

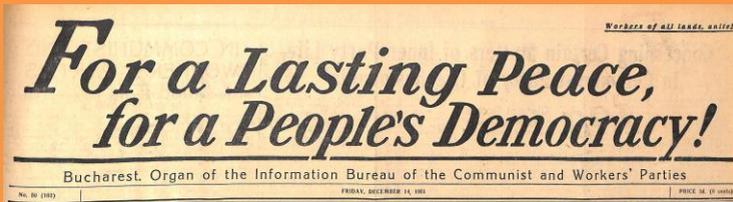
Workers of all lands, unite!

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

**Bucharest. Organ of the Information Bureau of
the Communist and Workers' Parties**



NO. 50 (162), FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1951



**Source: Journal "For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy",
No. 50 (162), Friday, December 14, 1951.**

Origin of language: English

Scanned, transcribed and prepared as an E-Book.

March 2022

**The Socialist Truth in Cyprus
London Bureaux**

**Direct Democracy (Communist
Party)**

<http://www.st-cyprus.co.uk>

www.directdemocracy4u.uk



CONTENTS

GREATER REVOLUTIONARY VIGILANCE—VITAL TASK OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES	5
INTENSIFY STRUGGLE TO PRESERVE PEACE, TO AVERT WAR!	11
MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES IN ITALY	11
FOR A UNITED, PEACE-LOVING GERMANY	12
NUMEROUS DELEGATIONS OF FRENCH PEACE SUPPORTERS VISIT UNO	13
PREPARATIONS FOR AMERICAN CONTINENTAL PEACE CONFERENCE	14
"PEACE WEEK" IN ALGERIA	15
DISCUSSING DECISIONS OF VIENNA SESSION OF WORLD PEACE COUNCIL IN BULGARIA	16
GROWING ACTIVITY OF INDIAN PEOPLE.....	16
SIGNATURE COLLECTION IN BELGIUM	17
AGGRESSIVE ACTION OF BRITISH IMPERIALISTS AGAINST EGYPTIAN PEOPLE	19
CONCERNING CERTAIN MATTERS OF INNER-PARTY LIFE IN COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. CLEMENT GOTTWALD, CHAIRMAN, COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.....	23
IN COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES	37
MEETING, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA.....	37
TOWN AND DISTRICT CONFERENCES OF POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY.....	38
SCHOOLS FOR SECRETARIES AND MEMBERS OF BRANCH COMMITTEES IN PARTY ORGANISATIONS IN RUMANIA.....	39
CONFERENCE OF BUDAPEST PARTY ORGANISATION	40
FROM PRESS OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES	42
STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND BONDS OF COMMUNISTS WITH MASSES ("A CLASSE OPERARIA", CENTRAL ORGAN, COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRAZIL).....	42
NEW PRICE REDUCTION IN GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.....	45

SUCCESS OF POLISH MINERS.....	46
STRUGGLE OF SPANISH PEOPLE	47
FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY FIGHTING FOR INTERESTS OF PEASANTS. JACQUES DUCLOS, SECRETARY, FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY	48
POLICY OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES—VITAL BASIS OF SYSTEM OF PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY. I. CHISINEVSCHI SECRETARY, CENTRAL COMMITTEE RUMANIAN WORKERS' PARTY	59
SOLIDARITY OF WORKING PEOPLE OF ITALY IN COMBATTING FLOODING AND INTRIGUES OF REACTION. GIAN CARLO PAJETTA, MEMBER, BOARD, ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY	73
POLITICAL NOTES.....	80
1. MR. LYTTTELTON'S SANGUINARY MISSION	80
2. SS NEW MASTERS	82
MASS ARREST OF ALGERIAN IN PARIS	85
STRIKE MOVEMENT IN JAPAN	87
STAY THE HAND OF BUTCHER FRANCO.....	88

GREATER REVOLUTIONARY VIGILANCE— VITAL TASK OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES

The Communist and Workers' Parties represent the future of their peoples. They fight for the fundamental interests of the working class and all working people; they express all that is new and progressive in the life of their peoples. In the People's Democracies, they are unswervingly taking the working people along the pathway of building Socialism. The policy of these Parties is the vital basis of the system of people's democracy. In the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries they are leading working people along the road of bold Struggle for their demands. The policy of the Communist Parties in these countries is the vital basis of the revolutionary struggle waged by the popular masses for their interests. Therein lies the great power of attraction exercised by the Communist Parties.

But the doomed capitalist world does not die of itself, does not give way without fierce struggle. The old world, the world of capitalism which has outlived its day offers frantic resistance to the new and progressive; above all, it fights might and main against the Communist Parties, seeing in them its mortal enemy which rallies, organises and inspires the masses in the struggle for the victory of peace, democracy and Socialism. Falsehoods and calumny, provocations and blackmail, dastardly assassination and legal terror—all are brought into play by the enemies of Socialism and democracy to undermine the influence wielded by the Communist Parties among the broad masses of the working people, to weaken their unity and militancy.

Planting spies and provocateurs is one of the most insidious means used by reaction, one of its basic methods in all kinds of attempts at disrupting the Communist and Workers' Parties. The history of the international Communist movement knows many facts of such provocation by enemies of the working class. Through their agents, the U.S.-British imperialists have tried more than once to smash the Communist and Workers' Parties of the People's Democracies from the inside, to behead them, place their trusties in the leadership of the Parties, and, in this way, to wrest these countries from the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, and to restore capitalist rule there.

The organisation by U.S.-British imperialism of the Tito fascist gang of assassins and spies was just such a subversive act against the people of Yugoslavia. The Tito fascist clique wrested Yugoslavia from the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, restored the capitalist order there and turned it into a colony of American imperialism. With the help of the same Tito gang and also by means of spies and provocateurs sent into the People's Democracies the British-U.S. imperialists hoped to do away with the people's democratic system in other countries of Central and South East Europe, to restore reactionary and fascist regimes there, and on the model of Yugoslavia, to convert these countries into their colonies. But these far-reaching imperialist plans were exposed and foiled. The resolution of the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers' Parties helped the People's Democracies to see, in good time, the danger threatening them, and laid bare before the whole world the ugly countenance and the fascist essence of the Tito clique. The assault forces of imperialist reaction in some countries of people's

democracy, headed by such traitors and enemies of their peoples as Kochi Xoxe, Rajk, Kostov and others, were smashed and annihilated.

The recent unmasking of Slansky, carrying out his dirty work in the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, was another heavy blow to the machinations of the Anglo-American imperialists. Having penetrated to responsible posts in the Party and state apparatus, Slansky planted direct agents of internal and external enemies of the Republic and did everything to weaken the militancy of the Communist Party, its unity, discipline and organisation.

The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia exposed Slansky in direct, active and leading participation in the anti-Party and anti-State conspiracy. The conspiracy had for its object the restoration of capitalism in Czechoslovakia, its subordination to the Western, and in the first instance, to the American imperialists, which, inevitably, would have resulted in Czechoslovakia losing her national and state independence.

The so-called Mutual Security Act bearing the signature of Truman, enacted and published recently in the U.S.A., envisages financial support for individuals and armed groups for the purpose of carrying out espionage, sabotage and subversive activities on the territory of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. This "law" is further proof of the aggressive policy American imperialism is now the main organiser of the struggle against Communism, against the countries of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism.

All this insistently confronts the Communist and Workers' Parties with the task of intensifying and enhancing vigilance in every possible way. Keen

revolutionary vigilance is the vital weapon of the Parties in their struggle for Socialism and democracy, for peace, and against the U.S.-British warmakers. Consistent and ruthless struggle against the criminal intrigues of the enemy agents, iron discipline, Bolshevik principledness and unflagging revolutionary determination will make all Communist and Workers' parties fortresses impregnable to imperialist agents.

We must not for a minute forget the counsel of V. I. Lenin and J. V. Stalin that so long as the camp of imperialism exists, it will keep on sending agents, spies and provocateurs into the Communist and Workers' Parties. "One of the most important tasks of the Communist and Workers' Parties", reads the Resolution of the Information Bureau, adopted at its meeting in November 1949, "is an all-round heightening of revolutionary vigilance in Party ranks, exposing and rooting out bourgeois-nationalist elements and agents of imperialism, "no matter under what flag they conceal themselves".

The Communist and Workers' Parties are learning the art of keen, genuinely revolutionary vigilance from the glorious Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Bolsheviks have always waged an irreconcilable struggle against opportunist, hostile elements in the Party and against liberalism and complacency which create favourable conditions for enemy manipulations. "The Party" points out Comrade Stalin, "is the leading detachment of the working class, its advanced fortress, its general staff. Sceptics opportunists, capitulators and traitors cannot be tolerated on the directing staff of the working class. If, while it is carrying on a life and death fight against the bourgeoisie, there are capitulators and traitors on its own staff, within its own fortress, the

working class will be caught between two fires, from the front and the rear. Clearly, such a struggle can only end in defeat. The easiest way to capture a fortress is from within, To attain victory, the Party of the working class, its directing staff, its advanced fortress, must first be purged of capitulators, deserters, scabs and traitors”.

The primary condition for heightening and consolidating revolutionary vigilance in the Communist and Workers’ Parties is to intensify ideological work, political education and Marxist-Leninist tempering of cadres. It is necessary to inculcate in every Communist an indispensable quality—ability to distinguish an enemy of the Party no matter how he is masked. Heightened consciousness on the part of every Party member, principledness and staunchness, ability to orientate himself in questions of international and internal life, knowledge of the tasks and aims of the Party’s struggle will help to promote revolutionary vigilance in the Party and strengthen Bolshevik discipline.

A vital condition for training Communists and whetting their revolutionary vigilance is well organised inner-Party work. The drawing in of Party members into active work for fulfilment of Party assignments, development of unrestricted criticism and self-criticism, regardless of individuals, no toleration in relation to shortcomings—all help to strengthen the Party, to purge it of alien, hostile elements.

The great source of strength of the Communist and Workers’ Parties is their unbreakable bonds with the masses, with the people. Without broad contact with the Masses, Without constantly strengthening these bonds, and lacking ability to give ear to the voice of the people, the Communist and Workers’ Parties would be

unable to head the popular movement for peace and the struggle against the imperialist aggressors. A party that loses contact with the masses becomes bureaucratic, a narrow sectarian group, incapable of expressing the interests of the working class or of waging selfless struggle for these interests. But the party that maintains close contact with the working people is invincible.

Heading the struggle of broad sections of the working people for peace, bread and freedom, the Communist and Workers' Parties are inculcating in the masses the greatest vigilance in relation to enemy machinations. Exposing before the people the perfidious intrigues and manipulations, forms and methods employed by the imperialists, directed against the working people, the Communist and Workers' Parties are fulfilling their historical duty.

Tirelessly developing their revolutionary vigilance, resolutely combating easy-going unconcern, complacency and short-sightedness, the Communist and Workers' Parties will attain still greater consolidation of their ranks, will be able to frustrate all machinations of the enemies of the Party and the working people and, everywhere, lead the peoples to victory over the black forces of imperialism.

INTENSIFY STRUGGLE TO PRESERVE PEACE, TO AVERT WAR!

Meetings and Conferences in Italy

The decisions adopted by the National Assembly for Peace and Disarmament, held recently in Rome, are being enthusiastically supported by all local peace committees.

Peace partisans in Ancona decided to hold a mass rally of representatives of all sections of the population and public organisations on December 30 to discuss the Assembly's decisions and to outline ways and means of realising them. Conferences and discussions on disarmament are being held in preparation for the rally. Two big conferences were held in Falconara and Sinigallia. On December 9, peace meetings were held in all communes of the Florence province under the slogan: "For rehabilitation of the flooded regions, against rearmament and war!"

At a mass rally organised by the Florence council of young peace supporters, young workers, peasants and students expressed their determination to continue the struggle until freedom is won for Malvezzi and Quercioli—young peace partisans jailed for active participation in the protest demonstrations against the meeting of the council of the Atlantic Alliance in Rome.

A meeting of women belonging to different political and religious beliefs, held in Palermo, discussed questions relating to the struggle for peace and in defence of children. Italy's first committee of women friends of peace was formed at this meeting.

For a United, Peace-Loving Germany

Increasingly broader masses of the population in Western Germany are entering the struggle for peace, for a united, democratic Germany.

To date, 12,000 workers and office employees of the Krupp Works have expressed support for the popular referendum. In Goch (Kleve region) one peace supporter got 1,482 people to express themselves against remilitarisation. In Hagen (Westphalia) another popular referendum activist went from house to house in his district exposing the pernicious policy of the Adenauer Government and calling on the people to participate in the referendum: 345 people unanimously expressed themselves against remilitarisation and for signing a peace treaty with Germany.

The popular feeling in Western Germany can be gauged from the following incident in Hamburg. When Lehr, Minister of Interior in® the Bonn puppet government tried to speak at a meeting, he was silenced by the cries: “Lehr, we will not take up arms!” The audience insisted on the minister leaving the hall and the commotion continued until he departed.

A women’s peace rally attended by 600 delegates from all parts of the North Rhine-Westphalia, was held in Oberhausen. A resolution adopted at this meeting reads: “We, women of North Rhine-Westphalia, which, because of its mineral resources is the heart of Germany, refuse to allow our territory to be turned into an arms foundry”.

Numerous Delegations of French Peace Supporters Visit UNO

Letters and resolutions from peace committees, trade unions and other democratic organisations and municipalities are pouring into Uno from all over France. These letters and resolutions urge an end to the war in Korea and Indo-China; effective disarmament, a Peace Pact among the five Great Powers, and approval for the peace proposals of the Soviet Union.

The Palais Chaillot where the sixth session of the Uno General Assembly is being held, has been visited by numerous widely representative deputations which handed in the resolutions. Resolutions were submitted by a deputation from the Seine: Department on behalf of the 2,271,000 men and women (48.8 per cent of the population) in the Department who signed the World Peace Council's Appeal; by a deputation from Marseilles peace partisans; from the peace congress held in the Isere Department, and by deputations from many other Department peace congresses and local conferences, Representatives of the leadership of the Union of French Women called at the French Foreign Ministry to declare of the resolve of French mothers not to give their sons and daughters to the warmongers.

The local peace conferences and Department congresses now being held throughout France testify to a considerable extension of the peace movement, Seventeen Department congresses were held on December 9; another 50 will be convened next Sunday. The Department congresses are preceded by dozens of local conferences and thousands of discussions with people of different political views taking part.

In Epernay where 70 per cent of the population signed the Peace Pact Appeal, the Gaullist Mayor attended the manifestation at the Memorial to the Fallen, which preceded the peace conference in the town.

In Calais, the municipality which consists of Communists, Progressives, Socialists, Christians and de Gaullists unanimously adopted a resolution demanding free trade between East and West. The Chamber of Commerce in the Aude Department is conducting preparations for an economic conference favouring restoration of trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

Preparations for American Continental Peace Conference

The call for convening an all-America Peace Conference issued by 100 prominent public figures and clergymen, recently published in all the countries of the American continent, met with a wide response among different strata of the population in these countries. More and more organisations, political, public, student and others are voicing support for the Conference. Rallies and meetings sponsored by different organisations are taking place in many countries, at which delegates are being elected to the Conference.

In Peru at a well-attended meeting in San Marco University (the oldest in the Western Hemisphere) presided over by Dr. Etnilio Valverde, Dean of the Law School, the Continental Conference call was read and enthusiastically applauded. The National Committee of

the “Peruvian Youth for Peace” is raising funds to send delegates.

In Colombia, in addition to the “National Committee of Peace Partisans” and affiliated local committees, delegates are being sent by the “Association of Democratic Lawyers”, the “Left Liberal Movement” and the “Confederation of Catholic Workers”.

The “Students Federation of Panama” has formed a Committee for the double purpose of organising a national peace committee and for sending a delegation to the Conference. The “Federation of Panama Workers” and other organisations have also formed Conference sponsoring committees.

Supporters of the Conference in the U.S. number many prominent public figures and clergymen, including Dr. L. Porter of the Congregational Church and former missionary in China; Maurice Travis, Secretary-Treasurer of the “International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers”; Prof. R. M. Lovett, former Governor of the Virgin Islands; Hugh Bryson, President of the “Marine Cooks and Stewards Union”; Dr. Clementina Paoline, Chairman of the “American Women for Peace”; and Thomas Richardson, co-ordinator of the “American Peace Crusade”.

“Peace Week” in Algeria

A highly successful “peace week” was held in Algeria between November 18 and 25. It was organised by the Algerian committee for preparing the peace conference of the countries of the Near and Middle East and North Africa to be held in Cairo.

Many public meetings were held, including meetings of Moslem and European women.

In the course of the peace week, tens of thousands additional signatures for a Peace Pact were collected: Total signatures obtained in Algeria surpass the 170,000 mark. In Bone and other towns, new preparatory committees for the Cairo conference have been formed.

Discussing Decisions of Vienna Session of World Peace Council in Bulgaria

Peace committees in Bulgaria are developing widespread activity to popularise the decisions of the Vienna session of the World Peace Council. Mass meetings are held in villages, towns, agricultural co-operatives, and in factories. In Sofia, Tyrnovo, Blagoyevgrad, Plovdiv, Kolarovgrad, Pleven and Rusa, plenary meetings of regional peace committees were held. At these meetings reports were delivered on the decisions of the Vienna session of the World Peace Council, and measures discussed for further intensifying the fight for peace.

Growing Activity of Indian People

At a meeting in Bombay during the second half of November, the Bureau of the all-India Peace Council discussed the tasks of peace supporters in India. Romesh Chandra, member of the Secretariat of the Peace Council, spoke of the successes achieved by Indian

peace supporters and stressed that their basic task was the further development of a mass peace movement.

In connection with the forthcoming general election in India the all-India Peace Council has called on all political parties to make struggle for peace the key slogan of their election programme.

To date, about 1½ million people in India have signed the Appeal of the World Peace Council.

Two hundred delegates attended the first peace conference in Andhra province. Speakers included Prof. Kosambi, vice-President of the all-India Peace Council and Harindranath Chattopadhyaya, well-known Indian poet, who recently visited the Soviet Union. Chattopadhyaya told the conference about the unswerving will of the Soviet people for peace. The best signature collectors were rewarded. Among those who qualified was the clergyman, R. Prakasam, who collected 4,500 signatures and organised 9 peasant committees.

The conference adopted a number of resolutions: about extending the campaign for a Peace Pact among the five Great Powers, a resolution denouncing the interference of Anglo-American ruling circles in Kashmir, the repressive measures of the Indian Government against the peace movement, and a resolution denouncing British aggression in Egypt.

Signature Collection in Belgium

More than 406,000 signatures have been collected in Belgium to the World Peace Council's Appeal. The signature campaign is being conducted with particular vigour in the Hainaut and Liege provinces. Thirty

municipal councils, which include Communists, Liberals, Socialists and Catholics, unanimously expressed themselves for a Peace Pact.

AGGRESSIVE ACTION OF BRITISH IMPERIALISTS AGAINST EGYPTIAN PEOPLE

The British military authorities are staging more and more provocations in the Suez Canal zone. General Erskine, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in Egypt, is extending the scale of his "operations".

The British army is conducting "manoeuvres" on Egyptian territory with the participation of tanks, artillery and aircraft. Unceremoniously announcing this fact, British generals have prohibited Egyptians from using the highways leading to Suez. On the pretext of road construction, British troops are demolishing houses. Tanks, adventurous machine-guns and field artillery are turned against unarmed citizens. Encouraged by their commanders, British soldiers maltreat aged folk, women and children. Taking possession of Red Cross stations they deny first aid to wounded Egyptian citizens, In its note of December 6, the Egyptian Government stated that British troops were using dum-dum bullets, banned by the international convention along with poison-weapons. British residents in the Suez Canal zone fire from windows and balconies at Egyptians appearing in the street. Egyptians are evicted from their homes. Abdullah esh-Shami, chairman of the Seamen's Trade Union, was taken to the desert by British soldiers and abandoned.

Between October 16 and December 5 alone, 117 people were killed and 438 wounded. The dead included

four women and five children, the wounded—eight women and one child.

These unparalleled brazen acts are perpetrated by British imperialists on the territory of an independent State, the representatives of which sit in Uno alongside British representatives.

In their criminal designs of preparing a new world war, the U.S.-British imperialists reserve for Egypt, just as for the other countries of the Near and Middle East, the fate of not only a war base, but also of a reservoir of “manpower”. Without the knowledge or consent of the peoples and’ governments of these countries they announced the establishment of a “Middle East Command” with the intention of subjecting them to military occupation.

The peoples of the Near and Middle East are familiar with the demagogic methods of the colonisers and will not be deceived by twaddle about “defence of the Middle East”. The struggle for expelling the foreign occupationists from Egypt is rallying the progressive forces of the country into a united front. Armed detachments are being formed to rebuff the invaders. Egyptian workers are refusing to work for the British, Egyptian traders are stopping all dealings with them, Dockers in Suez, for example, declared that they would “abstain from all work until the British armed forces are completely withdrawn from the Suez Canal zone”. A few days ago 2,500 workers employed in state enterprises in Cairo held a meeting and protest demonstration. In the Cairo University 2,000 students from different colleges demanded resolute measures against the British aggressors. Speakers at this rally included representatives of different parties and organisations, trade unions and the women’s resistance

movement. In the Sudan the movement for unity with Egypt and for expelling the British is gaining momentum; in Khartoum strikes have taken place. According to press reports, the Egyptian Government has decided to recall its diplomatic representative from London.

Various parties and organisations in other countries of the Near and Middle East are expressing sympathy with the struggle of the Egyptian people. Thus, at its annual congress, even the extreme Right-wing Nationalist Party of Iraq declared support for the "Middle East Command" project as "outright interference in the internal affairs of Iraq". Iranian public opinion brands the plans of the imperialists as just another manipulation, endangering the national sovereignty of the peoples of the East". The Government of Iran resolved to recognise Farouk as King of Egypt and Sudan. Recently, a rally of ten thousand workers, office employees and students held near Karachi, Pakistan, expressed support for the Egyptian people. Solidarity demonstrations with Egypt were held in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Trans-Jordan and North Africa. It is a noteworthy fact that the British authorities have been forced to withdraw workers brought by them to the Suez Canal zone to replace Egyptians since some of them "are causing disorder".

The struggle of the peoples of Egypt and other countries for the withdrawal of foreign troops, against the creation of strategic bases on their territories, against the attempts to force the aggressive pact on them, is meeting with warm sympathy and support from all peace-loving peoples.

Imperialism, brazenly resorting to force and threats, seeks to strangle the national liberation movement of

the peoples in the Near and Middle East. Bloody provocations in Egypt, economic blockade of Iran, political assassination—such are the means used by the imperialists to maintain their domination. The animal struggle between the antagonistic British and American colonisers does not prevent them from taking common action when it is a matter of crushing the national liberation movement. Small wonder, then, that Henderson, U.S. Ambassador in Teheran, for instance, officially counteracted any attempt at contact between Egypt and Iran. However, by their actions the U.S. and British imperialists completely expose themselves in the eyes of the peoples of the Near and Middle East who are fully resolved not to be intimidated or duped.

CONCERNING CERTAIN MATTERS OF INNER-PARTY LIFE IN COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA*. Clement Gottwald, Chairman, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia

The meeting of the Central Committee of our Party held exactly three months ago, on September 6, in addition to other matters, considered the case of Rudolf Slansky.

As a result, Rudolf Slansky was relieved of his functions as General Secretary of the Party. This was done because Slansky had not justified himself in this post, because he was unfit for the job. This was done because during Slansky's term of office as General Secretary of the Party, a comparatively large number of direct agents of the internal and foreign enemies of the Party and Republic penetrated into different leading bodies of the Party and the State. This was done because during Slansky's term of office as General Secretaryship both his incorrect policy in relation to cadres and in organisational matters, and his incorrect methods of work led to a weakening of Party militancy, to violation of its unity, and to the danger of forming a second leading centre, thus giving rise to objective conditions favouring undermining and conspiratorial work by direct enemies of the Party and the State.

Nevertheless, three months ago we had no evidence whatever incriminating Rudolf Slansky **himself** as a

* From Comrade C. Gottwald's report to meeting of Central Committee, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia on December 6.

direct enemy of the Party and the State. And so we saw in his work only a number of shortcomings and mistakes in the sphere of cadres, in organisational matters and in methods of work, a number of grave and serious shortcomings and mistakes, **but without malice, direct, anti-Party and anti-State intention.** Starting from this estimate of Slansky's work, and, I repeat, at that time we had no grounds for any other estimate, the Central Committee of the Party reached the conclusion that Slansky could no longer function as General Secretary of the Party and relieved him of his duties. At the same time, however, the Central Committee was reluctant to give up, and could not give up Slansky for lost and deemed it necessary to give him other work, to give him the opportunity of proving that he had learnt from his previous mistakes and that he had drawn the correct conclusions for his new post. Thus there arose the second part of the Central Committee's decision in relation to Slansky, that is, his transfer to Government work.

That was how matters stood on September 6. What developments have occurred since then? What additional evidence has come into our possession?

First of all we saw that, in his new post, Slansky acted not as he undertook to do at the September meeting of the Central Committee. He carried out his duties perfunctorily, used the same unsatisfactory methods of work in his new post, mustered his clique of associates and tried to smuggle them into his new office and to form among them a special centre in the Office of the Presidium of the Government, behind the back of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. Further investigation of the activities of the different, previously exposed conspiratorial groups and of all the

circumstances connected with them, brought to light new, previously unknown facts. The new facts revealed Slansky's complicity as a direct, active, and, it can be said, leading participant in the anti-Party and anti-state conspiracy, the unmasking and smashing of which began a year ago with the arrest of the traitor and spy, Sling. To this must be added a new and highly important circumstance which, it can be said, from another side, completed the picture of Slansky's real role, namely, we came into possession of irrefutable proof that the espionage organs of the Western imperialists were preparing Rudolf Slansky's flight to the West. All this resulted in Slansky being immediately removed from his post in the Government and put under arrest, pending trial.

And so, at the moment, the investigation in Slansky's case is being conducted on the basis of new data. It is obvious that at this stage the details of the investigation cannot be made public. However, great help could be tendered by those members and leading Party functionaries who were closely acquainted with Slansky. They can and must help in the case by submitting to the Central Committee concrete data on the former activities of Slansky.

It will also be expedient if we, at this meeting of the Central Committee, look back over the past from the standpoint of the new facts of which we were unaware in September. It is now quite clear that the chain of treachery extends from Sling, Svermova, Clementis and other traitors to Slansky. The **class nature and final aims** of this treachery were gone into in detail at the February meeting of the Central Committee. We established that the anti-Party and anti-State traitors and conspirators were agents of the class

enemy, agents of internal and external reaction. Already at that time it was, proved that the final aim of the traitors and conspirators was restoration of capitalism in Czechoslovakia and making Czechoslovakia dependent on the Western, and in the first instance, on the American imperialists, the result of which would be another Munich and loss of national and State independence. And this was not an empty declaration, for all the traitors and conspirators exposed at that time were found guilty of these evil designs, and, finally, under the weight of evidence, confessed their guilt. The Slansky exposure confirms and proves once again just how serious was the danger hanging over the Party, the State and the people.

At the February meeting of the Central Committee it was stressed that Czechoslovakia was no exception; that the American imperialists through their agents were seeking to reach the same goal in all the countries of the people's democracy, a goal they themselves revealed by adopting the law appropriating 100 million dollars for the organisation of subversive and conspiratorial activities in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. We pointed to terrible example of Yugoslavia where the American gangsters succeeded in their evil deed, whereas, in other countries their criminal agents were unmasked and rendered harmless. At that time we declared that, by unmasking the anti-Party and anti-State conspiracy, a telling blow had been struck in our country too, at the plans of the American imperialists. Now, with the unmasking and arrest of Slansky, this blow becomes even more telling.

We stressed that even after the overthrow of the rule of the bourgeoisie in one or another country, attempts by the class enemy to plant and recruit agents

in the ranks of the victorious revolutionary party do not cease, but, without any doubt whatever, are intensified. This goes particularly for U.S. imperialism engaged in preparing another world war, and for which the recruiting of agents in the ranks of the ruling Communist Party is part of the war preparation. The example of Slansky, traitor and enemy agent, is further confirmation of this.

But at the February meeting of the Central Committee it was also said clearly and unequivocally to all whom it concerned:

“Not a single agent or traitor has gained anything on our soil, and never will. The turn of every one of these scoundrels will come, and every one of them will be overtaken by just punishment. Czechoslovakia will not be a second Yugoslavia!”

I think that, as the Slansky example shows, we did not throw words to the wind. I think also that what was said by us in February can be repeated again today!

The news of the unmasking and arrest of Slansky was received by the Party and by non-Party public opinion with complete approval. Since publication of this news, hundreds of resolutions adopted by Party organisations, factory and office personnel and rural inhabitants have been pouring into the Central Committee daily from all parts of the Republic, expressing approval. In many cases, the approval of the measures taken is immediately supplemented with labour obligations by people of town and village as a reply to the machinations of the enemies of the Republic. All honest Party members felt together with us that somewhere a “toad was still squatting at the well”, and, together with us, they believe that now we have succeeded in getting hold of it. The Slansky example shows more

convincingly than anything else. that the Party and its leadership hold responsible each one—no matter who he is and how high his post—the very moment it is found out that the individual in question has betrayed his duties and the confidence reposed in him. Yes, our working people in town and countryside see once again that it is possible to rely wholly and completely on the Communist Party, that individuals may betray but the Party remains and will ever remain true to its mission.

In the enemy camp the news of the unmasking and arrest of Slansky gave rise to alarm and confusion. The foreign masters of our internal traitors clearly realise the trump card that has been knocked out of their hands. Naturally, they cannot admit this openly, and so they try to make the water dirtier. Their mouthpieces pour out torrents of false and provocative “information” and speculation: Incidentally, they try to impute that after the Slansky affair no-one in Czechoslovakia is Sure of his fate. You are wrong, gentlemen! In Czechoslovakia every honest man, every honest citizen is absolutely sure of his fate and his future. Those who are not sure, and who dread the morrow, are your hirelings and your agents. For them, certainly, the Slansky case is a serious warning.

For the moment that is all in regard to the case of Rudolf Slansky directly.

At the same time, however, the Central Committee must draw the attention of the entire Party, of all its organisations, functionaries and members to certain questions and tasks which confront us in this connection.

It would be a mistake to think that the struggle against the enemy agency which has built a nest for itself both inside and outside the Party ends with the

arrest of Slansky and those of his accomplices unmasked to date. We know from experience that the enemy does not relinquish his positions without struggle. We also know from experience that the enemy tries his hardest to regain the lost positions. This means that the struggle against the enemy elements inside and outside the Party is not a single act, it is a constant and daily task. But in waging this daily struggle against the enemy agency, we must be careful to avoid at least two harmful errors and extremes. Above all, we must not begin to suspect everyone. Even when suspicion arises we must not act rashly and thoughtlessly, but soundly and wisely, and make sure that we do not uproot the wheat with the weed. On the other hand, we must not lament and get into a dither when a weed is discovered and plucked out, no matter how thickly sown and tall. By getting rid of the weed we benefit the wheat. The same applies to the Party. The Party becomes stronger if, regularly and indefatigably, it purges itself of alien and enemy elements, if it does not hesitate to lance at the moment of discovery the evil and malignant tumour, no matter how deeply embedded in the tissues of its body. Simultaneously with steady and systematic destruction of the enemy agency, the damage caused to the Party and State must also be made good systematically. One cannot but admit that this damage is considerable, that it has affected different spheres of Party and State life. I would like to refer directly to a few of these.

It is known—to us and to our enemies—that the revolutionary party, the Communist Party is the decisive factor. This thesis holds true not only for the period struggle for the overthrow of bourgeois rule but in similar, if not in even greater measure, for the period

following the overthrow of bourgeois rule, for the period of consolidating the victory won over the bourgeoisie, for the period of reconstructing the entire society, for the period of building Socialism, Lenin and Stalin have repeatedly pointed out that, the significance of the vanguard of the working class in this second period not only does not diminish, but, on the contrary, grows. And this explains the special “interest” displayed by the class enemy in our Party precisely in this second period. From this also follows the precise and special tasks in this direction which the enemy gives to his agency inside the Communist Party. True, these tasks are most diverse but I think they can be summed up in one general formula: the enemy and his agents seek, above all, **to undermine the fighting capacity and power of attraction wielded by the Party** as a prerequisite for going ahead with their black designs.

How, in our conditions, can the fighting capacity and power of attraction of the Party be undermined? This can be done, first of all, by violating its ideological and political unity, its loyalty to the Lenin-Stalin teaching, to the Soviet Union and to our Comrade Stalin. And one cannot but see that despite differences in origin and despite all the secondary contradictions between them, the traitors and conspirators of all hues and shades were unanimous on this point. To eradicate, uproot and root out constantly all sprouts of this poisonous pent wherever it appears—such is the duty of the Party and of each of its members. The militancy and power of attraction of the Party can be undermined by violating its organisational-political unity. At the previous meeting of the Central Committee it was stated that the danger of establishing a second leading centre in the Party had arisen due to the work of

Slansky and his accomplices. With the aim of liquidating this danger we took the first step: Slansky was removed from the post of General Secretary of the Party. The second step was his removal from the Government and his arrest. I think these measures will but strengthen the organisational-political unity of the Party and enable it to rally still closer round the Central Committee. The response of the Party to the Slansky case is convincing proof of this.

The Communist Party is, from top to bottom and from bottom to top, a monolithic unit. This determines its militancy and attractive power. Consequently, there can be no disagreement between those Party members who, by profession, are functionaries working in the Party apparatus, and Party members working in other spheres of public life. But, in particular, there cannot be any counterpoising of the apparatus of the Party to the branches and membership. The Lenin-Stalin Bolshevik principle of democratic centralism serves for us as a reliable guiding star, indicating how to build the Party and how to establish mutual relations between its various bodies and all its sections. There can be no doubt that under the leadership of Slansky and his accomplices these Bolshevik principles were crudely violated. At present order is being established in this respect. We, in fact, have effected a reorganisation in relation to the personnel of the apparatus of the Central Committee and are also reorganising the apparatus of regional and district Party committees. It is essential, however, that this new organisation be imbued with the corresponding spirit, that all comrades working in this sector should not just understand but act, fulfilling to the letter the tasks outlined by the elected bodies of the Party, and, especially, take care

that all the members of the branches are brought into the work of fulfilling and realising these tasks.

The aforementioned is closely connected with the question of the political activity of our branches—in factories, villages, offices and in the different organisations—that is, wherever there are branches, Our comrades, and the functionaries (Party workers.—Ed.) in the first place, must realise that their branch, at the place where it functions, represents the Party which is the ruling Party in the State, and, at the same time, is responsible before the entire people, the State and the nation. For this reason nothing, literally nothing that interests and moves our people, should go unnoticed or escape their attention. And clearly, there is not a single question to which we cannot supply the answer for the broad masses, just as we did in the past, excluding, of course, questions of a provocative and espionage nature posed at times directly or indirectly by enemy agents.

In general, all honest comrades in, our Party, all the branch organisations, must clearly understand that we are not living in a vacuum, that we are surrounded by brutal, sworn and mortal enemies who disdain no means in seeking to restore the capitalist “paradise” and its inevitable concomitant—hell for the proletarians. Our enemies are those whom our people have deprived of power, and, to a considerable extent, of their plundered property. And, as is known, this section of the more rabid bourgeoisie will resort to any foulness, to any crime, in order to plunge a knife into the back of the victorious working people, in order again to put the yoke on their neck, These are people for whom nothing is sacred but their former power and property, who are ready to barter the Republic, the country and the people to anyone, if only he helps to restore them their

former lucrative positions. These and others like them, jointly, and on orders from their foreign masters, making use of different Supporters in our country, spare no effort in trying to drive a wedge between the Party and the masses, between the Government and the people. Counteracting all these and similar attempts on the part of the home and foreign enemy is one of the most important duties of the branch organisations, of every functionary and every member of the Party.

One of the chief weapons, or rather the chief weapon used by the class enemy in undermining the militancy and power of attraction of the Party is that of sowing mistrust between the members and the leadership of the Party and of violating Party discipline.

The enemy is well aware that mutual confidence of all sections of the Party from top to bottom and from the bottom to the top is necessary for the active work and militancy of the Communist Party. The enemy is well aware that the Lenin-Stalin principle of democratic centralism in building the Communist Party ensures this harmony. It is not surprising, therefore, that all enemy agents always and at every step combated this principle. This should serve as a lesson and warning for all of us, since everything the enemy desires is bad. What must we do? The leadership of the Party, applying the teaching of Lenin-Stalin to our concrete conditions and always mindful of the final goal of building Socialism in our country, should, in defining tactics, give attentive ear to the voice not only of Party organisations and Party members but also to the broad masses of town and countryside. In so doing, the approach of the Party leadership must, of course, be critical, it must be able to distinguish which views are progressive and which—influenced by past and present

enemy whispering—are reactionary. The leadership of the Party must give a ready ear to progressive views and must administer a fitting rebuff and crush reactionary views. In a word, in all their decisions the leading bodies of the Party must be guided by the rule: think well before you act.

Naturally, given the best will and ability on the part of the Party leadership, one cannot expect that its decisions will always be to “the taste” of all members. Nor can it be demanded, particularly just now, that all Party decisions be given wide publicity prematurely. In many instances this would only serve the purpose of our enemies. It follows that the Party leadership is frequently obliged to adopt decisions of which the Party organisations and Party members can only later be informed.

Can it be asserted in such cases that the Party leadership is violating the principle of inner-Party democracy?

Certainly not! The precise purpose of leadership is, always and in all circumstances, to lead the Party and adopt the necessary decisions. All this is perfectly clear to the older Party members who, under capitalism, experienced semi-legal and illegal periods. It is necessary to make this clear to all organisations, to all functionaries and members of the Party. A Communist is not one who has a blind faith. If he possesses a healthy class instinct, and if, in addition, he is armed with the knowledge of the fundamentals of the Lenin-Stalin teaching and possesses the minimum ability to apply this teaching in a given situation and given conditions, and, finally, if he has before him Party leaders, tempered in the struggle for the overthrow of bourgeois rule and for the conquest of power by the working class,

such a Party member will always, unhesitatingly, uphold and fulfil the decisions of the leading Party bodies, even in those cases when these bodies are not in a position to consult with him beforehand concerning their decisions.

The question of Party discipline is closely linked with the question, I should say, of the **state** discipline of our comrades—organisations, functionaries and members of the Party. The people's democratic republic has considerably decentralised state administration. It has allotted to local, district and regional administrative state bodies vast and unprecedented authority. Authority, however, is closely linked to corresponding responsibility, and from this stems what I have already referred to as **state** discipline.

The same applies to our organisations— economic, trading and financial, to agricultural co-operatives, state offices, cultural establishments, the health services, research institutes, to art, and, in a word, to all sectors of our social life.

What is meant by this?

The point is that certain responsible persons in our state, economic and other organisations seem to think that laws, orders and directives issuing from higher levels do not concern them. It is impossible not to see that these and similar trotskyite-anarchist tendencies were and are still being channelled into our social life by direct enemy agents. All the more, and the quicker the better, should all whom it may concern realise that the people's democratic State and its government can no longer tolerate violation of state discipline by anyone in our social life. In our republic laws are written for all!

From this tribune I address **all** organisations, all functionaries and members of the Party: Comrades!

Having discarded and rejected the mercenary traitors, irrespective of the high posts and rank that shielded them, rally solidly and closely round the Central Committee of your own Communist Party! March in serried ranks into the new struggle for fulfilment of our great constructive undertakings! Let us Pledge each other that, despite all difficulties, despite all the resistance of the enemies, and, with the help of all people of good will, we will transform our republic into a happy homeland for the working people of town and countryside! Beneath the banner of Lenin-Stalin and led by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia we triumphed in February 1948. Beneath the banner of Lenin- Stalin and led by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia we shall crown the February victory by building Socialism in our country!

IN COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES

MEETING, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia held on December 6, was attended by all the Communist members of the Government, all chairmen and first secretaries of regional committees of the Party and heads of departments of the Central Committee.

The report was delivered by Clement Gottwald, Chairman of the Party.

Clement Gottwald informed the meeting of Rudolf Slansky's treachery, of his role in the anti-Party and anti-State conspiracy. The twenty-two members who spoke in the discussion denounced Slansky's treachery.

The Central Committee unanimously approved the measures taken in relation to Slansky, who proved to be the leader of the conspiracy inside the Party and who deliberately fostered the subversive activities of the different hostile criminal groups. The Central Committee unanimously resolved to relieve Rudolf Slansky of all posts held by him in the Party and to expel him from the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

The Central Committee unanimously decided to replenish the membership of the Presidium and to enlarge the political Secretariat of the Party.

The meeting unanimously elected a new Party Control Commission.

TOWN AND DISTRICT CONFERENCES OF POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY

For the second month now, town and district reporting-back and election conferences have been taking place in the Polish United Workers' Party.

The conferences were preceded by branch meetings. Party organisations in the rural areas discussed mainly questions of mass political and organisational work in keeping with the struggle for realising the slate plans for grain and potato purchase, for contracts and tax collection. Urban organisations focused attention on mass political and organisational work designed to secure successful realisation of production plans. All Party organisations devoted close attention to the struggle for purity of the Party ranks.

Most of the reports submitted by the town and district committees critically analysed the work of the committees and of the local organisations. The main speakers and those taking part in the discussion analyse, more profoundly than was the case at last year's meetings, the work carried out, showing concretely how the Party organisations fought for realisation of the Party line, and generalise the experience of those organisations and individual members with outstanding political and economic successes to their credit. The discussion is distinguished by greater liveliness—far more people taking part than was the case last year. Delegates boldly criticise the work of the district and town committees, and the work of the instructors. Close attention is devoted to the consumer co-operatives the work of which frequently comes under severe criticism. Delegates from the rural organisations of the Party

relate successes and shortcomings in the work of the area committees and branches. Much consideration is given to questions affecting youth education and guidance by the Party of the work of the Union of Polish Youth.

The conferences help to heighten the militancy of the Party organisations, to improve the style of work of Party bodies and rally the members for fulfilment of economic, political and inner-Party tasks arising from the intensified struggle for peace and realisation of the Six-Year Plan.

SCHOOLS FOR SECRETARIES AND MEMBERS OF BRANCH COMMITTEES IN PARTY ORGANISATIONS IN RUMANIA

During the current study year the 49 three-month schools of the Rumanian Workers' Party will be attended by 9,715 branch secretaries. The 2,377 secretaries of factory branches who completed the school early in December have now resumed work. The second contingent of students will be enrolled from secretaries of branches in the socialist sector of agriculture.

In addition, 11,400 secretaries and bureau members of the rural branches will undergo training at monthly courses during the winter period.

The 3-10 days seminars held for leading workers in the branches proved successful. These seminars discussed the tasks of Party branches in the struggle for peace and Socialism, questions of mass political work,

allocation of Party assignments and verification of their fulfilment.

CONFERENCE OF BUDAPEST PARTY ORGANISATION

A conference of the Budapest organisation of the Hungarian Working People's Party, held on December 8-9, discussed a report submitted by the secretary of the Budapest Party Committee. The speaker noted the successes achieved by the working people of the capital in their struggle for peace and for laying the foundations of Socialism. A total of 1,359,00 Budapest citizens signed the Appeal for a Peace Pact. Industry in the city fulfilled the nine months plan for 1951 by 100.7 per cent—output in the third quarter exceeded that of the previous quarter by 8.5 per cent. The vast majority of working people in the capital are participating in socialist emulation.

The speaker dwelt at length on the work of the Budapest Party organisations. He pointed out that the recently elected committees had invigorated the work of the members. The Party education network embraces far more members and probationers than last year. The social composition of the Party committees and Party organisations has improved. Simultaneously, the report points to shortcomings in the mass agitation of the Party organisations and in their assistance to the mass organisations of the working people.

Delegates took an active part in the discussion which followed the report. Altogether 29 delegates spoke. They noted shortcomings in the work of the branch

organisations in Budapest and of the City Party committee.

The conference elected a new City Party committee and pointed to the need to strengthen the leadership of the branches, to improve the training of members and to activate them for fulfilment of the plan for 1951.

FROM PRESS OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES

Struggle for Peace AND Bonds of Communists With Masses ("A Classe Operaria", Central Organ, Communist Party of Brazil)

"A Classe Operaria" devoted two articles to themes of particularly vital importance: one by Comrade Luiz Carlos Prestes concerning the tasks of the peace movement in Brazil, the other by Comrade Mauricio Grabois, dealt with the bonds linking the Communists with the masses.

Stressing that the danger of war threatening the peoples is more acute than ever, Prestes exposes the anti-national policy of Vargas Government as a "policy of war and complete sell-out of the country to imperialism". Saying that every day brings fresh opportunities for developing and strengthening the broad movement for peace, Comrade Prestes continued:

"Yet we must admit that we have not made full use of these tremendous possibilities to unite and organise the will of our people into a single stream capable of compelling the retreat of the reactionary minority seeking to involve our country in war.

"In order to make the campaign for 5,000,000 signatures a success, we must be able to contact all sections of the population, acting on the conviction that everywhere... even among higher Government circles, we will find men and women of good-will who cannot possibly want a third world war and

who, provided we bring home to them the significance of the campaign, would join the struggle for a stable and lasting peace and sign the Appeal for a Pact of Peace”.

The pivot and the decisive force of the struggle for peace, says the Prestes article, is the working class, supported by the masses of the working people in the countryside.

“The Communists”, continued the article, “are proud of their leading role in this struggle and we know that the success of the campaign for 5,000,000 signatories to the Appeal for a Peace Pact among the five Great Powers depends, in the main, on our ability to work, on the selflessness of every Communist and on the organised effort of the Party as a whole. Success in this campaign will be a decisive step forward in the great struggle of our people for peace and national liberation from imperialist yoke”.

Mauricio Grabois, in his article dealing with the bonds of Communists with the masses, writes: “without the masses it will be impossible to wrest Brazil from the camp of war and imperialism and bring it into the camp of peace and democracy.”

“Despite the recent successes achieved by our Party and the masses”, Comrade Grabois continued, “we sometimes do not realise the vital need to develop and strengthen the Party's links with the broad masses. Many Party members and leading Party bodies tend to isolate themselves from the mass organisations. Instead of boldly joining these organisations and defending the interests of the masses in them, instead of explaining to them the path outlined by the Party, many members keep to themselves, confine activity to the ranks of the Party alone in the belief that the Party alone can

liberate the Brazilian people from the imperialist yoke...”

Mauricio Grabois stressed the need for systematic work to strengthen for the purpose of leading the masses in the struggle not only for partial demands but also for the programme of the Democratic Front for National Liberation.

NEW PRICE REDUCTION IN GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

On December 9, the German Democratic Republic carried out a new—the fifth in 1951—price reduction for unrationed food and manufactured goods.

Prices on manufactured goods were cut from 10 to 50 per cent, including silk, by 35 per cent; footwear, 30 per cent; electric bulbs, 50 per cent; radio sets, motor cycles and cotton textiles, from 17 to 25 per cent, etc. Prices of some articles of food were also cut considerably: meat, by 25 per cent; butter, 16 per cent; sugar, 25 per cent; tea and wines by 50 per cent, etc.

Whereas the population in the German Democratic Republic, as a result of these price reductions, will save a total of 2,300 million marks a year, in Marshallised Western Germany and in West Berlin the standard of living of the working people is steadily declining. According to official data, the price index for food in West Berlin rose approximately by 30 per cent in the course of the year. Recently, the reactionary majority in the Bonn parliament enacted a law empowering the Minister of Economy to raise prices as he thinks fit.

SUCCESS OF POLISH MINERS

Polish miners were highly successful in fulfilling the 1951 plan. Coal output for the 11 months of 1951 was 3,000,000 tons more than in the corresponding period for 1950; the programme for the 11 months of the year was carried out 100.6 per cent.

New forms of emulation embracing tens of thousands of miners are making headway. A call addressed to fellow miners by Alfred Kawaczyk, hewer in the Bytom Pit, for introduction of the cyclic methods of work, and a call by the miner Gladysz, "For a less dirt in the coal" met with a big response in the pits. Polish for 1951! 1952 plan, of have producing set themselves 4,000,000 tons the more task than in the current year.

The Party and the Government show great concern for the miners. A new socialist town, Nowe Tychy, is being built in Silesia. During the current year more than 5,000 one-room apartments will be made available to miners. Some 46,000 miners spent their holidays this year in sanatoria and rest homes. 34,000 children of miners enjoy the benefits of creches and kindergartens while 31,000 juveniles are studying in mining schools.

STRUGGLE OF SPANISH PEOPLE

“Mundo Obrero”, the underground newspaper of the Communist Party of Spain, contains regular reports from its worker and peasant correspondents. These reports tell the story of the struggle waged by the Spanish people against Franco’s fascist regime. For instance, on October 15, “Mundo Obrero” reported that the 1,500 miners employed in the Camocha mine in Gijon (Asturias) stopped work in protest against the absence of safety measures as a result of which one of the miners was killed.

In the Baltasar pit the miners reduced output by one-half and compelled the owners to grant their demands.

In Villasrubias (Salamanca) peasants headed by the Mayor, held a protest demonstration against the requisitioning of the harvest by the fascist rulers. The Guardia Civil opened fire on the demonstration and killed the Mayor. Clashing with the Guardia, the peasants. forced them to retreat and held the village for several hours.

FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY FIGHTING FOR INTERESTS OF PEASANTS. Jacques Duclos, Secretary, French Communist Party

France is again an occupied country: the new occupationists, the Americans, have made themselves quite at home, particularly in the Gironde and Charente-Maritime Departments where they are driving peasants from their land to make way for stores and munition dumps or for the purpose of seizing the wealth of our country. The American “Standard Oil Company”, acting through the medium of its branch ‘Standard Francaise des Petroles”, threatens to expropriate the land of the inhabitants of 98 communes in the Department of Lot-et-Garonne. The Americans are trying to treat France as Britain treats Iran. But the French, like the Iranians, by the way, are not at all inclined to accept this treatment. Proof of this is the growing protest movement among peasants in the Lot-et-Garonne Department. The peasants of this Department support the slogan proclaimed by the Mayor of one of the threatened communes: “French oil must belong to France!”

Seeking to prolong their stay in our country, the Americans allege that we are threatened by the Soviet Union. This is a foul lie. The U.S.S.R. is our ally. It is winning brilliant victories in peaceful labour. In that great country where there are no longer any capitalists, nobody wants war; on the contrary, American merchants of death derive fabulous profits from war.

The U.S.S.R. is the country of Socialism where the labour of each serves to improve conditions for all; on the contrary, in the U.S. and in France the labour of the vast majority serves as a means of enrichment for a tiny minority of exploiters.

The plans of the American imperialists are directed towards establishing world domination by means of armed force. Hence, they need war to achieve 'their political aims.

In the U.S., the arms drive is regarded as a necessity to stave off a crisis in American economy, which would be followed by an economic crisis in the satellite countries. But if such means can postpone the crisis, they most certainly cannot eliminate it. The Americans are engaged in an arms drive which, day by day increases the danger of war and dooms the working population to greater and greater privations.

The economy of France, drawn into the fairway of this policy, is being transformed into a war economy. The catastrophic situation in our country is the proof of the fruits of the policy of war pursued by the Government, by its majority in parliament and the R.P.F. fascists, who unanimously submit to the orders of the Americans, and, for their sake, deliberately sacrifice the interests of France.

The provisional budget for 1952 provides for an expenditure of 3,525,000 million francs and a revenue of 3,070,000 million francs, including a loan of 400,000 million francs. Hence, the budget foresees a deficit of 455,000 million francs. Total expenditure includes an allocation of 950,000 million francs for military purposes; however, the Government considers that it will need 1,375,000 million francs, that is, an additional 426,000 million.

The Americans, undoubtedly, will insist on increased military expenditure which, correspondingly, will aggravate the budget deficit. While the Government has no idea of how to liquidate the deficit, it is fully conscious of its intention to introduce further taxation to the amount of 270,000 million francs in the 1952 budget year. It can be anticipated that in these new taxes the peasants will not be forgotten.

On the other hand there is a growing discrepancy between prices for manufactured goods and agricultural products. Thus, if we take 1938 as 100, then in October this year the price index for manufactured goods was 3,422, for agricultural products it was 2,245.

The share of agriculture in the national income is decreasing. Official data indicate that the share of the gross revenue of agriculture in the national income which in 1938 comprised 23.88 per cent, dropped to 22.9 per cent in 1948-49 and to 17.7 per cent in 1950-51. Thus we see the process of degradation of our agriculture. This cannot but cause anxiety to everyone having the future of the country at heart.

This year, compared with 1950, exports of agricultural products have declined. Moreover, part of the export trade is conducted on strange conditions. For instance, France sold bread grain to Western Germany at 2,350 francs a quintal. This was done on orders from the Americans who dispose of their grain to us at 4,300 francs a quintal.

The big capitalists—the enemies of the working class and toiling peasantry—resort to every possible means in an attempt to split those against whom their policy is directed. They, for instance, blame the peasants for the high cost of living which hits hard at the working masses. However, it is not difficult to prove that the

peasants have nothing to do with this and that those responsible for the high cost of living should be sought elsewhere.

Actually the state of affairs is as follows. In 1914 peasants received 84 per cent of the market price for meat. In 1951 this share dropped to 49 per cent. The tax per kilogram of meat was 59 francs, i.e., 23.6 per cent of the sum received by the peasant from the sale of meat. In 1914 peasants received 70 per cent of the market price for wine and in 1951 only 41 per cent. Tax duties account for 57 per cent of the sum gained by the peasants from the sale of wine.

The increased taxation and rising prices are caused by switching our economy to a war footing. Militarisation of the economy predetermines the instability of our currency, generated by growing inflation.

Another outcome of the war policy forced upon France by the Americans is decline of our agriculture, due to the growing shortage of certain raw materials and to the financial difficulties encountered by small and medium landowners. As a result of inadequate use of basic fertilizers soil exhaustion is developing; simultaneously the soil is losing its time caused by inadequate liming. It has been estimated that French soil needs four million tons of lime annually. However, in 1950 only 1,085,000 tons was used, i.e., 20,000 tons less than in 1939.

In 1950 only 50 per cent of the capacity of the tractor park was utilised. Due to the shrinking market, overall output of agricultural machinery was but 60 per cent of the capacity of industry.

These facts are striking testimony to the tremendous difficulties encountered by our agriculture. As regards

mechanisation and modernisation of agriculture and improvements in the countryside, the sums invested in agriculture in 1951 fell by one-third compared with 1950.

It is well known what tremendous work needs to be done to ensure our communes with piped water, to complete electrification of the countryside and to improve highways. As regards housing in the countryside, the means allocated for this purpose are absurdly meagre.

Each year there are tens of thousands of young peasants who cannot start a household. Loans to young peasants should be increased, but the Government does hardly anything in this respect.

Last autumn farm labourers won an increase in wages, However, they lack the rights enjoyed by industrial workers. It should be noted that where there are no trade unions, where the working people are not organised, wage agreements and social legislation are not observed.

Maurice Thorez pointed out very clearly that there are two paths open to the peasants: "Either the path along which the bourgeoisie is still dragging them, deflecting them from alliance with the working class, the path of capitalism, exploitation, need, inevitable expropriation and war, or, the path of Socialism, in alliance with the working class, that is: land to those who fill it, return of the land to those deprived of it, and, in this way, in town and countryside, expropriation of the expropriators and peace for all".

Our party adheres to the viewpoint that the land belongs to those who till it. We do not conceal in any way the programme which we will carry out when, as 4

result of the confidence of the country, we shall direct public affairs.

The main points of this programme can be formulated as follows: 1. To ensure and protect the right of ownership and possession of property for the small and medium landowners who cultivate the land together with members of their families, and for their children who will make no payment to the State when coming into the inheritance, provided they continue to till the land they inherit. 2. Expropriation, without compensation, of landlords and big landowners-parasites, who have never tilled the land owned by them. Their land will be turned over without compensation to tenants, share-croppers and farm labourers, and partly to small landowners whose plots are inadequate. 3. The land in the possession of owners who do not till the land themselves, but who cannot, however, be classified as landlords and big landowners, will be redeemed, for corresponding compensation, for the National agrarian reform fund and then transferred to peasant families tilling the land.

No peasant will think that such a programme threatens him. This programme is directed solely against those "soft-handed peasants" who wax rich on the labour of real peasants and who too often succeed in posing as their defenders.

The facts irrefutably prove that the **French Communist Party**, which is slanderously accused of intending to expropriate the peasants, is **their constant, devoted and courageous champion**. The peasants can see for themselves that their worst enemies are precisely those who, behind anti-Communist phrases, seek to conceal their real plans for destroying the small and middle peasant homesteads.

Tens of thousands of small and middle peasants are being driven from their plots. According to statistics for 1929, a bare half of the cultivated land in France, i.e. 19,944,821 hectares, belongs to 3,582,585 cultivators, while 383,845 big farms make up the other half. These figures show the degree of capitalist concentration in the countryside and also the process of proletarianisation of the peasants. They show that, of every 100 French owners of land, ten big landholders possess as much land as the other 90.

However, in some circles there are people who believe that this is not enough. Reporting a meeting of agricultural specialists, "le Figaro" wrote on November 4: "One staunch supporter of Americanisation declared that in his view all farms under 30 hectares must disappear".

The statement is unmistakably clear and definite. The Americans want to ruin the small and middle peasants, and the policy of low prices for their products is seen as one of the means of expropriating them.

The rulers of France who have no concern for the national interests, help the Americans in carrying out their predatory policy. In contrast to these criminal actions of the rulers, which are contrary to the present and future interests of the homeland, the French Communist Party, proudly proclaiming its confidence in the socialist, Communist future of France, advances the policy of independence for France, national salvation, freedom and peace.

The programme of our Party envisages, in particular:

Policy of economic development: normal trade relations with all countries on the basis of equality; development of civilian production and increased exports of manufactured goods and agricultural

products to those markets closed to us because of American meddling in our affairs; purchase of essential raw materials by developing exports; restoration of equilibrium between prices for agricultural and manufactured products; rent restriction and guarantee of two-thirds of the harvest for share-croppers; allocation of adequate funds for the plan for developing agriculture and for the wellbeing of the countryside; aid for farms which do not use hired labour; electrification; installation of piped-water system; improved housing and better roads.

Policy of budget equilibrium and democratic taxation: no increase in military expenditure, and reduction of the present military allocations to a level essential for maintaining the French Army as a national army exclusively in the service of France and not of the American warmongers; rejection of each and every proposal for new taxes and collections, and immediate abolition of the recent decrees raising the price of oil and other products; abolition of the tax taken from small and middle landowners where a legacy is inherited directly or from one or other of the married couple ; reform of the tax system, providing—in addition to abolition of the trade-industrial tax—for reduction in direct taxes taken from small and middle tax-payers, and also of indirect taxes and collections which force up the cost of living, weigh heavily on the working class and reduce the purchasing power of consumers; abolition of all tax privileges enjoyed by joint-stock companies and big trusts, and levying of taxes on the super-profits of the capitalists.

Policy of social justice: increase in pensions for the aged and allowances for the indigent; restoration of the rights of all aged peasants deprived of these

allowances; higher wages, introduction of sliding wage scale, and extension to farm labourers of the privileges enjoyed by industrial workers; satisfaction of the lawful demands of war veterans, former war prisoners, etc.; maintenance of privileges for all people enjoying social security, and extension to those employed in agriculture of the rights and privileges enjoyed by people in other trades; establishment of a special fund to provide allowances for all working peasants; a housing policy corresponding to the interests of the entire population; democratic revision of the rent law; full compensation for all the losses caused by the war; realisation of a national programme for building dwelling houses and other premises.

Policy of defending the Republic: dissolution of the R.P.F. units assigned for civil war; abolition of the laws directed against secular education, with respect for the views and beliefs of all citizens.

Our Party is the party of unity of all people of good will. We will always carry high the banner of unity. Communist peasants, sympathisers, and indeed many other peasants must be resolute and convinced builders of the widest unity of French peasants—Communists, Socialists, Radicals and other Republicans, both believers and atheists. In the leadership of the General Confederation of Agriculture and the Landholders' Federation there are people who, as a rule, follow the Government. However, they must reckon with the sentiments of peasants, who in their mass, by no means sympathise with Government policy.

There can be no doubt that "peasant" policy-makers would like to use the General Confederation of Agriculture for their political machinations. However, the sentiments of the peasant masses are not in favour

of this. Opposition by the General Confederation of Agriculture to Government policy would be far greater if the vast masses of the peasantry were organised in the Confederation. Unfortunately, many peasants have withdrawn from the organisations of the Confederation, because of their dislike and lack of confidence in the Confederation leaders.

Certainly the discontent of those peasants who left the General Confederation of Agriculture has its origin in facts. But it should be remembered that, by leaving their militant posts in the organisations of the Confederation, they give freedom of action to those who do not fulfil their duty in relation to the peasants. It is incumbent upon Communist peasants to be vigorous, serious and devoted activists in the organisations of the General Confederation of Agriculture.

Communists occupy leading posts in a number of Department organisations of the Landholders' Federation. It should be noted that even better results could be attained were the Communist peasants and the entire peasant masses convinced that the place of the peasant is inside the organisation of the General Confederation of Agriculture, just as the place of a worker is inside his trade union.

Champions of unity have but one means with which to smash the disrupters: to launch, under the banner of unity, resolute struggle in defence of the peasantry. Communist peasants must be members of the organisations of the General Confederation of Agriculture, landholders' unions or unions of tenants and share-croppers. They must work and fight there for the victory of the policy of genuine and determined defence of peasant interests.

A choice must be made between the policy of war which brings economic stagnation, ruin and poverty, and the policy of peace which alone can ensure prosperity and security for our homeland. A choice must be made between individual submission and united struggle.

The peasants are the natural allies of the workers, since both have common enemies. If the workers and peasants are divided and set against each other, they will inevitably suffer defeat; if united, they will be victorious.

United the workers and peasants and all French men and women of different social status will restore the independence of the homeland, save it from war, uphold their freedom against fascism, defend their right and the right of their children to bread. United, they will pave the way for united, they will pave the way for a joyful morrow, for a bright future of fraternity and peace. The Party of Maurice Thorez calls upon the peasants to take part in this struggle for life, against the forces of death, with confidence in the future of France and in ultimate victory.

POLICY OF COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES—VITAL BASIS OF SYSTEM OF PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY. I. Chisinevski Secretary, Central Committee Rumanian Workers' Party

The great successes registered by the People's Democracies in developing economic, political and cultural life became possible, above all, thanks to the Soviet Union. The world historic victory of the Soviet Union over German-fascist and Japanese imperialism brought freedom and independence to the peoples of these countries. This was not only national liberation from the yoke of Hitler imperialism; it was, in addition, decisive aid in the matter of smashing the fascist dictatorship and coalition of reactionary forces in these countries. The Soviet Army saved the peoples of a number of countries of Central and South-East Europe from enslavement by the imperialist states. In this way the necessary conditions were created for the social emancipation of these peoples from the yoke of the landlords and capitalists.

Headed by the Communist and Workers' Parties, the peoples of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Albania, Hungary and Rumania took their fate into their own hands.

Without the Soviet Union, the fate of imperialist-enslaved Greece now being bled white, Would have befallen the countries of people's democracy; without the Soviet Union and its generous, fraternal] and all-round aid, the peoples of these countries would not have been able to effect the great political and

economic transformations and engage in successful construction of Socialism.

*

Heading the revolutionary struggle of the peoples, the Communist and Workers' Parties are guided by Marxist-Leninist science. "Marxism", Comrade Stalin points out, "is the science of the laws governing the development of nature and society, the science of the revolution of the oppressed and exploited masses, the science of the victory of Socialism in all countries, the science of building a Communist Society". This powerful, all-conquering weapon enables the Communists correctly to orientate themselves in each phase of historical development, to foresee the course of events, and, on this basis, determine the strategy and tactics of the struggle for the interests of the working people.

Marxist-Leninist science, Comrade Stalin teaches, is not a collection of dogmas immutable and independent of the processes of the development of Society. Being a science, Marxism cannot mark time; it develops and is perfected. Basing their policy on the brilliant teaching of Lenin-Stalin, and enjoying Comrade Stalin's constant help, the Communist and Workers' Parties display creative initiative in leading the struggle for the vital interests of the working class and all working people, for the development and flowering of their homeland.

In the first period following the defeat of the Hitlerites by the Soviet Army, the revolutionary struggle in the countries of Central and South-East Europe bore, in the main, an anti-imperialist and anti-feudal character. The Communist Parties drew into this

struggle broad social strata, including the patriotic section of the bourgeoisie. Hegemony in this struggle belonged to the working class. It imparted a truly revolutionary nature to the struggle, in the process of which the people's democratic states arose.

In the first phase of its development, people's democracy was, in essence, a kind of revolutionary-democratic dictatorship of the working class and peasantry under the leadership of the working class. The overwhelming majority of the people supported the Communist and Workers' Parties and their allies and rallied in a broad united front of struggle against fascism, foreign imperialism and the reactionary big bourgeoisie and landlords. The Communist and Workers' Parties were the vital, mobilising, organising and directing force in the people's struggle. Immediately after the Soviet Army liberated Central and South-East Europe, the Communist and Workers' Parties came forward for working class unity, for alliance between the working class and the working peasantry, and mobilised the masses in the struggle for agrarian reform.

The need for agrarian reform arose from the concrete historical conditions in which the countries, of Central and South-East Europe developed, In these countries foreign imperialists had held unrestricted sway, hampered in every way the development of national industry and the national economy as a whole, and also the national culture. For this reason these countries remained backward. The aim of the struggle waged by the Communist and Workers' Parties for agrarian reform was to destroy the economic base of the class of landlords, to expose and isolate the landlords and big bourgeoisie and to extend, in the fire

of this struggle, the alliance between the workers and working peasantry under the leadership of the working class. The hegemony of the proletariat, Comrade Stalin teaches, is the embryo of the dictatorship of the proletariat, a transitional stage to the dictatorship of the proletariat.

As a result of the success won in the struggle for abolishing the landlords as a class, in extending and strengthening the alliance between the working class and the working peasantry, the Communist and Workers' Parties created the necessary conditions for transition to the second phase of people's democracy—the dictatorship of the proletariat. “The dictatorship of the proletariat”, Comrade Stalin teaches, “is not exercised automatically; it is exercised primarily by the Party's forces, under its guidance. Without the Party's guidance, under the present conditions of our capitalist encirclement, the dictatorship of the proletariat would have been impossible”. The counter-revolutionary forces directed their main blow against the Communist and Workers' Parties. Aided by the U.S. and British imperialists, the bourgeois-landlord parties tried might and main to prevent realisation of the revolutionary transformations in the People's Democracies. A sharp and fierce struggle began against the forces of bourgeois-landlord reaction led and backed by the U.S.-British imperialists. And if in this struggle the People's Democracies were saved from civil war, they, owe this to the Soviet Union and to the glorious Soviet Army which shed its blood for their liberation.

Led by the Communist and Workers' Parties, the working people of the People's Democracies crushed the counter-revolutionary plots of the exploiting classes—bourgeoisie and landlords—who sought to regain their

dominant positions and restore the bourgeois-landlord system and imperialist yoke. The Communist and Workers' Parties of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Albania, Hungary and Rumania rallied the popular forces of town and countryside around the working class: and succeeded in smashing bourgeois-landlord reaction—the agency of the U.S.-British imperialists.

Of great significance in strengthening the system of people's democracy and for its growing-over into the dictatorship of the proletariat was the fact that unity of the working class was restored. The Right-wing Social Democratic leaders on whom the U.S.-British imperialists and internal reaction pinned great hopes, were exposed as betrayers of the working people, and isolated. They lost all influence in the working-class movement. In this way, favourable conditions were created for ending the split in the working class and for building, by effecting unity with the Social Democrats on the basis of Marxist-Leninist principles, united Communist and Workers' Parties.

Having removed the exploiting classes and their agents from the helm of state, and having effected the alliance between the working class and the working peasantry under the leadership of the working class, the Communist and Workers' Parties ensured the growing-over of the people's democratic revolution into the socialist revolution. The brilliant prevision of the great Lenin that "The transition from capitalism to Communism will certainly create a great variety and abundance of political forms, but their essence will inevitably be the same: **the dictatorship of the proletariat**"—this prevision was confirmed. Thus, the People's Democracies have entered into the period of

socialist transformations which are proceeding successfully.

On the initiative and under the leadership of the Communist and Workers' Parties, industry, banks, transport, etc. were nationalised. With the abolition of the landlord class, on the one hand, and the nationalisation of the main means of production, on the other hand, the material base of reaction in the country was destroyed and the system of socialist ownership created. Developing their economy in a planned way, the working people of the People's Democracies set about laying the economic foundations of Socialism.

For this purpose it was necessary in the first instance to develop industry. But not all industrial development ensures laying the economic foundations of Socialism. Stalin's teaching, confirmed by the victorious building of Socialism in the U.S.S.R., shows that to carry out socialist industrialisation it is essential, first and foremost, to develop heavy industry, that is, production of the means of production. The experience of the great Soviet Union also teaches that Socialism cannot be built in the towns alone, it must also be built in the countryside, and this is a long process, conditioned by the creation of the requisite material conditions and by convincing the working peasants of the superiority of the socialist organisation of agriculture. In order to build Socialism, it is necessary to release the creative energies of the people, carry out the cultural revolution and clear away the darkness in which the bourgeoisie and landlords kept the people. Guided by Marxist-Leninist teaching, the Communist and Workers' Parties base their policy in a way that ensures that the state plans define concrete tasks not only for

the development of industry but also for agriculture and culture.

The Communist and Workers' Parties in the People's Democracies are elaborating a precise and clear political programme and ensuring its realisation through the medium of the people's democratic State. This State is a great gain for the working class and the toiling peasantry: it is the State of working people building Socialism. In the countries of people's democracy, political power belongs entirely to the working people of town and countryside. The local government bodies draw the broad masses of the working people into state administration.

The working people regard the policy of the Communist and Workers' Parties as their own vital policy. They tested the Communist and Workers' Parties in hard class battles and convinced themselves that they are the sole, consistent and genuinely anti-imperialist, anti-fascist Parties. The working people test the Communist and Workers' Parties daily on the basis of personal experience. In the countries of people's democracy there is complete harmony between the will of the working people and the policy of the Communist and Workers' Parties. The policy of the Communist and Workers' Parties is the vital base of the system of people's democracy. They direct the entire political, economic, organisational and cultural-educational work of the people's democratic States.

Having effected profound revolutionary changes in the first phase of people's democracy, the Communist and Workers' Parties did not stop half-way. Under their leadership, all countries of people's democracy are successfully building a socialist economy. In Poland industrial output in 1951 increased two and a half times

compared with the prewar level. In Bulgaria industrial production at the end of 1950 was 2.9 times that of 1949, and in 1951, will be 3.5 times greater. In Hungary industrial output this year is 250 per cent compared with the prewar level; in Rumania it has more than doubled. In the People's Democracies unemployment has been abolished forever.

Branches of industry, new for these countries, have been established in all the People's Democracies, and now, on the initiative of the Communist and Workers' Parties, big jobs of socialist construction are underway.

Great changes are also taking place in agriculture. The struggle waged by the Communist and Workers' Parties for developing agriculture and the constant aid of the urban population to the working peasantry in mechanising agriculture, and the introduction of the achievements of modern science and technique, strengthen, more and more, the alliance between the working class and the working peasantry and the leading role of the working class in this alliance. The policy of restricting the kulaks adds to the confidence reposed by the working peasantry in the Communist and Workers' Parties.

The countries of people's democracy have begun the socialist reorganisation of the countryside. Collective and co-operative farms and associations for joint cultivation, based on the voluntary principle, have been organised, Machine-and-tractor depots have been opened with the help of which the most modern machines, tractors and other equipment, are used in agriculture.

The cultural level of the working people in the People's Democracies is rising, the centuries-old illiteracy is disappearing and thousands of new schools

are being opened. In recent years in Rumania 1,600,000 people learned to read and write. In Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Bulgaria the student-body has increased almost threefold compared with prewar, in Czechoslovakia it has more than doubled. Never before has the intelligentsia known such solicitude, never has it enjoyed such excellent conditions for development as under the system of people's democracy. Research institutes are being founded on the initiative of Communist and Workers' Parties, and possibilities for receiving a higher education are being extended. Science is developing, and literature and art, national in form and socialist in content, are flowering.

In the countries of people's democracy, led by the Communist and Workers' Parties, the working people are guaranteed the broadest democratic rights; workers, working peasants, intelligentsia and women participate in state administration, in central, regional, district, city and rural elected bodies. In the countries of people's democracy citizens enjoy rights that are unknown in any capitalist country, for example, the right to work, the right to rest and leisure, the right to education.

Fomenting national and race discrimination and any hostile activity threatening the rights of citizens are punishable by law. Equality is ensured for all national minorities. The policy of the people's democratic states is based on proletarian internationalism—the ideology of fraternity among the peoples. All nationalities have schools and cultural institutes in their mother tongue. They take part in moulding the policy and cultural life of the country. On the basis of the national policy carried out by the Communist and Workers' Parties, friendship is growing among the peoples.

The Communist and Workers' Parties inculcate among the working masses a socialist attitude towards labour, urge them to make use of the mighty weapon of criticism and self-criticism, educate them in the spirit of socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism, wage ruthless struggle against nationalism and cosmopolitanism—the poison-weapon of imperialism. They are working tirelessly to raise the revolutionary vigilance of the people.

In all the measures taken by the Communist and Workers' Parties in defence of peace, in the constant attention devoted to raising the material and cultural standards of the working people, in the care for the development and flowering of the homeland, in ensuring friendly relations among the peoples, and, in the first instance, in ceaselessly consolidating friendship with the great Soviet Union,—in all these the masses see defence of their own interests. That is why they uphold the policy of the Communist Parties and strive for its complete triumph.

*

The Communist and Workers' Parties are confidently leading the working people in the People's Democracies along the pathway of Socialism, because in their work they are guided by the all-conquering teaching of Marxism-Leninism, because they are mastering, unswervingly and consistently, the experience' of the C.P.S.U. (B), because they enjoy the constant and all-round aid of the Soviet Union. It is due solely to this aid, inspiring the working people for heroic efforts, that the countries of people's democracy are able rapidly to develop along the pathway of Socialism. The U.S.S.R.

supplies them with raw materials, machinery and provides scientific and technical aid.

The masses are becoming more and more conscious of the correctness of the policy of the Communist and Workers' Parties which teach them that the path traversed by the U.S.S.R., the first country to build Socialism and now successfully building Communism, is the sole sound path to Socialism for other countries too.

The history of the Bolshevik Party teaches Party members in the People's Democracies that strengthening the Party of the working class is a vital condition and guarantee of success in the struggle for peace and Socialism. Assimilating Bolshevik experience in the sphere of Party building, the Communist and Workers' Parties are fighting for the purity of their ranks, for further improving the social composition of their ranks, for raising the revolutionary qualities of their members, for educating them in the spirit of class principledness, irreconcilability to enemies and boundless loyalty to the cause of Communism, the cause of Lenin-Stalin.

The Communist and Workers' Parties learn from the C.P.S.U. (B) how to combat opportunist, chauvinist and bourgeois-national deviations, how to unmask agents of imperialism such as Rajk, Kostov, Patrascanu, Foris, Slansky, Svermova, Spychalski and others, who, stopping at nothing, sought to destroy the Communist and Workers' Parties and the gains of the peoples in the countries of people's democracy, to destroy the life-giving friendship between these peoples and the U.S.S.R. Acting on orders from their imperialist masters, they sought to restore capitalism and betray the independence of these countries as butcher Tito did.

The people's democratic states are crushing these foul enemies of the people and of peace. The same fate awaits every traitor, every Judas, earmarked for the thirty pieces of silver from the notorious hundred million dollars which Truman has assigned for subversive activity against the 'U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies.

Yugoslavia also was one of the countries liberated from the Hitlerite yoke by the glorious Soviet Army. But, as is known, due to the fact that the Communist Party of Yugoslavia found itself in the grip of a gang of spies and assassins who turned the Party into an appendage to butcher Rankovic's secret police and deprived the people of Yugoslavia of their main force, the working masses were unable to benefit from the freedom brought to them by the heroic Soviet Army.

By means of deceit and hypocrisy, rejecting proletarian internationalism and injecting the venom of nationalism, the Tito-Rankovic clique of fascists and spies restored the old capitalist order and converted Yugoslavia into a colony of the U.S.-British imperialists, into a spring-board for aggression against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

However, despite the bloody terror rampant in Yugoslavia, the new, genuine Communist Party, which is being forged in struggle against the fascist Tito dictatorship, will lead the peoples of Yugoslavia to liberation from the fascist yoke and return them to the family of free peoples building their bright and happy future.

*

Inspired by the lofty principles of the Stalin foreign policy, the Communist and Workers' Parties are leading

the countries of people's democracy along the pathway of a consistent policy of peace, independence and national dignity.

The policy of unswerving defence of peace, pursued by the great Soviet Power and the People's Democracies, stems from the very nature of the social and economic structure of these states, from the vital, interests of the peoples which exclude all predatory and aggressive strivings or designs.

As is known, all the military ventures on the part of the imperialists against the Soviet union ended in defeat for the aggressors. The world historic victory of the Soviet Union over German-fascist and Japanese imperialism revealed most clearly the tremendous, invincible might of the great Soviet Socialist State.

The firm and consistent peace policy conducted by the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy stems from the invincible strength of the camp of Socialism and democracy.

Comrade Stalin, the great standard-bearer of the struggle of the peoples for peace, points out that "peace will be preserved and consolidated, if the peoples take the cause of preserving peace into their own hands and uphold it to the end".

The ground is slipping from under the feet of the warmongers. No brutal terror can halt the onward march of the multi-millioned militant peace front.

With the Soviet peoples at their head, the working masses in the People's Democracies, led and inspired by their Communist and Workers' Parties, are resolutely upholding peace and are not afraid of the threats of the imperialists. There is not the slightest doubt that, should the warmongers dare to violate the borders of the countries of the camp of peace and democracy,

they will get a rebuff so crushing that it will put an end to all their dreams of “world domination”.

*

The People’s Democracies are developing and growing stronger in the struggle for building Socialism. The Communist and Workers’ Parties, closely linked with the masses, are heading the emancipated peoples in the struggle for the victory of Socialism. Guided by the Marxist-Leninist teaching and creatively applying the experience of the C.P.S.U. (B), they are boundlessly loyal to the principles of proletarian internationalism. This policy is the source of the profound confidence reposed by the broad masses in the Communist and Workers’ Parties, of their steadfast resolve to follow them along the path of active defence of peace and Socialism, the path charted by Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin, the great teachers of toiling humanity.

SOLIDARITY OF WORKING PEOPLE OF ITALY IN COMBATTING FLOODING AND INTRIGUES OF REACTION. Gian Carlo Pajetta, Member, Board, Italian Communist Party

The Labour Plan of the Italian General Confederation of Labour stresses, in particular, the need to bring order into the hydro-economy of the country, the need for afforestation and protection of the population from natural calamities. This plan clearly shows that the losses sustained annually from natural calamities exceed by far the sums needed to carry out urgent public work.

The working people's organisations in the Po Valley not only gave timely warning of the likelihood of flooding and demanded that immediate preventive measures be taken; they held numerous meetings prior to the present flooding at which they discussed the most essential steps needed to forestall the danger.

It was precisely at the dams of the River Po, where the rush of flood-water was most violent, that thousands of agricultural workers. held the so-called "strikes in reverse", i.e. worked on strengthening the dams contrary to the will of the authorities who refused to take any measures to avert the calamity. The Government and its representatives replied to these working people with police persecutions: beatings, arrests and judicial convictions.

Frequent flooding in recent years. has caused serious damage to large areas in Italy. Repetition, scale and extent of these calamities showed previously that it

is not just a matter of natural calamities, but, that under present conditions, the country cannot protect itself from them.

In October and November dire calamity befell Italy. In mid-October heavy rains in Sardinia caused flooding in 33 communes, completely destroying 400 and damaging 2,000 houses, 100 bridges and putting 600 kilometres of highways out of commission. In the Calabria. area in Reggio province alone, approximately 1,000 dwellings were destroyed and nearly 3,000 damaged; 77 people lost their lives. In Sicily, floods caused enormous damage to some of the leading agricultural zones, destroying crops and orchards, washing away the soil and converting fertile areas into wasteland.

In mid-November the waters of the Po inundated the Padana plains. The water spread out over 10,000 hectares in Mantua province. In the Pavia, Piacenza, Parma and Reggio-Emilia provinces tens of thousands of hectares of crops were destroyed and villages and towns flooded. The total loss sustained by these provinces is in the region of 100,000 million lire.

While the entire population followed with alarm the daily reports of the calamity, the Po burst its banks in three places in Rovigo province, inundating fields and villages. Twenty-nine communes were completely and 11 communes partly under water in the: maritime sector of the Rovigo-Polesine province; 108,000 hectares of crop-lands were inundated and of these 25,000 hectares will have to be artificially reclaimed since they are below sea level. Taking this zone into account, the total loss caused by the flooding amounts to 500-600 billion lire, i.e. approximately half the State budget for the current fiscal year.

While the people spared no effort to save life and property, the Government sought in the first place to conceal or belittle the dimensions of the catastrophe.

The provinces affected by flooding and which were in danger of becoming water-logged, have long traditions of a powerful and organised working class movement closely linked with the peasantry. In the cities of Mantua, Parma, Reggio-Emilia, Ferrara and Rovigo the Mayors are Communists; the 20 communes of the Ferrara province are headed by Communists and Socialists; in Rovigo province, 37 of 51 communes are headed by Communists and Socialists.

The moment news of the flooding became known, the Chambers of Labour mobilised all the affiliated trade unions. The Mayors began work among the population. They initiated the formation of emergency committees which included representatives of all parties and organisations.

Thousands of working people came to the stricken areas from the Bologna and Reggio-Emilia provinces; together with the local people who suffered directly they worked day and night, reinforcing dykes and embankments and stopping the dangerous gaps. Right from the very beginning, the democratic organisations in all provinces in Lombardy, Veneto and Emilia aided the victims, sending cars, hospitably accepting refugees and organising rescue units which spared no effort in saving people. Youth organisations formed 80 teams which rendered invaluable assistance.

Whereas the sole concern of the Government was to reject, with the help of its Parliamentary majority, the Communist proposal to adjourn Parliament so as to enable deputies and senators to be among the suffering population, the emergency committees, mayors, trade

unions and other democratic organisations inspired and organised rescue work to save the lives and property of the people. Volumes could be written about the heroism, self-sacrifice and militant organisation.

But the Government continued to display inability to take measures and reluctance to give urgent aid to the victims. Instead, it launched a campaign of slander and persecution against those giving aid. During those days the session of the Atlantic alliance in Rome demanded additional financial obligations and intensification of the anti-Communist campaign.

The leaders of the Christian Democratic Party saw their urgent task in preventing unity of the Italian people and in stifling the voice of those who demanded that the funds allocated for war be used for aiding the population and rehabilitating the flood-stricken regions. Volumes could be written about the arbitrariness, the persecution and baseness of the Government in relation to the people.

In the Rovigo province, the emergency committee—the heart and soul of the united action and popular solidarity and the first to organise rescue work—was dissolved, and the authorities put up proclamations threatening repressions and categorically prohibiting entry into the province of citizens from other regions of the country. Working people and students were detained, attempts were made to intimidate them, after which they were sent back to their place of residence. The only crime of these people was that, not wearing the band of the Vatican Aid Commission, they sought to give every possible assistance to the suffering population. The leaders and activists of the Union of Italian Women organising accommodation for refugee

children in families of working people in other towns, were also detained.

While the people were displaying unprecedented examples of fraternal solidarity, the Government bared its fangs. The Christian Democratic leaders sought to prevent any manifestation of unity and to secure a monopoly for the clerical organisations in distributing the funds allocated by the Government and acquired by means of contributions. The Christian Democrats utilisation of the misfortune that befell Italy for their own narrow Party ends was so obvious that in some towns all parties—from monarchists to Communists—protested jointly against the Government's actions.

There was no slander to which the Government press did not resort in the attempts to justify police persecution. To the accompaniment of howls of delight in the Christian Democratic press, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Corbola, who had supplied the young volunteers bound for the flooded regions with rubber boots and food, were arrested on the absurd charge of embezzling public funds.

The Government press tried to maintain silence or belittle the great aid accorded to the people by the trade unions, co-operatives and women's organisations of the Soviet Union and People's Democracies—aid which filled the hearts of millions of Italians with joy and gratitude.

A characteristic episode occurred in those days. The Government developed a noisy campaign around de Gasperi's interview which was repeated several times on the radio and in which he alleged that a farm labourer from Polesine who lost his wife and five children in the disaster told him that being a man of order he was proud of his soldier son.

The farm labourer immediately denied the de Gasperi interview. He declared that the broadcast and the press reports were completely false, that he was a member of the Communist Party, proud of his work in collecting signatures to the World Peace Council's Appeal, and that he was convinced that Italy needed a different kind of government from that of de Gasperi.

The democratic organisations and the population replied to the brazen actions of de Gasperi and Scelba by intensifying their resistance and activity. A meeting of deputies, administrative personnel, technicians and representatives of the popular organisations was held in Rovigo. This meeting elaborated the demands of the population for accommodation for refugees and launched a call for a democratic movement for rehabilitation and protection of the economy in the Po Valley. Local committees are being formed in all the provinces of the Padana lowlands. These committees are holding conferences and meetings which discuss the need to commence urgent work, The struggle is, above all, to ensure that the breaches in the dykes are restored before the spring rains which may cause additional enormous damage.

During the most difficult moments of the flooding the Communists were in the front ranks of the aid movement. They selflessly participated in saving lives and property. For this purpose they organised volunteer groups and spared neither health and at times their lives to save women and children. Some Party members saved hundreds of lives each. A meeting of the secretaries of the regional and province Party committees held in Padua and attended by Longo and Secchia, deputy General Secretaries of the Communist Party, elaborated concrete measures to combat the

aftermath of the disaster and advanced the slogan which gave heart to the people of Polesine: “For work, for return to our homes! Let us make the Polesine land even more fruitful and hospitable than before!”

This slogan is, simultaneously, the common demand of the working people from Sicily to the Po Valley, from Calabria to Sardinia. It shows the need for a large-Scale, popular campaign which would embrace all Italian citizens desirous of a policy of peace and work and who are against the new burden of military commitments, for a government of peace which must ensure the co-operation of all honest Italians in solving all national problems, and first and foremost in healing the wounds brought on the country by the natural calamity.

POLITICAL NOTES

1. Mr. Lyttelton's Sanguinary Mission

It wasn't exactly love of travel and adventure that prompted Mr. Lyttelton, British Colonial Secretary to visit Malaya. Things are too bad for the British imperialists in this faraway outpost. The "punitive campaign" conducted against the people of Malaya by the Labour Government proved a fiasco. The People's Liberation Army had not been smashed nor even forced to withdraw from a single state. What is more, unity of the working people of Malaya in the liberation struggle has become stronger and more consolidated. As admitted by General Lockhart, who recently replaced the bankrupt Briggs, the situation in Malaya, so far as the British colonisers are concerned, is still "grave" and there is no "hope of early victory".

Hence, the explanation for Mr. Lyttelton's long journey. Lyttelton, the hardened businessman who had just resigned his Directorship of the Associated Electrical Industries—a large British firm—for a ministerial portfolio, had to rush to the aid of his City colleagues—the owners of the rubber plantations and tin mines.

What, then, does the new oracle of British colonial policy propose? Self-rule for Malaya as solemnly promised in 1946 and 1947? Abandonment of the "scorched earth" tactic and merciless extermination of thousands of people? Liquidation of the concentration camps into which nearly half a million people had been herded during 1950 alone?

Not at all. The Minister did not worry about such “complicated matters”. The methods used by his Labourite predecessors suited him perfectly. He came, as he said on his arrival at Singapore airport, “to study conditions in Malaya and to obtain an intensification of the war against Communist terrorists”, meaning of course, all Malayan patriots fighting against the British colonisers.

Mr. Lyttelton and the British Government want to bring into play units of the “Home Guard”, including elements of the Chinese bourgeoisie residing in Malaya, against the Chinese fighting side by side with the Malaysians, and intensify the bloodshed in the country. More bloodshed—such is the promise of the Tories to the people of Malaya.

Aware of the Minister’s taste, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, Commissioner-General, and General Lockhart decided to give him a rousing welcome. The night before Lyttelton arrived, a woman patriot captured by the British last August, was hanged in Taiping Prison, Perak State. Four days later, British troops, according to the “Times”, “surrounded the villages of Titi and Sungei Munthi, in north-east Negri Sembilan, and collected all surplus rations... They left the people enough only for immediate needs”, that is, they doomed the villagers to starvation. Prior to this, on November 7, British troops moved into the village of Tras in the State of Pahang, rounded up the 2,000 inhabitants, forced them into a concentration camp there to await terrible death, and destroyed the village.

But brutal repressions will not break the spirit of the Malayan people. The colonisers are panic-stricken, Mr. Lyttelton, for example, could not go anywhere without a strong guard. According to the British press, he was

guarded by thousands of policemen, by armoured cars and Hussars. The experience of the national liberation struggle of the colonial peoples since the end of the second world war proves that the days are gone when the colonisers, by repressions and terror, managed to break the will of the awakened colonial peoples selflessly and successfully now battling for their freedom and independence.

2. SS New Masters

A little while ago a petition was sent to the West Berlin Senate by a certain organisation with the request that it be put on the list of “permitted organisations”. Afterwards, the initiators of the organisation in question, informed the press that they had met with complete mutual understanding and approval in the Senate.

What exactly is this organisation so heartily welcomed by the West Berlin authorities?

The name alone—“Union of SS men of Adolf Hitler's bodyguard”—gives a fairly good indication of the gang. Its chief is none other than Bechel, former SS Standartenfuehrer.

The reason why the Hitler life-guard decided to come into the open at this juncture is by no means to protect the ghost of the lunatic fuehrer. No, it has something much more real in mind. This was openly and, brazenly announced by its chief who, at the inaugural meeting of the “union”, said: “Until now we had believed that there was no place for us in postwar Germany. For this reason many of us stood in sharp

opposition to the Government and the Americans. But today we know that we are needed again. Soon we shall again be in military uniform and, as befits us, we will be real masters of the State...”

This disgusting story is by no means the only one of this kind in the life of Western Germany. With the blessing of the Western occupation authorities and of the puppet Government in Bonn, all kinds of military fascist unions, societies, “brotherhoods”, “commonwealths”, and other gangs of Hitler thugs are springing up in Western Germany like mushrooms. In West Berlin alone, there are 30 such fascist organisations. Almost every day the German press reports reunions of “yellow devils”, “steel helmets”, former SS men and other fascist scum. At all these gatherings an intoxicated atmosphere of chauvinism and racism prevails Hitler war criminals are lauded and revanchist and warmongering speeches made.

What attracts attention is that all these military-fascist unions and societies seek to reproduce exactly the structure and organisation of the Hitler “Wehrmacht”. For example, there is the Society of men of Rommel’s Army, the “Union of former paratroopers”, and “SA Commonwealth”. A gathering took place in Dillenburg of men who served in the 11th tank division known as the “Ghost Division”. The gathering of “ghosts” was headed by von Wittersheim, former commander of the division. It is not difficult to understand who is interested in preserving this organisational principle of the Hitler militarists: Eisenhower wants German cannon fodder, so to say, readymade.

Adenauer, puppet Chancellor, and his U.S.-British masters—all like to declare that their remilitarisation of

Western Germany has, allegedly, nothing to do with reviving fascism and the Hitler “Wehrmacht”. But life refutes this hypocritical and utterly false assertion. Actually, as the facts show, what the chiefs of the aggressive Atlantic bloc and their Bonn lackeys are concerned about is the restoration, in as complete form as possible, of the Hitler war machine which was cursed by all peoples and the destruction of which during the second world war called for immeasurable sacrifice on the part of mankind.

Jan MAREK

MASS ARREST OF ALGERIAN IN PARIS

On December 8, the committee representing various cultural, professional and political organisations of Algerians residing in France decided to hold a reception in the Winter Velodrome, Paris, in honour of the delegations of the Arab and Moslem countries to the session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Plevin Government adopted an outrageous and unlawful decision to ban this gathering.

However, defying brutal police repressions, tens of thousands of Algerians who travelled to the capital from the Paris region, the provinces and even from Belgium, demonstrated for three hours around the Winter Velodrome on the evening of December 8. The police introduced a veritable state of siege in the neighbourhood.

Several thousand soldiers belonging to the “Republican Security Units”, equipped with fire-arms and gas bombs, put up a barrier of buses and barbed wire.

The police organised a real manhunt, arresting 15,000. Locked in police stations hospitals, barracks, and driven to squares and school-yards. Algerians sang their national songs and expressed solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of the Arab and Moslem countries for national independence. Of the arrested Algerians, eleven were sentenced to different terms of imprisonment and fined.

These police actions—of an obvious racial nature—were an open challenge by the Government of French colonisers in relation to the Arab and Moslem countries. They evoked tremendous indignation among the French

people. Andre Marty, Secretary of the French Communist Party, will question the Government in the National Assembly. A big rally in support of the oppressed peoples of the Near and Middle East and Africa will be held in the Winter Velodrome on December 21. The rally will be attended by representatives of the General Confederation of Labour, the Communist Party, the "Popular Aid" organisation, the Union of French Women and Union of the Republican Youth of France.

STRIKE MOVEMENT IN JAPAN

The strike movement in Japan is gaining momentum. On December 4, a strike of electrical workers (the fifth), which affected 139 power stations, ended in partial victory for the workers. The workers fought stubbornly despite threats by the Japanese Government and the headquarters of the U.S. occupation troops.

On December 5, 4,000 workers employed at the four plants of the “Fuji Seitetsu” iron and steel company struck work for eight hours, demanding a bonus of 28,000 yen. Strikes took place on December 6 and 7, at the “Nissan Seiko” company and in other iron and steel enterprises in Kawasaki.

Three thousand workers employed by the “Isuzu Jidoshya” car-building company declared a strike on December 5. The trade union of workers employed on the private railways in the Osaka-Kyoto region struck work on December 6.

Workers and employees of state enterprises and offices are intensifying their struggle for New Year bonuses to the amount of two months wages. Members of the trade union catering for the clerical staff of the radio wave-band control offices and members of the post office workers’ union were on strike on December 4-6.

According to the Japanese Ministry of Labour, 174 Labour disputes were registered in Japan in October alone. The number of strikers amounted to 1,100,000.

STAY THE HAND OF BUTCHER FRANCO

The widespread campaign in Spain and throughout the world in solidarity with Gregorio Lopez Raimundo and other Spanish patriots threatened with death for their leadership of the general strike in Barcelona last spring has yielded its first fruits. The underground radio station "Independent Spain" announced, on December 11, that Gregorio Lopez Raimundo and his comrades, earlier transferred to the notorious Ocana dungeon, had been taken back to Barcelona. Isabel Vicente and 13 other comrades were liberated.

Stressing the significance of this first victory in the fight against Franco terror, the "Independent Spain" radio station calls for intensification of the world-wide, solidarity campaign for the release of Gregorio Lopez Raimundo and his comrades.

The Bookselling Agency, Centre for Distribution of Books (Centrul de difuzare a cartii "Mirs") accepts subscriptions for the journal

"FOR A LASTING PEACE, FOR A PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY"
for 1952:

The journal appears in the Russian, Chinese, French, English, Italian, German, Spanish, Polish, Bulgarian, Hungarian, Rumanian, Czech, Albanian, Swedish, Korean, Japanese, Arabic and Dutch languages.

Subscription rates: 52 copies post free airmail.

Dollars..... 3.127
Shillings 13
francs.....470
marks15.60
lei 468

Subscriptions should be addressed:
"Mir", Bucharest, Rumania.

EDITORIAL BOARD

**Journal “For a Lasting Peace, for a People’s Democracy”
appears every Friday.**

**Address of Editorial Office and of Publishing House: 56,
Valeriu Braniște, Bucharest. Tel. 5. 10.59.**