

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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THE PEOPLES OF THE COLONIAL AND DEPENDENT COUNTRIES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE WARMONGERS

The national liberation movement in the colonial and dependent countries is steadily growing in scale and is becoming more and more organised. Hundreds of millions of people, doomed by the imperialist slave-owners to poverty, hunger and extinction, deprived of elementary human rights and liberties, are rising in resolute struggle against their oppressors. The Great October Socialist Revolution, which ushered in the era of liberating revolutions in the colonial and dependent countries, and the victorious building of Socialism in the U.S.S.R., awakened the peoples of these countries and showed to them in practice the possibility and necessity of destroying the colonial yoke. The October Socialist Revolution showed that the era of undisturbed exploitation and oppression of the colonies and dependent countries by the imperialists had passed away.

Unleashing the Second World War, the imperialists reckoned not only on strangling the national liberation movement in the colonies but also on transforming other countries into colonies and thus prolonging and strengthening their domination. But these calculations of the imperialists miscarried. The smashing of German fascism and Japanese militarism by the Soviet Army, the weakening, as a result of the Second World War, of the imperialist camp as a whole and the growth and consolidation of the camp of democracy and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union, led to an unprecedented development of the national liberation movement in the colonial and dependent countries. The complete destruction of the entire colonial system of imperialism is now on the order of the day.

One of the most devastating blows against the imperialist system since the October Revolution was that delivered by the triumph of the popular revolution in China, hitherto one of the main rear bases of imperialism and an inexhaustible source of fabulous profits for the Wall Street and City monopolists. Neither the complete enslavement of Western Europe nor a tenfold increase in the exploitation of the peoples still under the colonial yoke, can make up for the loss of domination in China by the imperialist camp. The Chinese Communist Party, which organised the victory of the popular revolution in China, opened the way to Socialism for 475 million people. The victory of the Chinese people over home and foreign exploiters freed from decades of wars and gave immeasurable strength to the common front of peace and democracy throughout the world.

In Viet Nam, the National Liberation Army has wrested from the imperialist invaders 90 per cent of the country; in Burma more than half of population live in areas liberated from the imperialists: in Malaya, South Korea and in a number of districts in India, in Indonesia the armed forces of the peoples are waging heroic struggle for freedom and national independence. The liberation, anti-imperialist movement in Africa, Oceania and Asia minor is growing in intensity.

In the present conditions, as shown by the experience of China, armed resistance to the imperialist plunderers is the most effective form of the national-liberation movement in colonial countries. It seriously weakens imperialism, and, in doing so, strengthens the front of peace.

The national liberation struggle of the peoples of the colonial and dependent countries is headed by the most advanced, most revolutionary of all classes—the working class and its vanguard, the Communist Party. Around the working class there are united all classes, and above all, broad masses of peasants, all parties and groups, organisations and individuals

who oppose the imperialist oppressors and their henchmen.

Without suppressing the national liberation movement in the colonies, the imperialists cannot consider themselves fully prepared for unleashing an aggressive war against the camp of peace and democracy. Hence, the Churchills and Trumans, in preparing the war, begin by suppressing the democratic movement in their own countries and the national liberation movement in the colonies. The imperialist aggressors are, in fact, already waging war on a vast territory extending from South Korea to Indonesia.

Utilising their bankrupt puppet, Chiang Kai-shek, they are waging an undeclared war against the Chinese people. The whole world knows that Formosa been virtually transformed into a U.S. war base, and that Shanghai is being raided by American "flying fortresses". In South Korea, the Syngman Rhee gangs, mercenaries, of Wall Street, are attempting by means of fire and sword to suppress the ever-growing partisan movement. In Viet Nam, the French colonisers have been waging war for more than three years against the people who are defending their liberty and independence. In view of the obvious defeat of the French colonisers, the American imperialists are hastening to their aid. Their decision to supply arms to Bao Dai means in fact that the U.S. imperialists have actually declared war on the people of Viet Nam.

American tanks, aircraft, instructors and officers of the U.S. army are being sent to Indo-China.

For nearly two years the British imperialists have been waging war in Malaya, Burma and in other colonies. One of the initiators of these wars, Mr. Churchill, candidly declared in the House of Commons on May 9 that, during the past five years, the Labourite had "shed more blood" in suppressing the peoples of the British Empire than was shed by Britain and her armies during the war against Hitler fascism. The conferences of imperialist diplomats in Colombo, Bangkok, Sydney, the

meeting in Tokyo, the tour made by Jessup, the emissary of Wall Street in the countries of South East Asia, the recent meeting of the warmongers, Bevin, Schuman and Ache on in London, pursued the aim of stepping-up the colonial wars and of preparing new wars.

All these facts testify that “imperialism cannot live without violence and plunder, without bloodshed and shootings” (Stalin).

In these conditions the struggle of the colonial and dependent peoples against their imperialist oppressors is part and parcel of the common struggle of working people throughout the world against instigators of a new war, for peace and democracy. The successes of the national liberation movement strengthen the world front of peace. The victories of the national liberation struggle in the East are victories for the front of peace and democracy. All sincere partisans of peace regard it as their duty to support the national liberation struggle of the peoples in the colonial and dependent countries. In this connection, splendid examples have been given by dockers, railwaymen and seamen in France who refuse to transport arms for the colonial war in Viet Nam.

The working people of Britain, America and other countries, by actively opposing the colonial war waged by the monopolists of Wall Street and the City in Malaya, Burma, South Korea, the Philippines and other colonies, will, in this way, render their struggle for peace more effective and concrete, and in doing so fulfil their duty of international proletarian solidarity.

Along with the unfolding and intensification of the national liberation struggle, which is the most effective contribution of the people in the colonial and dependent countries to the common struggle of the world peace camp, the peoples of these countries are playing an ever more active part in the campaign for signatures to the appeal of the Permanent Committee of the

World Peace Congress. These peoples are particularly interested in the demand for the prohibition of the atomic weapon, and in denouncing as a war criminal that government which first uses this weapon, for the peoples of the colonial and dependent countries daily and hourly experience in their own lives all that imperialist war brings with it.

Despite police terror and persecution against the partisans of peace, the collection of signatures of the appeal of the Permanent Committee is underway, in India, Indonesia, South Korea and Indo-China, in Burma and Malaya. The campaign has developed in a particularly big way in those countries liberated from the imperialist yoke. Thousands of peace committees are being formed in China and North Korea.

The unanimous condemnation of the Anglo-American instigators of a new war by all peoples of the world will lead to a further weakening of the imperialist camp, will create even more favourable conditions for the victory of the peoples in the colonial and dependent countries, fighting for peace, freedom and national independence.

The criminal designs of the imperialist warmongers now waging colonial wars, sowing death and destruction among the peoples, must and shall be foiled.

PLENUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE RUMANIAN WORKERS' PARTY

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party, held on May 15-17, discussed the following questions:

1. The Draft Labour Code Report by G. Apostol, member of the Politburo, Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party.

2. Administrative divisions of the territory of the Rumanian People's Republic: Report by M. Constantinescu, member of the Politburo, Central Committee, Rumanian Workers' Party.

3. Report of the Central Control Commission on the results of the verification of the membership of the Party: Reporter, Parvulescu, member, Central Committee, Rumanian Workers' Party, Chairman, Central Control Commission.

4. Admittance to the Party of new members: Report by A. Pauker, Secretary, Central Committee, Rumanian Workers' Party.

5. Tasks of the Party organisations and State organs in the harvesting campaign and grain-collection: Report by A. Moghioros, Secretary, Central Committee, Rumanian Workers' Party.

The Plenum unanimously approved the reports submitted, and adopted the corresponding decisions.

FOR HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF SIGNATURES TO THE APPEAL FOR BANNING THE ATOMIC WEAPON!

COMMUNIQUE OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD PEACE CONGRESS

The Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress reports that a Plenary session of the Bureau of the Permanent Committee will be opened in London on May 31. The session will discuss the progress of the world-wide campaign for signatures to the appeal of the Stockholm session of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress which demands the prohibition of the atomic weapon and the condemnation, as a war criminal, of that government which first uses the atomic weapon.

The Bureau will also review the preparations for the second World Peace Congress, scheduled for autumn.

PEACE MOVEMENT GROWING IN SCALE IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

In the Rumanian People's Republic, the collection of signatures to the appeal of the Permanent Committee is drawing to an end. **Eight million and forty thousand**, signatures have been collected.

The campaign for signatures and for the formation of peace committees is extending in the Chinese People's Republic, and

has developed on a particularly wide scale in Peking, the capital of China.

In Japan, the peace ballot is successfully proceeding, with the trade unions and other democratic organisations taking an active part. The organisations have undertaken to distribute some two million ballot papers.

POLAND

The working people of people's democratic Poland have begun the mass collection of signatures to the appeal of the Permanent Peace Committee. The campaign for signatures was started in Warsaw and now includes the entire country. Great preparatory organisational work everywhere preceded the collection of signatures. At factories, in villages, schools, houses and offices numerous peace committees have been formed, which now total 40,000.

The local committees are engaged in house to house collection of signatures. Often, after a meeting at which the house peace committee is elected, groups of three propagandists are formed which immediately visit flats. These groups consist of the best people of the country: Stakhanovites, activists from public organisations, youth and old people, including at least one woman.

The fact that a total of 20,000 of these groups visited blocks of flats in Lodz, 9,000 in Cracow and that 50,000 people are taking part in the collection of signatures in Kieleckie province, reveals the extent of the campaign. First reports testify to the success of the campaign.

By May 16, more than **three million** people signed the appeal. In Lodz, 250,000 people signed; in the Kieleckie province, over 400,000; in the Pomorskie province, 350,000 in the Lublin province, 218,000. The number of the people

signing the appeal is growing daily.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The mass collection of signatures to the appeal of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress began in Czechoslovakia on Mothers' Day—May 14.

Tens of thousands of petition forms were, obtainable for signing in numerous booths—which were decorated with posters—in all towns in the country. Propagandists and canvassers, members of the Czechoslovak Women's and Pioneers Union, explained the significance of the collection of signatures to the people who had gathered at the booths early in the morning. Simultaneously the collection of signatures was also begun in the villages. The entire population in scores of localities signed the appeal on the first day.

Newspapers published numerous letters in which men and women shock workers, members of rural co-operatives, writers and scientists, explained why they signed the appeal. A letter published in "Rude Pravo" from a mother, who protested against the atomic weapon, left a deep impression. This mother, B. Smelikova, from the town of Napaedla, lost a son in the struggle for the liberation of the Spanish people, and another son, a daughter-in-law and husband during Hitler's occupation of Czechoslovakia.

By May 16, **2,702,208 people** had signed the appeal. Of these 1,026,375 were from Slovakia. At many factories all the workers signed the appeal. Simultaneously Socialist emulation is spreading in honour of the second World Peace Congress.

In Finland, the number of signatures to the Permanent Committee appeal continues to grow. On May 11 alone, more than 8,0000 people signed the appeal. The "Partisans of Peace in Finland" and the "Peace Union" have delivered a peace

address to the Chairman of the Seim, bearing the signatures of nearly 270,000 people.

Since May 1, a mass campaign for signatures has been under way in Belgium. The peoples of Denmark, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, the U.S., Canada, Britain and other countries are continuing to sign the appeal of the Stockholm session.

FRANCE

The broadest sections of the population throughout the country are signing the appeal of the Permanent Committee. At many factories, construction sites and mines all the workers signed the appeal. The congress of the National Federation of War Victims has unanimously approved the Stockholm appeal. A group of prominent Catholic personalities, including a bishop and several writers, has issued a call which reproduces the text of the Permanent Committee's appeal.

In the Vendee Department, which is strongly influenced by clerical reaction, Catholics and non-Catholics are uniting in the campaign to collect signatures. In eighteen communes of the Gard department 98 per cent of the people signed the appeal of the Permanent Committee. The appeal has been approved by the general councils in a number of departments, particularly, in Seine-et-Oise, Isere, Indre and Lower Loire. Petsche, Minister of Finance, has signed the appeal.

At many houses in Paris and the suburbs there are posters announcing that every inhabitant of the house or street has signed the appeal. Similar posters can be seen also at enterprises in various places throughout France.

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Despite the repression of the Government which is

subordinate to Washington, the French working people are continuing the struggle against the transportation of American war materials.

In Brive (the Correze Department) peace supporters dumped eight tons of explosives out of a freight car. In Saint-Brieue (the Coles-du-Nord Department) the population and railway workers stopped a train loaded with guns. For an hour and a half women lay on the railway line, barring the way to the train. The cars were uncoupled and covered with the slogans: "We do not need guns! Long live peace!"

In Nantes thousands of demonstrators, singing the "Marseillaise" stopped a long freight train with heavy artillery and military cars, and despite the resistance of the gendarmes who guarded the train, uncoupled the cars and threw out a gun weighing 8.5 tons. Another gun was put out of commission.

Upon discovering war materials in boxes they were loading, Dunkerque dockers immediately stopped work. The attempt of the authorities to get strike-breakers from the unemployed for loading work failed.

BULGARIA

The campaign for the collection of signatures to the appeal of the Permanent Committee for the prohibition of the atomic weapon is continuing in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The Bulgarian National Peace Committee reports that by May 14, a total of **5,731,191 signatures have been collected in the country.**

In the Sofia region (including the capital) 986,000 signatures were collected; in the Plovdiv region, 684,665; Plevan region, 453,625; Ruse region 449,924; Vratsa region, 395,581; Gorna-Orehkovitsa region, 389,000; Stalin region, 386,000; in Haskovo region, 375,000, and so on.

GERMANY

The campaign for the collection of signatures to the demand for the unconditional prohibition of the atomic weapon is nearing successful conclusion in the German Democratic Republic. More than **15 million signatures** have been collected.

In their work of collecting signatures the local peace committees have used various methods of propaganda.

An example of concrete propaganda was provided by the call of six families in Forst. They put up a poster on the wall of their house enumerating the losses they had suffered during the war. The poster ended with these words: "The inhabitants of this house support the National Front of Democratic Germany. All members of the families residing in this house have unconditionally affixed their signatures to the demand for the unconditional prohibition of the atomic weapon. What did you lose in the war? And what are you doing to avert a new one?"

Consolidating the success of the campaign for the collection of signatures, local peace committees are now drawing into their work persons who during the collection of signatures volunteered to co-operate with the committees. In this way many activists are grouping around the local committees.

In Greater Berlin and Western Germany the collection of signatures continues. The Anglo-American occupation authorities are ruthlessly persecuting all those collecting signatures and carrying on propaganda. In Western Berlin 57 persons were arrested recently for participation in the campaign for signatures. Despite these measures there are, among the honest Germans who sincerely desire peace, many enthusiastic volunteers collecting signatures. Thus Heinrich Stichnot (Wuppertal-Cronenberg) alone collected more than 800 signatures.

The lackeys of Anglo-American imperialists—the reactionary leaders of the Social Democratic Party are doing all they possibly can to disrupt the campaign for signatures. The leadership of the German Social Democratic Party has decided to expel all members who sign the appeal of the Permanent Committee. In spite of this many Social Democratic workers have signed.

ALBANIA

A campaign in defence of peace and for the prohibition of the atomic weapon, now under way in Albania, is indissolubly linked with the rallying of the masses of town and countryside for the fulfilment of the Two-Year State Plan, for the consolidation of the Republic and for laying the foundations of Socialism. Between March 23 and May 9, one thousand six hundred and ninety one committees in defence of peace were formed in factories, offices and in villages. From April 20 to May 10 a hundred and one thousand signatures were collected for the appeal of the Permanent Peace Committee, including more than 40,000 in Tirana, 15,300 in Corcha, 12,000 in Vlora and 3,260 among the oil-workers of Cuchova. All religious bodies of the country called upon the population to sign the appeal of the Permanent Committee.

HUNGARY PEOPLE ON GUARD FOR PEACE. Zoltan Komocsin, Head of Agitation Department, Central Committee, Hungarian Workers' Party

The unprecedented all-people's ballot, has ended in Hungary. The appeal of the Permanent Peace Committee has been signed by **7,231,329 people**, that is, by almost the entire literate population of the country. Nearly 27,000 local peace committees have been set up. These figures vividly confirm the words of Comrade Mathias Rakosi—the leader of the Hungarian people: “Our country is not a breach but a solid stronghold in the peace front.”

The collection of signatures and the establishment of local peace committees required great organisational and political-educational work on the part of the Party and the mass organisations. Along with the old established methods of work among the broad working masses, new ones were evolved. Meetings of Party propagandists and the activists of mass organisations were held at the enterprises, in the villages, offices, educational institutions and city quarters. Every propagandist had a definite assignment, a certain number of people with whom he had talks. Activists participating in the campaign for signatures made organised and systematic visits to the homes of the working people, where they described the struggle the Soviet Union is waging at the head of the international peace front against the instigators of war, and discussed the peace policy of the Hungarian Workers' Party and the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic and the struggle of the working people in capitalist countries for peace, freedom and decent conditions.

Tens of thousands of meetings and gatherings were held in the enterprises, residential areas and in individual houses.

The people who attended these meetings wholeheartedly expressed profound affection for the Soviet Union, for Comrade Stalin—the great leader of mankind fighting for peace—and with burning hatred denounced the imperialists who are preparing for war.

These meetings elected the most outstanding stakhanovites, brain-workers, office employees, women and young workers—leaders in Socialist competition—to the peace committees. In the countryside, members of producer cooperatives, the best tractor drivers of machine-tractor stations as well as individual peasants, who had distinguished themselves in labour and in fulfilling their obligations to the people's State, were elected. At the educational establishments, the most popular teachers and the best students were elected to peace committees.

The workers were the first to sign the appeal. Simultaneously they took pledges to increase output and to fulfil planned assignments ahead of schedule. Along with the workers, the technical personnel also took various pledges aimed at raising labour productivity and spreading Socialist emulation.

In the countryside, foremost in signing the appeal and in establishing local peace committees were members of the agricultural producer co-operatives, workers of the machine tractor depots and state-farms. They were joined by individual small and middle peasants.

Working people belonging to the Rumanian and Slavic nationalities residing in Hungary have also wholeheartedly joined the peace movement and signed the appeal of the Permanent Committee. They have opposed the kulaks in a body and have demonstrated that in the struggle for peace they are united with the Hungarian and the other peoples of the world.

The youth, headed by young workers, helped in the house to house collection of signatures. An enthusiastic atmosphere

prevailed in the schools during the campaign. Pioneers sang, recited and danced at the meetings held to elect peace committees. In a number of places pioneers spoke at the meetings and were given a warm welcome.

Mothers and widows who had lost their husbands in the war were especially conspicuous for their activity. Their opinion was expressed by Nemet Karolyne from the village of Zalaszentmihaly who said: "My husband perished in the war; I don't want the same fate to befall my children; that is why I am heart and soul in the struggle for peace."

Part of the lower clergy in the towns and countryside has also signed the 'appeal' of the Stockholm session. Clergymen representing various denominations have been elected to many peace committees. Some of the monks and nuns of Catholic orders have also signed the appeal of the Stockholm session.

The broad mass of the working people, including Catholics, have strongly condemned the higher dignitaries of the Catholic Church, the kulaks and reactionaries who refused to sign the appeal. The Pharisaical declaration of the Hungarian Episcopate reveals the true countenance of the hierarchy of the Catholic clergy as accomplices of American imperialism. After hypocritical words about adherence to peace the Episcopate openly opposed the concrete struggle for the prohibition of the atomic weapon and the denunciation as a war criminal of that government which first uses this weapon.

In the course of the campaign for the collection of signatures the entire Hungarian working people received a course of political enlightenment. Its outlook has broadened, its consciousness matured and its readiness to fight actively for peace has increased. All this has happened because the leaders, the organisers and propagandists in this campaign were Hungarian Communists, the Hungarian Workers' Party.

By its wide-scale, all-round, organisational and propaganda work in defence of peace, the Party has strengthened the unity

of the Hungarian people and proved that the forces of the international peace front may confidently reckon on millions of working people in the Hungarian People's Republic.

Great tasks face the peace committees with the conclusion of the campaign: to continue regular educational work among the population, to inform the working people who elected them on the most important events on the international peace front, to implant deeper in the Hungarian working people the idea of active defence of peace. The peace committees must take part in political, public and cultural undertakings to expose the enemies of peace, utilising concrete local examples and explain that in Hungary one of the most effective means of defending peace is to raise labour productivity.

**FRENCH GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF
LABOUR AND UNITED ACTIONS IN THE
STRUGGLE FOR BREAD AND PEACE.
Benoit Frachon, General Secretary,
French General Confederation of Labour**

During March and April this year, nearly a million working people of France took part in strikes, demanding a 3,000 franc monthly increase in wages. Strikes were held in many branches of industry and also in public utilities. The strike movement extended to the majority of regions in France and embraced thousands of large scale, medium-scale and small enterprises.

This movement was caused by the extremely difficult conditions of the working class whose real wages have been steadily falling for more than three years. Compared to the 1938 level—taken as 100—the average for wages is now 950 while the cost of living is 1,920.

Another reason for the discontent of the working people is the constant growth of unemployment. The official statistics—60,000 unemployed drawing unemployment benefit—in no way reflect the actual scale of unemployment. These figures only show that unemployment is growing month by month. The number of unsuccessful applications for work—180,000 at the present time—does not indicate the total number of unemployed.

Actually, unemployment relief funds exist only in the big centres, whereas unemployment mainly affects small enterprises and secondary branches of industry in the smaller towns and settlements. In such branches of industry as the clothing industry where homework and artisan work are widespread, unemployment reaches 50 per cent. Large numbers of married women are employed in these industries.

When they lose their jobs they do not qualify for unemployment benefit. An approximate idea of the actual scale of unemployment can be obtained by multiplying five-six times the official figure—60,000 unemployed in receipt of benefit.

The war in Viet Nam and the policy of preparations for an aggressive war pursued by the Government, call for such enormous expenditure that the Government and the Parliamentary majority are constantly busy searching for additional means, reducing for this end the expenditure on social services and peaceful production. At the same time there is a monstrous increase in profits of the big capitalist companies who double their income annually.

By the Government's decision, wages were frozen until March 1950. Whenever the working people demanded higher wages the employers invariably referred to this decision. However, numerous strikes often forced employers to increase wages. This brought about interference on the part of the Government incited by the employers' organisations which are dominated by trust magnates. The Right Socialist, Daniel Mayer, former Minister of Labour, more than once threatened to take action against individual employers who were forced to satisfy the demands of the workers.

The continued official wage freeze became impossible in view of the growing pressure of the working masses and the unity of action of the working people which was realised in the majority of enterprises in the struggle for higher wages. With the adoption of the law on collective bargaining which abolished the official wage freeze, the strike movement developed with increased vigour.

The working people fought for the demand advanced by the General Confederation of Labour—an immediate 3,000 franc increase in wages for all categories of workers prior to wage revision when signing collective agreements. Realising the impossibility of rejecting completely the demands of the

working people, employers sought to keep the wage increase to the minimum. Depending on the branch of industry, employers agreed to increase wages from 4 to 8 per cent. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers declared that the Government supported this decision of the employers.

The leaders of the splitter “Force Ouvrière” and of the Christian Federation of Trade Unions found themselves in an extremely difficult position. The movement of the masses for a 3,000 franc monthly increase in wages was so powerful that the splitters could not openly oppose this demand. But they—particularly the trailers Jouhaux and Co., who head the “Force Ouvrière”—did their utmost to prevent the struggle from developing and to frustrate the strike movement. As a rule, their attempts ended in failure. At thousands of enterprises almost always strikes were prepared and took place under the joint leadership of the organisations of the General Confederation of Labour. The Christian Federation of Trade Unions and the “Force Ouvrière”. Unorganised workers also participated in guiding the strikes since the opinion of all working people was democratically taken into account.

Broad unity of action at the enterprises leads at times to unity of action in the district and even to unity of action on a national scale in one or another branch of industry. Thus, in the Paris district, for example, the organisation of the General Confederation of Labour, the Christian Federation of Trade Unions, “Force Ouvrière” and the autonomous trade unions fought jointly during the four weeks’ strike of 180,000 metal-workers. At the power stations and gas works, the General Confederation of Labour, The Christian Federation of Trade Unions and “Force Ouvrière” carried out militant unity of action during the two weeks strike which embraced 110,000 working people.

An interesting fact should be noted in connection with the strike at the power stations and gas works: on the second day of

the strike the “Force Ouvrière” leaders abandoned the national unity action committee with a view to organising strike-breaking. They were immediately and resolutely exposed by the federations of the General Confederation of Labour and the Christian Federation of Trade Unions. Rank and file unity of action was so well organised that the deserters suffered defeat in their own organisations which, the following day, again joined the Unity Action Committee.

In contrast to this, in a number of instances where unity of action was carried out chiefly from above, the leaders of the Christian Federation of Trade Unions and “Force Ouvrière” were able to commit bare-faced treachery. The example of the railwaymen is most illustrative in this respect. The outright violation by the Government of the rights of the railwaymen aroused profound dissatisfaction. The trade unions of the General Confederation of Labour called for unity of action of the working people on the basis of concrete slogans. The leaders of the Christian Federation of Trade Unions and “Force Ouvrière” agreed to a proposal of the General Confederation of Labour for the establishment of a Conciliation Committee. Unfortunately our comrades failed to notice that in the lower organisations unity of action was a mere formality; it was carried out by the trade union leaders alone and did not embrace the main mass of railwaymen. The consent of the national leadership of the Christian Federation of Trade Unions and “Force Ouvrière” to participate in such a committee created from above, was simply a manoeuvre by mean, of which the splitters tried to prevent unity of action from below. Choosing a favourable moment and using the first possible pretext, the splitters sided with the Government. The absence of solid unity of action from below enabled the betrayers to disorientate the working people and to disrupt the movement for unity of action.

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The strikes in March-April ended in victory at more than 2,000 enterprises where the working people won far higher wage increases than the employers first agreed to. In a number of cases the workers obtained a wage increase of even more than the 3,000 francs. Despite stubborn opposition on the part of the Government and the repressive measures they adopted to suppress the strike, the 110,000 employees at the gas works and power stations did not yield. The workers and office employees refused to comply with the mobilisation order and did not return to work.

However, at the basic enterprises of big industry run by former members of “le Comité des Forges”, the workers, due to the resistance of the employers, were forced to resume work without obtaining satisfaction of their demands. The working people have learned much in the struggle. In particular, the confidence of the working people in their own strength was increased due to the fact that unity of action was achieved and preserved despite all attempts of the betrayers to disrupt it.

At a number of enterprises, the organisations of “Force Ouvrière” jointly with our comrades are posing the question of trade union unity and of the establishment of a united trade union organisation. There is no doubt that with the development of unity in action the demand for the creation of a united trade union organisation will meet with ever greater support from the masses of the working people at the enterprises.

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Up till now instances of unity in action in the struggle for peace were less frequent. But in places where our comrades carried out their work properly this unity was more or less easy

to attain.

This is due to several reasons. First, the trade unions are still considerably lagging behind in developing the struggle for peace at the enterprises. In recent months certain successes were achieved, particularly in the movement against the production and transportation of military equipment. But this movement, as yet, has not gripped the broad masses of the working people. An exception in this respect are the dockers who are carrying out militant unity of action and refusing to unload war equipment in all ports except Cherbourg, where we are still encountering certain difficulties. In many cases our activists, are as yet insufficiently linking the struggle for immediate demands with the struggle for peace. This, above all, is due to the fact that they underestimate the full seriousness of the war danger. The result is that while striving for unity of action in the struggle for their immediate demands they do not display sufficient activity and at times find themselves disarmed when it comes to establishing unity of action in the fight for peace.

It is a fact that when the question arises of unity of action in the struggle against war, the rank and file of both the Catholic trade unions and "Force Ouvrière" display particular hesitation and reserve. But this does not at all mean that they are not prepared to struggle for peace. The main reason for this is that no explanatory work is carried out among them. They are strongly influenced by the propaganda of the leaders of their political parties and trade unions who strive to prove that the struggle for peace is merely a political manoeuvre on the part of the Communists. There is not the lightest doubt that these vacillations will be overcome and unity of action in the struggle for peace will be carried out just as in the struggle for immediate economic demands and with even greater success,

The task now is to mobilise all our activists and all our organisations to develop political explanatory work and to

achieve success in the campaign for signatures to the appeal of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress and to secure the formation of peace committees in every enterprise.

FRANCE. WORKERS VOTING FOR THE STOCKHOLM APPEAL



FRANCE: Meeting of 15,000 workers of the Renault Works resolves to intensify collection of signatures and, in particular, to secure signatures from workers' families.
Photo: Workers voting for the Stockholm appeal.

FRANCE: Meeting of 15,000 workers of the Renault Works resolves to intensify collection of signatures and, in particular, to secure signatures from workers' families.

Photo: Workers voting for the Stockholm appeal.

IN THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

PROMOTION OF WORKERS

From all over China, reports are coming in about large-scale promotion of ordinary workers to leading posts in State enterprises and offices. Below are some of the latest reports:

One of the most popular men in Changchun (Manchuria) is the 50 years' old Lin Hsiang, who today is under-manager of the Chang-chun Tramway Company. For more than 20 years Lin Hsiang worked as a welder in Harbin. Under the Kuomintang rule and the Japanese occupation he led many strikes of workers and was noted among his comrades for his determination and great organising abilities. After the liberation of Harbin, he displayed the same vigour in organising his comrades for the rehabilitation of the economy of his native city as he had formerly shown in organising them for the struggle for their rights. Then, together with a brigade of workers, he was sent to Changchun to restore the city's transport. A year ago, when Lin Hsiang arrived in Changchun, there was not a single tram running in the city. The rails and the cars had been destroyed. After a year of strenuous effort, the tramway system was restored in Changchun and the worker, Lin Hsiang, was given the responsible post of under-management of the Tramway Company.

Liu Ying-yuan was unemployed when the People's Liberation Army entered Harbin. Together with a group of comrades he was sent on rehabilitation work to the Harbin power plant where labour enthusiasm helped them to accomplish the apparently impossible task of repairing a giant generator which had been wrecked. After this first job, Liu Ying-yuan was promoted to the job of the manager of the same

power station. Later he became under-manager of the Fushun power station from which he was sent by the workers as a delegate to the People's Political Consultative Conference which proclaimed the People's Republic of China.

The Chinese Press recently reported the appointment of Liu Ying-yuan as manager of the Peking power plant—the biggest in China.

PARTICIPATION OF THE ARMY IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

According to the Sinhua Agency, several million People's Liberation Army men are now turning vast expanses of uncultivated land into blooming fields. Army production efforts reach particular heights in Manchuria and Sinkiang where there are still large tracts of virgin land. Men of the 4th Field Army who saw service in the northern part of Manchuria, opened up 50,000 acres of land for soya bean and vegetables.

Another 10,000 People's Liberation Army men are engaged in building a network of irrigation ditches in South Manchuria. They will harvest enough grain to supply themselves for three months of the year.

In the Sinkiang province, the 5th Army and other units are building a widespread network of irrigation canals and are opening the 11,000 hectares of virgin land. A 40-kilometre canal to water 21,300 hectare of land is nearing completion near Suiting.

People's Liberation Army men billeted north and south of Tientsin are helping the peasants to repair dykes. Others in Chahar and Shansi provinces are also giving greater help to the peasants. Further south, army men are repairing dykes of the Yellow, Hwai, Yangtse Rivers and also on other rivers in Fukien and Kwangtung provinces.

SECOND CONGRESS OF THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT IN ALBANIA

The second congress of the Democratic Front in Albania was held recently. Four hundred and fifty delegates expressed the will of the Albanian people to struggle for their independence for peace, for Socialism under the guidance of the Albanian Party of Labour, headed by Enver Hodja.

Congress noted that the Albanian people had gained considerable achievements and successes. The economy of the country is being strengthened, education and culture are spreading ever wider among the people and living conditions are being improved.

Albanian industry has effected considerable successes. In comparison with 1945, production in the textile industry increased seven-fold; in leather and in the shoe industry, seventeen times; cement, five times; production of tobacco, doubled; output of bitumen, eleven-fold; oil, four-fold, coal, five-fold etc.

Acreage under crops increased by 148 per cent compared with 1945. The area under industrial crops has considerably increased. Machine-tractor stations are now cultivating five times more land than in 1945. The amount of reclamation work has increased by 178 per cent compared with 1945. House building increased seven-fold, road building by 23 times and the building of bridges by 72 times.

The government spends millions of lek for the protection of public health. The number of hospital beds increased 142 times compared with 1945, and the network of kindergartens, mother and child consultation centres extended.

Through all their history the Albanian people have been a prey to malaria. Seventy per cent of the population were affected but the number of diseased is now reduced to 21 per

cent. The struggle against malaria is being conducted most energetically and a further decree is hoped for. Great successes, are noted in the sphere public education. The number of schools in Albania has trebled during the five years of the People's Democratic system. Three times more has been done for public education under the Albanian People's Republic than under the 15-year regime of King Zog.

For the first time in Albania there have been created such cultural establishments as the State Philharmonic Society, the Albanian Arts and Culture Committee etc. One hundred and forty-four houses of culture and reading-rooms have been established in towns and villages. The number of books published increased three and half times; compared with 1945, cinemas, many times; choirs, 4.5; theatrical groups, 13 times.

The work of the congress showed that the Albanian People highly value the assistance rendered by the Soviet Union, headed by the great Stalin. The Albanian people are determined to continue to work selflessly for the welfare of their homeland.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET POLICY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA. Kirill Lazarov, Minister of Finance, Bulgarian People's Republic

Following the historic victory of the Bulgarian people on September 9, 1944, won with the decisive assistance of the Soviet Army, the People's Republic of Bulgaria has steadily consolidated its finances and put them on a sound basis. Despite the subversive activities of the Kostov gang, a number of measures and reforms were carried out in the sphere of finance and banking. A single budget for the Republic was instituted which made it possible to centralise all public finance and secure planned expenditure according to the requirements of the national economic plan and exclusively in the interests of the working people.

A progressive income tax, about which the Bulgarian bourgeoisie had expended much demagogy over a period of 50 years, was introduced. The progressive income tax is an expression of the policy of the maximum justice with which the State guides itself in taxation. At the same time this tax constitutes a powerful weapon in the hands of the people's power in the class struggle against the remnants of capitalism in the country, for the successful carrying out of the policy of restricting and dislodging the capitalist elements in town and countryside.

A law was passed concerning tax on turnover as the main source of financing the State budget. The entire taxation system was radically simplified, which enabled it to be put on a planned basis according to the conditions in individual sectors of production and in conformity with a rational distribution of profits.

On the basis of the experience of the U.S.S.R., work was

begun to improve the quality of financial planning; the banking system is being reorganised. The People's Bank of Bulgaria orientates itself on the organisation of a planned credit economy, on direct contact with the national economic plan.

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The successes of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the sphere of finance would have been even considerably greater were it not for the wrecking activities of the Kostov gang. The enemies of the people tried to create chaos in finance in order to injure the prestige of the people's power.

Measures to secure the timely and complete collection of revenue were not taken, as a result of which arrears on January 1, 1950 exceeded the enormous sum of 25,000 million leva (the arrears for the tax on general income alone paid by the wealthier sections of the population amounted to approximately 7,000 million leva). In a number of cases the tax policy of the people's Slate was grossly violated. For example, medium peasants had to pay a higher tax than the kulak elements, which gave rise to discontent among the population and hampered the consolidation of the alliance between the working class and the working peasantry.

Budget expenditure was artificially swollen, particularly that dealing with administration expenditure and the expenditure for non-planned purposes. Financial discipline was deliberately violated with the result that the limit placed on capital investment in 1949 was arbitrarily exceeded by 8,000 million leva.

The question of the elaboration of a credit and finance policy for the banks was deliberately ignored. Credit was not used to strengthen financial discipline and to speed up the turnover of circulating capital. This led to the freezing of huge stocks of imported materials and materials in short supply.

The entire burden of circulating capital at enterprises was deliberately transferred to the credit system. No measures whatsoever were taken to build up their own circulating capital at enterprises. Consequently enterprises received only 30 per cent of the required circulating capital and the deficiency was made good by credits which, naturally, increased the cost of production.

The enemies of the people made no small effort to create a situation in which finance would lag behind the general rate of Socialist development and which would aggravate the lack of equilibrium between various sectors of the national economy.

There is no doubt that the Bulgarian Communist Party and the people's government, headed by Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov, will, in the near future, succeed in finally overcoming the financial injury caused by the foreign agents—the Kostovists.

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The national economy of our country is steadily marching forward, thanks to the labour heroism of the people and to the fraternal assistance of the great Soviet Union.

As Comrade Georgi Dimitrov stressed at the Fifth Congress of the Party, the nationalisation of industry and banks “completely confirms the planned development of our country along the path to Socialism”.

The nationalisation of industry brought about a radical change in its structure. The private sector shrank from 83.6 per cent to 5 per cent, while the State, the Socialist sector, increased from 6.4 per cent to 95 per cent. This made it possible considerably to reconstruct enterprises by enlarging them.

The fulfilment of the national economic plan in 1949 (the first year of the Dimitrov Five-Year Plan) is striking proof of

the steady growth of our national economy. The 1949 output of industrial production amounted to 110 per cent of the planned target and 130 per cent compared to 1948. The plan of capital construction was fulfilled by 123 per cent and is 45 per cent above the fulfilment of the plan in 1948. In 1949, 5,104 enterprises, many of which are of great economic significance, were completed and put into operation. The progress of the national economy found expression in the growth in the number of factory and office workers by 81,000 and also in the growth of the wage fund by 13,500 million leva compared to 1948.

The progress of the national economy in the first year of the Dimitrov Five-Year Plan found expression also in a considerable over-fulfilment of the plan of accumulations, and consequently in the revenue of the 1949 budget which exceeded expenditure by 13,066 million leva.

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The 1950 budget of the People's Republic of Bulgaria proceeds from the general line of the Communist Party and the people's power, the line defined by the unforgettable leader of the Bulgarian people, Comrade Georgi Dimitrov, at the historic Fifth Congress of the Party: to lay the economic and cultural foundations of Socialism and to make the People's Republic of Bulgaria a strong country loyal to the great Soviet Union and to the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism led by the Soviet Union.

The 1950 budget has as its aim also the elimination of the consequences of the subversive activities of the Kostov gang in the sphere of finance.

The 1950 budget is a single budget since it includes the budgets of all organs of State administration and also all public funds with a view to their planned utilisation exclusively in the

interests of the working people.

The 1950 budget of the Bulgarian People's Republic is as follows:

	Revenue	Expenditure
	in million leva	
Republican budget	174,667	151,964
Budgets of People's Councils	32,585	46,054
Excess revenue over expenditure:		9,234
Total in million leva	207,252	207,282

Compared with the 1949 budget this year's single budget shows an increase of 54,638 million leva, which points to a further improvement in the finances of the Bulgarian People's Republic.

The main source of revenue is not taxation which, in the old days the bourgeoisie extorted from the mass of the people, but the sums derived from the public sector of national economy. These constitute 70.4 per cent of all revenue (31.1 per cent receipts from taxation on turnover, 12 per cent from deductions from profits of State enterprises, etc.). Of the revenue from the public sector of the national economy, 67,481 million leva is returned to the national economy after passing through the expenditure side of the budget (34.3 per cent of the total expenditure). In this way the Socialist principle of financing is exercised, which results in expanded reproduction.

Taxes paid by the population constitute but 10.8 per cent of the total revenue for 1950.

The credit system which centralises the accumulations of the people is another source for financing the national economy. The People's Bank of Bulgaria, the Bulgarian investment Bank, the Post Office Savings Banks and the co-operative organisations form a series of channels which, having drawn in the public savings (which in 1949, increased by 6 per cent compared with 1918) again return them to the

national economy in accordance with the general credit plan.

In the old days the bourgeois clique sought financial assistance from abroad via the private banks (agencies of foreign capital) for such transactions yielded enormous profits. Thus, over a period of fifty years, Bulgaria was systematically plundered on the average of 90 billion leva annually by foreign and home capital. Foreign capital, and, above all, predatory German imperialism, regarded Bulgaria as a semi-colony.

After September 9, 1944, the financial system in Bulgaria was reorganised, having in view the needs of the socialist economy which is in the process of formation. The 1950 budget provides that the objectives stipulated in the national economic plan will be financed out of the state budget funds. Nearly six billion leva are allocated for industry. This shows clearly that the policy of Socialist industrialisation, as indicated by Comrade Georgi Dimitrov, is being steadily carried out. Over sixteen billion leva have been allocated for electrification. Agriculture is to receive nine billion leva of which 3,385 millions are designed for machine and tractor depots and 2,267 million leva for limited capital investment. Apart from this the People's Bank of Bulgaria has allocated 2.5 billion leva for investments in agricultural producer co-operatives and over five billion leva for turnover. The impressive sums allocated for agricultural development testify to the fact that the general line of the Party on the question of the Socialist reorganisation of agriculture, by way of producer co-operatives, by raising production to ensure the needs of the people and by supplying industry with the necessary raw materials, is being consistently carried out.

Four and a half billion leva have been appropriated for road construction and more than five billions for transport.

Over sixty-seven billion leva or 34.3 per cent of all budget expenditure will be used to meet the needs of the economic ministries. The productive character of these investments is

clear for everybody, They will contribute to a better life for the working people and will increase the wealth of our country.

The 1950 budget provides for an expenditure of sixty billion leva or 30.6 per cent of total expenditure on social and cultural measures: on public health, four billion leva; on labour protection, more than 1.5 billion leva; on pensions and social security for the working people, over 17 billion leva; on the development of science, art and culture, 5.5 billion leva; on developing a Socialist intelligentsia from the ranks of the working class, about a billion leva (for the education of 1,800 workers State stipends) etc.

The 1950 budget also provides for an expenditure of more than 46 billion leva on local economic enterprises the people's Councils are accelerating the development of the economy at the expense of the private sector. These economic undertakings of the People's Councils require substantial financial support from the State.

The 1950 budget of the Republic provides for seven per cent of the total expenditure to be spent on defence purposes. Compared with 1949 this item remains practically unchanged. The people of Bulgaria want peace and creative work, they strive to raise their material standards and cultural level. But the warmongers—the Anglo-American imperialists—must know that our people, strong in their unity and relying on the friendship of the great Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, are prepared to uphold with all the means in their power their national independence and State sovereignty.

VIET NAM IS FIGHTING FOR ITS INDEPENDENCE. Din, Regional Secretary of Lien Viet (United National Front)

Viet Nam is the largest of the three countries of Indo-China. Its population amounts to 20 million people. Cambodia, 4 million and Laos, one million.

Viet Nam was also the riches of the French colonies. Nam Bo (Cochin-China) produces rice and rubber; Trung Ba (the central part of Viet Nam), salt and fish; Bac Bo (Tonkin) has rich forests and many mines.

Throughout more than 80 years of French colonial oppression, the people of Viet Nam have not ceased fighting against foreign rule. The struggle further intensified with the beginning of World War Two. Despite the brutal terror of the colonisers, uprisings broke out throughout the country in October 1940, in Bac Son (Bac Bo), November in Nam Bo and also in Doluong (Trung Bo) and in August 1941 in Dinh Ca (Bac Bo).

These uprisings were ruthlessly suppressed in blood. But the patriotic struggle had begun and nothing could stop it.

United National Front

In 1940, the betrayers of the French people sold France to the German fascists. French traitors in the East sold Indo-China to the Japanese fascists. Under the double French-Japanese yoke, the people of Viet Nam began a resolute struggle for their liberation. In 1941, the United National Front—Viet Minh—was formed.

Viet Minh is the “Union for Struggle for the Independence of Viet Nam”. It rallies all patriots irrespective of their political

and religious convictions, social position, sex and age.

Members of Viet Minh are united in various “unions for struggle to save the country”: Workers’ Union, Peasants’ Union, Women’s Union, Youth Union, Children’s Union, and so on.

On the basis of international experience, which shows that without armed force it is impossible to defeat the oppressors. Viet Minh set itself the task of organising armed guerrilla units. From 1944 it launched guerrilla warfare against the Japanese and French armies. Soon Viet Minh detachments occupied six provinces of Higher Bac Bo. In this region the first measures of new democracy were carried out: local organs of power were elected by the people; the equality of men and women was introduced, etc.

Out of the rapidly growing guerrilla detachments a **people’s liberation army** was formed.

Viet-Bac, the home of the Viet Minh leadership, became a kind of “holy land” of the national revolution. From all over the country, patriots—men and women, the youth and old folk—went there secretly, asking for assistance and instructions.

August Revolution

In March 1945, the Japanese imperialists turned the French imperialists out of Indochina. Viet Minh foresaw this and was ready to take advantage of the situation. In the political sense it explained to the people the contradictions which exist between the imperialists, and the inevitable doom which awaits these bandits. In the military sense, it carried out intensive propaganda work among the native soldiers of the French Army and received considerable supplies of arms from them.

The prestige of Viet Minh grew, its organisations quickly

developed. In the middle of 1945, Viet Minh had 5 million members (at present its membership amounts to 12 million).

An order was issued to prepare for a **general uprising**. In August 1945 Japanese imperialism suffered defeat; the Viet Nam revolution triumphed throughout the country.

On September 2, 1945. President Ho Chi Minh reclaimed the independence of Viet Nam, the establishment of a Democratic Republic and the formation of a people's government.

Intervention by International Reaction

Immediately after these events international reaction, headed by American imperialism, tried to strangle the young Viet Nam Republic.

On the orders of the headquarters, headed by the American, McArthur, and on the pretext of disarming the Japanese troops, British troops occupied the Southern part of Viet Nam, while Kuomintang troops occupied its Northern part. British troops helped the French colonisers to start a war to restore their domination in Nam Bo.

The Kuomintang Army supported Viet-Nameese reaction in its counter-revolutionary activities.

In addition, Japanese and French imperialists left to the new Viet-Nameese Republic a heavy legacy—severe famine. They had requisitioned all the rice. Because of this more than two million people died of starvation in the spring of 1945 in the Northern provinces of the country. Drought followed floods.*

* In 1945, floods occurred in Bac Bo and Trung Bo which destroyed fields with hundreds of thousands of tons of rice. (Ed.).

The correct policy of the Viet Minh leadership and the enthusiasm of the people made it possible for the Republic not only to overcome the famine but also to secure new successes: **Parliament** was elected on the basis of universal suffrage; a people's army was organised; work to eliminate illiteracy was begun, and so on.

French Colonisers Unleash War

Relying on the support of the British and Japanese troops, the French colonisers began military operations in Nam Bo (Cochin-China) in September, 1945.

At that time the people of Viet Nam in general, and the population of Nam Bo in particular, were, as yet, poorly organised from the military point of view. The majority of guerrilla fighters were armed with bamboo canes. The notorious General Leclerc—Commander-in-Chief of the French colonial army—predicted that within three months at the most the whole of Viet Nam would be conquered.

As we see, Leclerc was mistaken. While waging war in the South, the colonisers at the same time resorted to diplomatic machinations in the North of Viet Nam. They wanted to gain time to reinforce the expeditionary corps in order to inflict a smashing blow.

For example, the French Government signed an agreement on March 6 and the “modus vivendi” of September 14, 1946 with the Government of the Viet-Nameese Republic—documents which, some time later, it transformed into scraps of paper.

On December 20, 1946, French troops began a general offensive throughout Viet Nam. This was war without a declaration of war. French militarists wanted to repeal the Hitler “blitz-krieg” and, with one blow, to destroy the patriotic

forces of Viet Nam.

But again the French colonisers made a mistake.

French Colonisers Experience Military Difficulties

After two months of heroic resistance in Hanoi the Viet-Nameese forces left the town and retreated, without losses, to agricultural regions.

In October-December 1947, the French threw their land, naval and air forces into an offensive to encircle and destroy the Viet-Nameese forces in Viet Bac. But a smashing defeat was inflicted upon them. Seven thousand five hundred soldiers of the French army were killed and wounded.

Since that defeat the French have restricted themselves to battles on a smaller scale. In 1948, the most rabid French militarist publicly admitted that to conquer Viet Nam it was essential to have half a million French soldiers. But to mobilise so many, to arm them, to secure supplies for them and to get them to Viet Nam is difficult for France which has been weakened by two world wars.

Colonial experts as, for example, Professor Juglas and others, admit that the people's army of Viet Nam is now equal in strength to the French colonial army. As for the moral superiority of the people's army over the army of colonisers, this is well-known.

The American Press, and particularly the "New York Herald Tribune", writes that "the French expeditionary corps in Indo-China has now more than 120,000 men (231,000 men, according to Letourneau, French Minister for the Colonies), but its position at present is no better than at the beginning of the war."

By the end of 1949, the losses of the French expeditionary

corps reached, approximately, 100,000 is killed and wounded.

The plan of General Revers, Chief of the General Staff of the French Army, to close the frontiers of Viet Nam, has completely failed. The moral spirit of the French troops is extremely low, while the Viet-Nameese are preparing a general counter-offensive.

Political Difficulties of French Colonisers

Having no hope of achieving military success, the French colonisers are resorting to **political manoeuvres**. They are using Bao Dai for the organisation of a puppet government, for the purpose of dividing the people of Viet-Nam.

Bao Dai, the night club emperor, is a professional chameleon, who was first in the servile service of the French, then the Japanese and then again the French. Married to the daughter of a big Catholic landlord and related to a French count, he was educated amidst the corrupt French aristocracy and spent the better part of his life in French seaside resorts. This puppet ruler was a friend of Chiang Kai-shek and will, without a doubt, share the shameful fate of the Chinese vampire.

This Viet Nam quisling is not only hateful to the people—even the ex-royal family has turned against him. Here are a few examples.

During the visit of General Revers to Indo-China in 1949, more than a thousand representatives of the Saigon intelligentsia sent him a letter stating that they are against Bao Dai and in favour of Ho Chi Minh.

The aged prince Ung Uy, a close relation of Bao Dai, published a letter condemning Bao Dai as a traitor to his country. Immediately afterwards Ung Uy abandoned the royal residence in the city of Hue, which the French occupied and

headed one of the sections of the United National Front.

Public organisations have, unanimously demanded the punishment of Bao Dai for high treason.

An American correspondent asked one of Bao Dai's mandarins how many of the Viet Nameese support Bao Dai. The answer was: according to most optimistic estimates not more than one per cent.

"The New York Herald Tribune" wrote that, excluding a very insignificant minority, all Viet Nameese are against the French colonisers and Bao Dai, and that the overwhelming majority support the revolutionary government of Ho Chi Minh.

It thus follows that the French imperialists are in a blind alley both in the political and military sphere.

Economic Difficulties of French Colonisers

According to official data, in 1949 France spent 115 billion francs on the war in Viet Nam, i.e. four times more, than, in the first years of the war (1946-1947).

While military expenditure is increasing tremendously, French economy in Indo-China is in a state of complete collapse, as is evident from the following:

	Exports before the War	In 1949
Rice	1,500,000 tons	90,000 tons
Coal	1,500,000 "	40,000 "
Rubber	100,000 "	28,000 "
Other export items	900,000 "	42,000 "
Total	4,000,000 tons	200,000 tons

The war in Viet Nam is leading Marshallised France to

ruin. “The New York Herald Tribune” wrote that Viet Nam, which in the past, was a source of enrichment for France is now its source of liabilities.

American Intervention and Contradictions between the Robbers

The position of the French colonisers in Viet Nam remind one of the state of a man sitting on a tiger’s back. If he jumps to the ground he will be torn to pieces. If he does not he will be torn to pieces just the same.

In desperation they appeal to American imperialists to help them.

Without waiting for a second invitation, American imperialists jump at the opportunity, for they want to transform Viet Nam into an **anti-Communist “cordon sanitaire”**.

And immediately there arise sharp contradictions between the two robber groups.

American imperialists say to their French colleagues: “Seeing that we supply the dollars and the arms and you are incapable of fighting Viet Nam, you quit and we’ll take your place”.

But the French imperialists reply to their “saviours”:

“Sorry! You supply the arms—that’s true, but we sent to the slaughter tens of thousands of young French lives. Therefore, we want our share of the loot.”

As was reported by the United Press Agency on March 6, 1950, Truman is sending to the French troops in Indo-China 60 and perhaps 120 new aircraft... The U.S. Seventh Squadron will lie at anchor in Saigon Harbour. The U.S. will use Japanese soldiers for the struggle against Viet Nam... At the request of the French Government, Washington is granting Bao Dai a thirty million dollar loan to see him through till June, etc.

This same agency reported on March 1, 1950, that America's policy in Indo-China is now its greatest stake in the "cold war". But even with American aid the French will not be able to defeat the Communist partisans. Without any aid from outside, Ho Chi Minh has succeeded, since 1946, in checking the advance of French troops. Even if only a small part of the American armaments granted to the French falls into his hands he will be able to resist the French for another few years. The thirty million dollars which the French have asked for Bao Dai are but a drop in the ocean...

Hence, even reactionary public opinion in America condemns Truman's adventure in Viet Nam.

Truman, this luckless gambler who banked on Chiang Kai-shek, spent a vast amount of dollars and spared no little effort to support him. And in return Truman got a good smack in the face: he lost money and prestige; his Chinese ward was smashed while revolutionary China won a brilliant victory in its struggle for liberation.

There is no doubt whatsoever that Bao Dai and his expeditionary corps will be smashed just as Chiang Kai-shek and that Truman will lose his stakes in Viet Nam just as he did in China. But this time the loss will be more telling since he will be beaten by little Viet Nam.

Victory Will Go to Viet Nam!

The recognition of the republican government of Viet Nam by the Soviet Union. The New China and the People's Democracies has evoked a fresh wave of enthusiasm among the valiant people of Viet Nam, whose morale is exceedingly high and whose valour is boundless. This recognition is **a great political victory** for Viet Nam.

The sympathies of the working people the world over and

the solidarity of the French people, who have developed a widespread campaign against the “foul war” in Viet Nam, show that the people of Viet Nam have powerful and true friends who support their just struggle.

“The people of Viet Nam are prepared to fight 10, 15, 20 and more years if need be to regain national independence and to restore territorial unity”, declared President Ho Chin Minh. “The nearer we approach victory, the greater will be the difficulties we shall encounter. But we are firmly resolved to overcome all the difficulties and to make any sacrifice to achieve our aims: to expel all the invaders and free our country.”

This firm resolve, this unshaken confidence of the people is **a sure guarantee of final victory**. Victory will go to Viet Nam!

Thus, despite all the calculations of international reaction, headed by French-American reaction, which wants to transform Viet Nam into an anti-Communist barrier in South-East Asia, valiant **Viet Nam is becoming a strong outpost of the international anti-imperialist front in this part of the world.**

April, 1950.

FAILURE OF BRITISH MILITARY ADVENTURE IN MALAYA. (Review of British and American Press)

For two years the British imperialists have been waging a criminal colonial war against the people of Malaya who are fighting arms in hand for their national liberation. However, the military adventure of British reaction has clearly failed, the national liberation movement of the Malayan people is extending on an ever greater scale.

The ruling circles of Britain are sounding the alarm. In great haste they announced an “anti-bandit month” which, according to its initiators, was to win the population to the side of the colonisers. As admitted by the British Press, the “month” failed. At home in Britain there is a mounting wave of protest against the colonial war in Malaya.

Solemn declarations by the Labour Government about the “successes” of the British colonial army in Malaya and the speedy end of the war no longer deceive world public opinion.

The facts cited by the British and American Press clearly contradict official statements of the British -Government.

Commenting on the situation in Malaya, the American newspaper “Christian Science Monitor”, wrote on March 21 that completely opposite reports are arriving from Malaya. English language newspapers published in Malaya declare unanimously that “in Britain they do not understand the ever growing danger of the situation in Malaya.” According to the “Straits Times”, “we are much further from the suppression of the Communist uprising now than on the day when it began.”

Mr. Strachey, Minister of War, had to admit, in effect, the failure of the Malayan campaign. Speaking in the House of Commons he declared that the campaign in Malaya is one which has no fixed front and which consists in the main in

isolated actions against bodies of “terrorists” whose tactics are to strike and disappear deep into the jungle. In such a campaign. Strachey added, the Army has no possibility for “spectacular successes”.

Nor can the “Manchester Guardian” conceal the failure of the British imperialists in Malaya. In its issue of April 1, it wrote:

“One expedient after another has been brought forward by the Government. Each time we are assured that all will now be well, and each time we have been disappointed. Now it is the appointment of Sir Harold Briggs (a retired general.—**Ed.**) as ‘Director of Operations’. He is to co-ordinate army and police. Does this mean that, two years after the campaign started, they still need co-ordinating? If so, it is no wonder that the Communists sit in the jungle and laugh at our ‘anti-bandit months’ ”.

When launching the campaign in Malaya, in 1948 the British colonisers boastfully declared that the resistance of the Malayan people would be broken at the most within a year. However, the “Economist” of March 25 writes: “After nearly two years of fighting against some 5,000 full-time and another 10,000 part-time guerrillas it should be clear that the nature and importance of the Malaya campaign have been misjudged.”

It was asserted that it would be finished with the guerrilla movement by June 1949. “Instead”, continues the “Economist”, “it has been necessary this month to send infantry reinforcements from Hong-Kong, and bombers and armoured vehicles from this country, to organise an anti-bandit month... It is all very well for Mr, Dugdale (Minister of late for Colonial Affairs.—**Ed.**) to tell the House of Commons that the late reinforcements represent ‘final requirements’. Many people on the spot say the contrary: that the end of the campaign cannot be clearly seen”.

In this way the British plunderers recognise their

impotence before the Malayan people who are fighting for their national independence, despite the fact that, according to the "Economist" "the campaign has engaged an army of regular troops which has expanded from 8,000 to 14,000 men, as well as over 30,000 special constables and auxiliaries".

For a long time, the British imperialists tried to present the national-liberation movement in Malaya to the world, and to the British people in particular as actions of isolated "terrorist groups". No less a person than Lord Killearn, former British Special Commissioner in South-East Asia, was forged recently to refute these assertions. The Reuter Agency reported, on March 31, that on his return from Malaya, Lord Killearn declared to correspondents that now it is something much bigger than banditry. It is at the very least a civil war.

Speaking in the House of Lords on April 5, Lord Killearn declared that the situation in Malaya was worse than ever before; that it was unsafe to go far away from Kuala-Lumpur, the capital of Malaya, and that a journey by railway or along the highway between the capital and Singapore involves risking one's life.

Referring to the guerrillas, Lord Killearn declared that they were well organised. Part are in uniform, organised in companies and battalions, they are ably led and, apart from that, they are assisted everywhere by many people not in uniform.

Writing about the Malayan guerrillas, the British journal "Spectator" stated on March 31 that Malaya was extremely convenient for guerrilla activities, and the Communists are well aware of this. They have well-equipped camps in the jungle, continued the journal. They have considerable quantities of arms and ammunition from the days when they engaged in sabotage (against the Japanese invaders.—Ed.) They are trained in guerrilla methods. They have their "cells" in every town and also at many tin mines and rubber plantations,

concluded the “Spectator”.

Planters, traders and other employers in Malaya are calling for further reinforcements and give all kinds of “recipes” as to how to suppress the people’s liberation movement, demanding that alongside British soldiers, soldiers from other British colonies should be sent.

Expressing the opinion of the planters, the “Daily Telegraph” wrote on April 5 that the arrival of additional contingents of soldiers with experience of jungle warfare would help the operation, and that such soldiers could be obtained from Australia.

Planters openly and cynically declare that they will remain in Malaya until Malaya is safe. The same newspaper wrote that planters have one and the same answer to all problems: they are for immediate action on all fronts—political, economic and military.

And this means nothing else than fanning the war in South-Eastern Asia, the drawing of the peoples of other countries into the war for the interests of British planters and the tin mine owners in Malaya; this means a further demand for sacrifice from the British and also from the Malayan peoples.

Aware that they are unable to suppress the movement of the Malayan patriots, and true to their “divide and rule” policy, the British colonisers seek to prove that only Chinese are taking part in the people’s liberation movement. The aim of such assertions is to discredit this movement in the eyes of the Malays and to sow discord between Malays and Chinese. In this connection, the “Spectator” wrote on March 31 that for over 200 years the Chinese had come to Malaya as miners, traders and workers. As a result of the policy of unrestricted immigration pursued in the pre-war years, continued the journal, the number of Chinese at present in the Malayan Federation alone, nearly equals that of the Malays, and Singapore—a separate British colony—is actually a Chinese

island...

During the occupation, many tin mines and rubber plantations became derelict, continued the "Spectator"; trade in towns came to a standstill and hundreds of thousands of hungry unemployed, mainly Chinese or Indians, settled in the Western borders of the jungle, where they cleared small plots of land and made both ends meet somehow from the produce of their vegetable gardens or small plots.

These settlers, or "squatters", who number 500,000, adds the journal, are scattered throughout the peninsula over an area which, in size, equals Britain without Wales.

After the liberation of Malaya, the policy of the British colonisers in relation to these "squatters", according to "Spectator", led to the alienation of the Chinese from the government and to the fact that the Communists were able to use the "squatters" as an important supply base and shelter because of the isolated position they occupied and the absence of control on the part of the administration.

In England, ever greater numbers of people realise that this talk about the Chinese is a deliberate provocation calculated to alienate the Malay people from the general popular movement. An indignant reader of the "Manchester Guardian" addressed a letter to the editor in which he exposed these tricks of British reaction.

He wrote that, in its issue of August 24, 1949, Colonel J. D. Wyatt had disputed the writer's statement made in Oxford Town Hall on August 2nd about the "national uprising in Malaya". Colonel Wyatt had alleged that there was no national uprising, declaring that some 5,000 Chinese at the most were involved. If that be the case, he wrote, how could he explain the arrest of 7,000 people, including 185 trade unionists? The writer then quoted facts and figures showing that 40 per cent of the population of Malaya are Chinese, nearly 40 per cent Malays, more than 10 per cent Indians and the remainder

Europeans and Eurasians. The Chinese, he added, are mostly workers, the Malays—peasants. The organised fighting forces are composed mainly of workers, as was the case during the Japanese occupation. The peasants are chiefly suppliers of food and other aid. Therefore, he continued, most of the partisan casualties are Chinese. However, the government obviously acknowledges the active role played by the Indians and Malays. Ten per cent of the first group arrested consisted of Indians. The Malay youth leaders were also among the arrested. First man to be executed for carrying arms was a Malay who at one time served in the R.A.F. The government considers it necessary to print leaflets in the Malay language and scatter them from aircraft. If Colonel Wyatt is right, concludes the author of the letter, why have the British authorities not armed the Malays so that they could cope with this handful of men?

The British imperialists have actually admitted that the war waged in Malaya is directed against those who, during the Second World War, fought the Japanese, occupation for the national liberation of Malaya.

When the Japanese invaders were driven out, the Malayan patriots—Malays, Chinese and Indians—were engaged in peaceful labour. And then against these peaceful inhabitants the British plunderers launched a colonial war in 1948.

The colonisers are using every possible means in their attempt to suppress the national liberation movement in Malaya. They banned the All-Malayan Federation of Trade Unions representing 95 per cent of the organised workers, executed the leaders of the Federation and threw thousands of trade union activists and rank-and-file into prisons and concentration camps. The youth and women's organisations are banned.

Striving to split the ranks of the working class marching in the vanguard of the national liberation struggle of the people of

Malaya, the British authorities resorted to the organisation of “yellow” trade unions, and are creating a strike-breakers’ organisation known as the “Trade Union Council of Malaya.”

However, despite all these attempts on the part of the colonisers the people of Malaya are continuing armed resistance against the army of the colonial invaders, and are dealing it telling blows.

The real state of affairs in Malaya was described by the London “Daily Worker” in its issue of February 20th.

“When Japan attacked Malaya in 1942,” writes the paper, “the British planters and officials fled. They hurriedly moved out of their large, flower-gardened bungalows, leaving an unfinished glass of whisky here, a half-smoked cigar there.

“They left stores, ships and radio stations for the enemy—and told the police not to resist the Japanese, but to stay behind to help them maintain law and order.

“Even in the hour of their shameful defeat, these whisky-swilling planters and officials retained their class loyalty. It was the Malayan workers and peasants who were the main enemy—not the Japanese Fascists.

“But the Malayan people did not flee. They stayed and fought—even without arms. They built a 10,000-strong Malayan People’s Anti-Japanese Army. They harassed the Japanese for three and a half years.

“In August, 1945, they liberated Malaya. The Japanese were rounded up. Town and village committees were elected, and were soon administering the whole country under the first democratic system Malaya had ever known.

“It was not until September that the British troops began to land. And not until December that they were once again in control of all Malaya. The Malayan guerrillas won high praise everywhere. They were decorated by Lord Louis Mountbatten, who said: ‘I know how proud you are of these men and of the resistance movement which they led. We of the United Nations

are thankful.’”

“Today these heroes have a price on their head.

“In 1946 the British Empire Medal was awarded to the headman of Pulai on behalf of his town. The official citation said:

“ ‘Despite continued and violent enemy reprisals, he and the people of his town showed great courage and loyalty during the Japanese occupation by aiding and supporting British officers who lived in the jungle’.

“Today Pulai stands in ruins. Its heroic people who saved the lives of our men have been scattered. The town was raided by Spitfire in August, 1948. Every building was destroyed. A thousand men, women and children fled into the jungle, pursued by troops and machine-gunned from the air.”

The British “rulers” are just as brutal with the Malayan patriots as were the fascist hangmen. In that same issue the “Daily Worker” wrote:

“In front of me is a copy of the American magazine “Life”. In it is depicted a raid carried out some months ago on Malayan villagers by a detachment of troops led by one Captain Stafford, the Iron Broom who boasts that he has personally shot more than 30 Communists.

“One caption reads: Brutal beating with a carbine bull fails to force a captured Red, once a sergeant in a Malayan regiment, to reveal hiding places of other Communists.

“Another: Dead Communist leader, Lau Yew... lies in the bush, spattered with blood, while grinning policemen identify his body.”

Continuing, the author of this article writes: “I have just received the December 1949 issue of “Freedom,” the illegal paper of the Singapore democratic movement. From it one learns the shameful fact that the people of Malaya are now subject to the same tortures that they suffered under the Japanese: Water treatment, cigarette-burning treatment,

hanging from the ceiling and flogging treatment, burning of villages, shooting down prisoners 'trying to escape', bombing and machine-gunning from the air.”

Neither torture, nor the terror of the British colonial troops can break the fighting spirit of the heroic Malayan people. All progressive mankind is following with sympathy its struggle for liberation from colonial slavery. The forces of the fighting Malayan people are gaining strength daily and no effort of British reaction can break its will to victory.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF SPAIN AT ITS FIGHTING POST

Reports from Spain testify to widespread and intensified activity by the Communist Party of Spain.

On April 1, the Franco "Victory day", the people were greatly heartened when they saw the walls of Madrid covered with slogans which read; "Long live the Communist Party", "Long live the Republic", "Death to Franco."

On the thirtieth anniversary of the Communist Party of Spain, underground Party meetings and discussions were held in Levant (Eastern region of Spain). These meetings and discussions were held among the working people, and aimed at explaining the policy and the ideological principles of the Party.

The partisans in Levant reported that a Franco commander and captain of the "Civil Guard" had been killed.

CONFERENCE OF BLACK INTERNATIONAL. Pietro Secchia, Deputy General Secretary, Italian Communist Party

The annual conference of the International Union of Christian-Democratic Parties, that is, of clerical and Catholic parties of Western Europe, held in Sorrento (Italy) in the middle of April, is closely linked with the war preparations of American imperialists and their satellites.

It constitutes one of the many feverish measures of the warmongers to mobilise all forces of world reaction as a condition for the carrying out of their aggressive plans.

The Sorrento conference, in which the most reactionary representatives of Marshallised Europe took part, was described in Italy as a “Congress of the Black International”.

The agenda consisted of only one question: the tasks of the Christian-Democratic Parties in present-day Europe. As became clear at the conference, it would be more correct to speak of one task only—the struggle against Communism. Clerical newspapers and delegates to the meeting tried to present the aims of their conference as being varied and constructive in the social, economic and cultural spheres. In reality, the dominating note at Sorrento was: war against Communism the democratic forces, the forces of peace.

It is sufficient to read the concluding statement, approved by the delegates at the end of their work, to see this.

This resolution contains four points:

First: crusade against the land of Socialism and the People’s Democracies, as a part of foreign policy.

Second: “Defence against Bolshevism” is introduced within each individual state “by renovating European life through the co-ordination of relations between states, of their

internal structures and economic and social relations”.

Third: Catholic parties supporting the resolution “express their firm determination to fight against Bolshevism in agreement with all parties, movements and individuals of Christian-Democratic world outlook, etc., etc.”

Fourth: the demand is advanced that “all democratic countries” should be invited to the next conference, fascist Franco Spain and Bonn Germany being regarded as democratic countries.

Four points—four calls for war against Communism, and actually, against the democratic people’s movement, against the partisans of peace throughout the world. The resolution passed by the Christian-Democratic leaders and Ministers contains nothing else; it contains not a single word against the instigators of war, not a single word of condemnation of the insane armament drive, not a single word against the wild and criminal blackmail with atom and hydrogen bombs by the American imperialists, not a single word against the war hysteria and the attempts to revive fascism.

What a difference between this resolution and the appeal of the Permanent Peace Committee! The appeal of the Permanent Committee is a pean to life. Every word of it expresses the profound hopes and sentiments of hundreds of millions of people, of all people of good will, who want peace. “We demand the unconditional prohibition of the atomic weapon as a weapon of terror and of mass annihilation of people”. How completely human is this appeal addressed to all people of good will, compared with the war-cry of the leaders of certain parties which call themselves democratic and Christian!

The Sorrento conference signifies a further turn of the leaders of Catholic and clerical parties to fascism and war. Whereas at the first conference of the International Union of Christian-Democratic Parties, held in Fiugi in July 1948, they tried to appear as a “third force”, in Sorrento the delegates of

the Catholic parties openly showed their conservative and reactionary attitude in the political arena as competitors of the fascists. Taviani—"theoretician" of fascist corporatism and Secretary of the Italian Christian Democratic Party, serves the bourgeoisie much better than those "leaders" who openly declare themselves to be fascists.

Representatives of Catholic and clerical parties in Sorrento extolled the fact that the whole of Western Europe is run by them, and set themselves the concrete task of the totalitarian seizure of the state: "Today providence offers Catholics the chance to regenerate Christianity", said Taviani. "And certainly we will take advantage of it".

A characteristic indication of the means by which these clerical leaders intend to "regenerate Christianity" was the statement made in Sorrento by Hurdes, Austrian Minister of Education, who regretfully re-called medieval Europe, "when every king or prince was a minister of God", and cited examples of "Christian unity" in medieval Europe.

Let's leave these Utopian dreams to those who dream of regenerating Christianity by returning to the Middle Ages. Today it is ridiculous even to think of the possibility of turning back to the ancient times of the power of popes, when this power was "closely linked in its origin and structure to the feudal world".

It is quite clear that the present-day power of the Vatican is developing in new forms in each of the countries where, by its diplomatic activities and through Catholic parties, the Church has succeeded in influencing political life and in becoming a leading force.

"In this new plan", wrote Comrade Togliatti as far back as 1929, "not only the relations between the State and the Church acquire new forms, but the outlook and activities of the Church and of the Papacy become distinguished as forces fighting to defend the capitalist system either in the front ranks or in

reserve, now with one and now with another tactic, according to the circumstances and to the specific features of the international situation and also inside each country; sometimes donning a democratic mask and sometimes openly showing their reactionary countenance, but always quite conscious of their aim”.

In the report by Hurdes on “cultural” activities, the Christian Democrats openly expressed their intention: i.e., wherever they have succeeded in dominating governments, in monopolising all power, all organs of the State, all material and, ideological means of influence—police, press, cinema, radio, television, of control “aided by practical measures for the education of the people even in every small village.” At the Sorrento conference, the clericals were not concerned about some ideal or “spiritual” requirement. Exclusively earthly and thoroughly material interests of the Catholic parties, as government parties and of the Church as an earthly power, dominated the conference.

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The ideological chaos which characterised his conference emphasised again the general crisis of capitalist society and the inability of the Catholic Parties to solve the problems agitating mankind which is faced with the threat of a new war.

Comrade Togliatti declared very aptly at the recent Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Italy.

“As regards the conference of the Catholic and clerical parties in Sorrento, we have heard the representatives of the parties boasting that they administer the whole of Western Europe. Catholic Parties and Catholic movements now rule in Spain, Western Germany, Portugal, Italy, Austria and other countries in this part of the world. This is an undeniable fact. However I regard this fact, particularly today, as being

shameful for the Catholic Parties, because precisely in this part of the world there never has existed such general chaos, such profound contradiction, such acute and intolerable political contrasts as now. There never has existed, at least not in the present epoch, such chaos as now exists in Western Europe. When I speak of chaos I mean deliberate deception, slander which is artificially spread, unbridled and poisonous propaganda by governments and government parties, propaganda aimed at inculcating, hatred, at creating barriers between the peoples, to destroy European unity, to retard progress, to prevent mutual understanding between the peoples and to turn, them into savages who will devour and destroy one another.

“What explains this growing tragic chaos and disintegration of the so-called Western World? This is due to the fact that, today, the capitalist system exists artificially in this civilised part of the world, more so than in any other part of the globe since all the objective conditions for its demise have already matured, and a deep-going Socialist consciousness has also matured among masses of the working class. Had it not been for the intervention of reactionary forces from without, in order to bolster up the Franco regime, the regimes of de Gasperi and Salazar, the clerical regime in Austria, the Bidault regime in France, etc. the social position in Western Europe would now be entirely different from what it is...

“... The very fact that it has fallen to the lot of the Catholic Parties to be the last administrators of capitalist chaos and degeneration, sufficiently clearly characterises these parties, their ideology, their main social basis and the orientation of their leaders; it characterises these parties as political and social forces that are not only conservative, but reactionary, and which will stop at nothing to preserve this world of poverty and oppression which mankind is now called upon to destroy.”

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It may seem strange to some people that in the second half of the 20th Century, the leaders of the clerical and Catholic Parties and governments should convene a congress to lay the foundation for a Catholic international. Why this new organisation of the international of Catholic parties when for ages past there has been one—the Vatican?

The question was partially answered by de Gasperi himself who, in his Sorrento speech, revealed the Vatican's attempt to attain by means of a number of international measures greater unity of action of the Catholic Parties now in power in Western Europe in order to give the clerical regimes at least the appearance of being independent of the Vatican and American imperialism.

Actually this attempt may be regarded as having failed completely. If, in words, much was said about the “necessity for Catholic governments to be inspired by identity of principles”, every speech and resolution actually displayed ever greater servility, by the Catholic Parties towards the war policy of American imperialism and the more reactionary Catholic groups.

The “unity” of the Catholic and clerical parties now in power in various countries in Europe made no progress. While at the first conference of the International Union of the Christian Democratic Parties held in Fiugi in 1948, 12 countries were represented, the Sorrento conference was attended only by representatives from 7 countries. The Catholic Press shouted about 150 delegates representing 16 countries, but actually many of these delegates represented not their country but themselves.

The concluding resolution of the conference was signed by the Catholic Parties from only even states who more than

others, are tied hand and foot to the policy of the U.S. State Department and the Vatican. This resolution was not even approved by all the Catholic parties represented at the conference: for instance it was approved by the Netherlands People's Catholic Party but was rejected by the Netherlands Christian Union; it was signed by the Christian Democratic Union of Western Germany but failed to receive the approval of the Christian Social Union.

The conference at Sorrento signified one thing only—a step forward by the Catholic and clerical parties towards reaction and war. It signified the intention of the Catholic and clerical parties in certain countries in Western Europe to support till the end the forces of imperialism by completely lining up with the policy of war preparations pursued by Truman and his accomplices.

But despite all the machinations of the leaders of clerical parties, in the course of resolute struggle in defence of peace a powerful movement for united action is growing and extending the united front of Communist, Socialist and Catholic working people is growing daily.

We say to Catholic working people that we do not intend to encroach upon their religious convictions, but strive for unity with them in defence of the common cause—in defence of peace, national independence of our country, democratic liberties, the lives of our children and the security of our homes.

Inspired by the indefatigable struggle of Communists for unity, the working people and all democrats will multiply their efforts in the struggle for a stable and lasting peace; will close their ranks even more in order to foil the criminal plans of the imperialists.

“TIMES” IN A RAGE

It is incredible but true that the “Times”—the calm, imperturbable, “impartial”, respectable “Times”, if one may so describe it, was recently thrown into a fit of vulgar fury!

This fury was called forth by the French Communists, these “enemies of democracy” etc. etc...

In what way did the French Communists “offend” the “Times”—the mouthpiece of the City bankers; why this altogether formidable charge? The explanation is quite simple: the fact is that the French Communists are preventing the carrying out of the war plans of the Anglo-American imperialists! Had there been no French communists, writes the “Times”, it would have been possible “to overcome the military weakness of France and consequently of Western Europe with the help of American equipment”. In other words had the French working people and the working people of Italy Western Germany, Belgium, Holland, and Norway not waged the struggle—a matter the “Times” for some “strange” reason omits to mention—the aggressive war preparations against the Soviet Union and the People’s Democracies would have been greatly speeded up. It is easy to understand the inconsolable grief of the British imperialists for whom war is a means of prolonging their ruthless domination over hundreds of millions of colonial slaves.

The fury of the “Times” is candid acknowledgement of aggressive designs and at the same time a brazen display of imperialist interference in the affairs of another nation. Repealing the favourite slanderous allegations of the bourgeois press and saying that the French Communists take “orders from Moscow”, the “Times”, literally insists that the French Government “take stronger action against” the Communists. What brazenness!

The idea behind this statement in this bourgeois paper

which has overstepped itself is absolutely clear: following the example of the New York capitalists, the capitalists in London are demanding the banning of the French Communist Party. This “action” is part and parcel of the general plan of preparation for war elaborated by the “higher military authorities” and published in “Monde”—the organ of the French capitalists—a few days after the publication of the “Times” article. This plan envisages, besides the suppression of the Communist Party, the “immediate rearmament of Western Germany, the removal of French industrial enterprises to North Africa and the immediate formation of world Government, from which the European rulers will receive dollars, military equipment and orders”.

The “Times” speaks of the defence of democracy, but its “democracy” means complete freedom of action for the warmongers, the establishment of world dictatorship by Anglo-American monopolies, the forced departure of working people for work abroad as in the dark days of Hitler occupation.

But if American and British finance magnates can dictate to the capitalist rulers who have long ago abandoned every vestige of national dignity, they have no authority whatsoever over the feelings and will of the working people. The powerful Communist movement in France, of which the “Times” speaks (and not only in France!) involves the overwhelming majority of the common people in the struggle for national honour, for the restoration of national independence, to save the country from the horrors of atomic warfare and to save peace. The common people never have and never will submit to the dictate of the bloodthirsty bankers of the City and Wall Street.

J. SMITH

IN THE RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

SOCIALIST EMULATION IN AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATIVES

By May 1, the Rumanian People's Republic had 176 agricultural co-operatives organised on the model of Soviet collective-farms. Socialist emulation is spreading in these new producer co-operatives.

In April, six work-teams were drawn into Socialist emulation in the agricultural cooperative "June 11, 1948" (the Pechea village, Kovurluysk region). This co-operative finished its spring sowing three days ahead of schedule.

The visual methods of propaganda used by the Party group of the agricultural co-operative for popularising Socialist emulation have served to increase labour activity. Every morning the results of Socialist emulation for the previous day are recorded on a special board: the number of peasants at work and the number of work-day units performed. Socialist emulation between work-teams has lately spread to other agricultural co-operatives in the Rumanian People's Republic.

TRADE UNION AMATEUR THEATRICALS

The second competition of trade union theatrical groups, organised by the General Confederation of Labour in the Rumanian People's Republic in March-April, embraced 1,088 chorus and 1,092 dance groups with a total of 96,000 participants. The number of amateur theatrical groups and their membership has more than doubled in the course of the year.

The competition embraced amateur circles of all branches

of industry and all nationalities residing in the country. Much talent has been revealed among the people and new treasures of folklore. Besides Rumanian songs, the programme contained numerous songs in the languages of the nationalities inhabiting Rumania: Hungarian, German, Serbian, Ukrainian and Bulgarian. Many Soviet songs were sung in the Russian language.

Prizes were awarded to 24 chorus and to 21 folk dance groups. First prizes were awarded to the chorus of railway workers of Jassy, the steel workers of Resita, the Sibiu educational workers' union and others. The closing concert was attended by leaders of the Rumanian Workers' Party, member of the Government and 6,000 working people of Bucharest.

DEVELOPMENT OF NON-FERROUS METALLURGY

The Baja-Mare area is rich in copper, zinc and tin deposits. This area, recently economically backward, is being transformed into a thriving non-ferrous metallurgical centre.

A metallurgical plant has been built at Baja-Mare. All industry in this area has been united under a single leadership. Great work is under-way for prospecting minerals.

IN THE POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

EXTENSION OF INDUSTRIAL AND RAW MATERIALS BASE

The achievements of Polish national economy in 1949 and in the first quarter of 1950, alongside the rapid development of Socialist emulation, have created the possibility for bolder planning and accelerated economic development of the country. In view of this, the draft Six-Year Plan for the national economy is now being reconsidered. The amendments made to this draft provide for a greater supply of raw materials for the developing industry. The Plan foresees considerable increases in the output of iron ore, non-ferrous metals and especially copper. Natural gas will be used much more than previously. Drilling is being extended to increase oil output. An extension of the basis for the production of artificial fibre and the development of industrial crops is foreseen.

As a result of these amendments the Six-Year Plan for the machine-building industries and also in the light industry will be considerably increased.

CONFERENCE OF POLISH STAKHANOVITES

An All-Polish conference on the question of the speedy method of metal-cutting was held at the Stalin Engineering Works at Poznan. The conference was attended by 750 Stakhanovites skilled in this method of work, innovators and rationalisers of production, engineers, technicians and higher school professors.

This speedy method of metal processing initiated by

Comrade Matel, a turner of the Stalin Engineering Works in Poznan, has now been mastered by hundreds of metal workers in all the machine-building and metal processing enterprises in the country. The methods of work of the Soviet stakhanovites are being studied everywhere.

SUCCESSFUL REALISATION OF APRIL PLAN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The April plan of the second year of the Five-Year Plan has been fulfilled by 106.3 per cent in Czechoslovakia. This is the highest result achieved so far this year. The basis for the new success is the powerful Socialist emulation movement developed in connection with May Day and the fifth anniversary of the liberation of the Republic by the Soviet Army.

"SHEEP". Drawing by J. Novak

Fulfilling the will of its imperialist masters the fascist Tito clique denies completely the danger of the imperialists unleashing a new war.

(From the Press.)



POLITICAL NOTES

JUDAS ASKS FOR PAYMENT

A speech recently delivered by the fascist hangman Tito in the Yugoslav Skupshtina was hailed with joy by the entire capitalist and Right Socialist Press. In this speech Tito, alongside the usual vile attacks on the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, referred to the decision of the Yugoslav fascist Government to make every effort to extend friendly relations with capitalist countries, and particularly, referred to the decision to restore full diplomatic relations with the Greek monarcho-fascist Government, which was immediately carried out.

The fascist ring-leader Tito is falling over himself in trying to carry out the orders of Wall Street, to weaken the powerful front of peace and democracy. The Titoites try to defame and to belittle in every way the significance of the constantly growing international movement for peace, to lull the vigilance and to smash the unity of peace supporters, to help the American imperialists in realising their criminal war-plans. The Tito newspapers write that the campaign for signatures to the appeal of the Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress is not serious, that the appeal to prohibit the atomic weapon and to denounce as a war criminal that government which first uses it is vague, and so on. The Tito gang want to conceal from public opinion the feverish preparations of American imperialism and its satellites for a new aggressive war, and declares that the present-day capitalist system does not threaten mankind with war, because "capitalism has been consolidated." In an interview with the "Times" correspondent Tito openly declared that there were no reasons which could

give rise to war.

The Tito gang which seeks to carry out subversive activities in the People's Democracies and which organises constant provocations on their frontiers can hardly convince anybody that its desire to establish friendly relations with the reactionary Governments of Greece, Italy and Austria is dictated by the interests of peace and not by the interests of the Anglo-American imperialists who, with the hand of Tito, are preparing a new military springboard in the region of the Adriatic Sea and the Balkans. It is characteristic that the fascist Yugoslav Government hastened to restore diplomatic relations with the Greek monarcho-fascists. It entered into friendly relations with the Greek fascist Government just at the time when, in its appeal to world public opinion, the Greek Committee for the Abolition of Makronisos and for a General Amnesty in Greece vigorously denounced the monarcho-fascists who subject tens of thousands of Greek patriots to monstrous tortures and death.

No wonder that all capitalist and Right Socialist newspapers from the London "Times" and the American "New York Herald Tribune" to the Austrian "Neues Österreich" burst out warmly praising Tito and the Yugoslav foreign policy which, according to the reactionary Danish newspaper "Politiken", "has completely changed its course and relies on Western power and the neighbouring non-Communist countries".

A number of newspapers hint that Tito obviously is waiting for the reward for his loyal service to American imperialism. This aspect of Tito's speech was revealed by Alsop, the reactionary American journalist, for whom all doors in Belgrade, including that of Tito's study, are open. In his article in the "New York Herald Tribune", sent directly from Belgrade, Alsop writes that according to all signs, at the present time the Yugoslav Government urgently needs speedy

assistance and hard cash in order to prevent the harm arising from the failure of the Five-Year Plan and also from the substantial increased sacrifice by the broad masses.

Alsop even indicates the amount of this “aid”—150 million dollars annually for a period of five years, and at once explains that such expenditure will be justified because: Yugoslavia has thirty divisions and occupies an important strategic position. Moreover, says Alsop, Yugoslavia is good business which promises two dollars for every dollar invested.

It stands to reason that Alsop preferred not to tell the truth regarding the purposes for which American dollars are being spent and will be spent in Yugoslavia. But this is known. The greater part of American credits goes for equipping the Yugoslav army and for strengthening the terror of the Rankovic State apparatus. But no small share will be swallowed by Tito himself and those surrounding him.

And so, Judas has done all they wanted and will continue to do everything they want. Now he asks for the thirty pieces of silver for which he has sold his country beforehand.

JAN MAREK

FREEDOM FOR DENNIS!

Eugene Dennis, General Secretary of the U.S. Communist Party, has been thrown into prison. Handcuffs have been put on the leader of American Communists: American reaction has taken another step along the path of the fascisation of the United States, of whipping up the war hysteria.

What has Dennis been sentenced for? Because in a way worthy of a Communist, he defended his convictions, the interests of the working class, of all working people and the interests of peace throughout the world. Dennis openly and sharply exposed the instigators of a new war. He defended America against various adventurers who are driving the country to the precipice. Dennis is the best son and patriot of the America of Lincoln, of democratic America. The trial and imprisonment of Dennis show that the America of Truman and Dulles is activating its black crusade against the American people.

But the trial and imprisonment of Dennis are also proof of something else: of the weakness of American imperialism, its fear of its people, of the working people, its fear of the growing and consolidating working class movement. American imperialism openly gives up its traditional "democratic" forms and methods of maintaining its domination, regarding them as no longer sufficient in present conditions. Fascist methods, tried by Hitler and Mussolini, are put into operation. The fascisation of the United States threatens the American people with endless disasters. It is being carried out with the aim of preparing a new world war, with the aim of preparing a rear base for imperialism to unleash this war. That is why the struggle for the release of Dennis merges with the struggle against fascism in America, against the preparation for a new

war.

The American working class, the entire world democratic public, are raising their voices in defence of Dennis. Hands off Dennis!

Let the American imperialists know that it is impossible to destroy Communism, for to do so it would be necessary to destroy the working class, whose scientific ideology Communism is. The anti-Communist crusade in the U.S. is doomed to failure. The working people and the progressive forces throughout the world are deeply indignant at the arrest of Eugene Dennis. Dennis, the Communist, is invincible for he defends the vital interests of the American people, of all working people. Freedom for Dennis!

DIMITROV PRIZE AWARDS IN BULGARIA

In the middle of May the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria awarded the first Dimitrov prizes for achievements in science, invention, literature and art.

In science, 20 first prizes were awarded (each 400,000 leva), 19 second (each 200,000 leva) and 4 third (each 100,000 leva). The prize winners are eminent representatives of science and culture and a number of workers in agriculture who have cultivated new plant species. In the sphere of invention and rationalisation 6 first, 23 second and 9 third prizes were awarded. The winners include six engineers; the remainder are industrial and transport workers and workers in agricultural co-operatives (tractor drivers, stock breeders, etc.). Prizes have also been awarded to five youth teams in agricultural producer co-operatives for high crop yields. In the sphere of literature and art 25 first, 74 second and 16 third prizes were awarded.

One hundred and ninety six Dimitrov prizes were awarded altogether.

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