wellbeing of the people and in overcoming serious difficulties.

Due to the rallying of the people, headed by the Communists, satisfactory results were achieved in industry including mining and especially in the mining of chrome and bitumen in Selenitsa. Good results were registered also in light industry. There have been pronounced successes in agriculture due to the Great efforts of the Party and working peasantry.

FULFILMENT OF THE STATE PLAN IN RUMANIA FOR THE FIRST QUARTER, 1950

Returns for the first quarter of 1950 show that the plan for industrial output in Rumania was fulfilled by 104.6 per cent. All branches of industry surpassed considerably the level reached during the first quarter of 1949. Coal output for the first quarter of 1950 reached 110.7 per cent compared to the first quarter of 1949; cast iron, 120.9 per cent; production of motors, 209.3 per cent; lathes, 442.8 per cent; tractors, 259 per cent; threshing-machines, 813.6 per cent etc. Productivity or labour for industry as a whole rose by 13.5 per cent.

During the first quarter one blast-furnace, two open hearth furnaces and a furnace for treatment of rolled steel went into operation. Work on the construction of the Danube-Black Sea Canal is being accelerated.

The number of workers employed in industry increased by 200,000 compared with 1949.

During the first quarter 8,000 peasant families united in 120 new collective farms. 130,000 working peasants formed 2,653 associations for joint cultivation of the land. Spring sowing is continuing. 5,350,000 hectares have been sown to date.

A big increase was also registered in trade. The plan for trade was fulfilled by 110.7 per cent, i.e. a 90 per cent increase compared with the same period last year. The trade network was extended. 1,233 new shops were opened, of which 816 are in rural areas.

Figures for sales in the towns during the first three months of 1950, compared with sales for the corresponding quarter of

1949 were: sugar, 45 per cent more; vegetable oils, 111 per cent; dairy produce, 325 per cent; cotton fabric, 49 per cent and footwear, 87 per cent. Sale of consumer goods in the countryside showed a 70 per cent increase over the first quarter of 1949. More schools, clubs, cinemas and hospitals were built.

THE BRAND OF SHAME. Drawing by Kukryniksy



POLITICAL NOTES

YUGOSLAV AGENTS OF THE INSTIGATORS OF WAR

The fascist Tito-Rankovic clique, having betrayed its people, has become a tool of the Anglo-American instigators of war.

Carrying out the assignment of their Washington and London masters, aimed at sowing confusion in the ranks of the peace movement and at weakening it, Yugoslav fascists have put forward the “theories” that there is not the slightest danger of war, that “capitalism is in the phase of consolidation” and therefore cannot threaten the independence of the peoples. These hired assassins are doing their utmost to advertise the “peacefulness” of their masters, to screen the preparations for a new war and their own war preparations. The Yugoslav fascists seek to lull the vigilance of the fighters for peace, to immobilise the peoples in face of the war danger, to help the instigators of war in the organisation of their monstrous crimes against mankind.

Realising that they have been completely unmasked, these hired mongrels of American imperialism no longer conceal their hatred of the peace movement. The farce of “legalising” fascism in Yugoslavia was brazenly played at the first session of the recently elected Skupshtina. The “new” Government, which is the same as the old, outlined its programme in which it does not even attempt to conceal its enmity to Socialism, to the camp of peace and democracy. Point four of this programme states that the Yugoslav Government will not only regard with disapproval but will combat by means of propaganda and will submit measures to international bodies

against the present movement of the peoples for peace, which it regards as “detrimental to the establishment of lasting peace throughout the world”.

Opposing the movement of the peoples for peace with frustrates the plans of the warmongers, the criminal Tito-Rankovic clique, plied with U.S. money, is launching frenzied activity against the partisans of peace and their organisations. The corrupt propaganda apparatus of the Tito clique, with the help of the radio, numerous publications in foreign languages—willingly circulated by the “Marshalled Governments” of France, Italy, Belgium, Holland and other countries—is filled with slander against the leading forces in the struggle for peace—the Soviet Union, the People’s Democracies, against the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress and against the collection of signatures to the appeal of the Permanent Committee.

The so-called National Peace Committee in Yugoslavia, headed by renegades who have been expelled from the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress has, in fact, become the organ of the instigators of war. The Committee denies the need for a peace movement, propagates the peaceful intentions of the American imperialists and strives to isolate the people of Yugoslavia from the great struggle of the peoples of the world. The journal “In Defence of Peace”, which this Committee publishes in English and French, justifies the splitting activities which the representatives of the fascist Tito clique waged in the Permanent Committee and contains vile slander against the partisans of peace and against their courageous struggle.

In their impotent fury the chiefs of the fascist clique—Tito, Kardelj, Rankovic, Djilas and Pijade “prove” that “the peace movement is in a blind alley”, that the “countries of people’s democracy are facing economic chaos”, and so on. The lackeys have obviously overlooked the fact that their masters have long

ago been forced to acknowledge the strength and gigantic successes of the land of Socialism and of the People's Democracies, and follow with great anxiety the growing peace movement which extends right round the world.

The smell of the Middle Ages emanates from the anti-Soviet, anti-democratic carnivals at which the Yugoslav fascists monstrously misrepresent the leaders of the democratic movement and the Communist Parties of various countries, and to vilify them enrol bands of thugs from among war criminals as was the case in Sarajevo and other towns on the eve of the recent elections to the Skupstina.

By unbridled propaganda against the peace movement, against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, the Titoites screen their war preparations which are carried out in Yugoslavia on a large scale under the guidance of American experts. American pilots are scouting Yugoslav air-routes under the guise of establishing Yugoslav-American civil air lines. As was reported by the newspaper of the Yugoslav political emigrants. "For Socialist Yugoslavia", in February, considerable quantities of armaments were shipped from Salzburg (American zone in Austria) to Yugoslavia; each of the many trains consisted of 60 waggons loaded with artillery, gun carriers, army lorries and captured German equipment which belonged to the American authorities.

In addition to outside aid, all internal resources are being mobilised for war preparations. People in different parts of the country are forced to work on the construction of airfields for jet aircraft. Large airfields have been set up in the Belgrade area, near the village of Batainitsa. Under threat of reprisals, thousands of working people have in the last three years been building the strategic highway linking Trieste-Zagreb-Belgrade-Skopje. First victims of the war hysteria of the Belgrade adventurists are the approximately one million men mobilised for army and police service where an attempt is

made to transform them into dumb cannon fodder for war against the Socialist countries. A great share of the State budget of Yugoslavia is spent on the upkeep of the army. The Government disposes of a special fund consisting of 9.1 per cent of the entire budget for espionage, organisation of subversive and sabotage in the camp of peace and democracy.

The Belgrade fascists have actually included Yugoslavia in the North Atlantic pact, and have made it the appendage of the war machine of U.S. imperialists. But they have forgotten the fate of the Hitler satellites who, together with the fuhrer, also dreamed of world domination; they have forgotten their people. The people of Yugoslavia, like all the peoples of the world, will not be deceived by hostile propaganda designed to lull their vigilance. They will add their voice to that of the peoples of the world demanding that the instigators of a new war be curbed.

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