

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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FURTHER PROOF OF GREAT VITALITY OF SOVIET STATE

The past few days have given the whole world further striking proof of the outstanding successes of the Soviet Union, of the further strengthening of its might, of the steady advance of the Soviet people along the pathway to Communism.

The decision of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union published on April 1, concerning another, the sixth reduction in state retail prices for foodstuffs and manufactured goods, is vivid confirmation of the steady growth of the economic might of the country building Communism, an indication of the rapid development of industrial and agricultural production and a striking demonstration of the tireless concern displayed by the Lenin-Stalin Party and the Soviet Government to ensure a steady rise in the material and

cultural level of the Soviet people.

The systematic reduction in prices for consumer goods consistently carried out by the Soviet state ever since 1947 is a vital source of the rise in real earnings for factory and office workers and of real incomes for the peasants; it is striking confirmation of the beneficial functioning of the basic economic law of Socialism discovered and formulated by J. V. Stalin, the essential features and requirements of which are ensuring the maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole of society through the continuous expansion and perfection of socialist production on the basis of higher techniques.

“The aim of socialist production”, J. V. Stalin wrote, “is not profit, but man and his need, that is, the satisfaction of his material and cultural requirements... Consequently, maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole of society is the aim of socialist production; continuous expansion and perfection of socialist production on the basis of higher technique is the **means** for the achievement of the aim”.

As a result of the five reduction in state retail prices of effected in the U.S.S.R. in the postwar years prices for food and manufactured goods at the end of 1952 were, on the average, two times lower than at the end of 1947. As a result of the latest substantial reduction, affecting virtually all foods and manufactured goods and above all goods in the category of prime consumption, the Soviet people receive one of the biggest gains they have derived from the price reductions during the whole postwar period. This gain amounts to not less than 53 billion roubles a year. The latest reduction raises the well-being of the working people of the Soviet Union to a still higher level makes their life still happier and their work for the good of the homeland still more enthusiastic, because when life is good work goes with a swing.

The latest price reduction, which was received by all the working people of the Soviet Union with the greatest satisfaction and feeling of warm gratitude to the Communist Party and the Soviet Government, gives powerful stimulus to the further growth of the productive forces of the U.S.S.R., to increased productivity of labour.

“Our Party”, Comrade ‘ G. M. Malenkov said at the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U. “will continue to display unceasing concern for satisfying to the maximum the constantly growing requirements of the Soviet people, because their welfare and their prosperity is the supreme law for our Party”.

Today the whole world can see once again that in the case of the Lenin-Stalin Party and the Soviet Government words do not diverge from deeds, that their words are always followed by deeds.

The latest price reduction in the Soviet Union also testifies that measures of this kind can be effected only in the state whose entire policy serves the aims of peaceful construction, in the state whose economy, knowing neither crises nor stagnation and not burdened with militarisation, is steadily developing and gaining in strength and confidently increasing its tempo. The Soviet Union is directing all its efforts to expanding civilian industry, to construction of giant hydro-electric stations and irrigation systems, to further raising the well-being of the people.

The Soviet socialist power, in the prime of its strength, is confidently marching to fresh successes, in the struggle for building Communism. Today the Soviet social and state system which withstood with honour the gravest trials of the second world war is stronger than ever before. In the course of the noble struggle, a struggle permeated with heroism and creative endeavour, for realisation of the grand programme of Communist construction charted by the genius of Stalin, the powerful motive forces of Soviet society – moral-political

unity of the Soviet people, rallied around the Communist Party, the fraternal co-operation of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and life-giving Soviet patriotism – make themselves felt in even more striking fashion.

The source of all the incurable ills of bourgeois society: private property in the means and instruments of production, exploitation of man by man, and the crises inherent in capitalism, unemployment, poverty, racial and national inequality and growth of crime, – all have been abolished forever in the Soviet Union.

As a result of the world-historic victories of Socialism the life of the Soviet people has changed beyond recognition: the wellbeing and cultural level of the population have risen considerably, and the consciousness of the citizens has deepened; an attitude of honesty on the part of the Soviet workers, collective farmers and intelligentsia towards labour, towards fulfilling their civic duty, towards Soviet law is a characteristic and inalienable feature of Soviet society.

All this enabled the Soviet state to effect measures of first-rate political significance. A week ago the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. issued a Decree on Amnesty which stresses that in the present conditions there is no longer any need to keep in places of detention persons who have committed crimes which do not represent a great danger for the state, and who by their conscientious attitude towards labour have proved that they can return to an honest life of labour and become useful members of society.

Of particular significance is that part of the Decree which speaks of the need to review the Soviet Criminal Code with a view to replacing criminal responsibility for certain cases of malfeasance, economic crimes, breaches of the peace and other minor offenses by administrative and disciplinary measures and also to mitigate criminal responsibility for certain penal offenses. This section of the Decree reflects the increased

importance of the main function of the Soviet state – the function of economic-organisational and cultural-educational work which is assuming an ever greater significance.

What a striking contrast to the capitalist world are these measure of the Soviet state, reflecting the steady strengthening of its might, its confident onward march! With what force do they confirm once again the decisive superiority of the socialist system over the decaying capitalist system!

Here, in the camp of Socialism, there is steady advance of the peaceful economy of the Soviet Union and of People's China and the other countries of people's democracy, marching shoulder to shoulder with it, an economy knowing no crises and developing in the interests of ensuring maximum satisfaction of the material and cultural requirements of society; here steady improvement in the living standard of the popular masses, steady growth of consciousness among the working people consolidation of friendship and fraternal co-operation of the peoples.

There, in the camp of capitalism, frenzied militarisation and preparation for war are on the increase, branches of civilian industry curtailed, a steady onslaught of reaction against the democratic rights and freedoms of the working people, continual lowering of the standard of living of the popular masses reflected in growing unemployment, in constantly rising prices for consumer goods, in increased direct and indirect taxation and higher rents leading to a still greater decline in the purchasing power of the population. The working people of the capitalist countries – and official bourgeois sources cannot conceal this – are with every passing day eating less and living worse and worse.

Comparing their life, their unbearable conditions with life in the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy, the working people in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries are becoming more and more conscious of the fact

that in our day the people can find a happy life only by taking the pathway of struggle for social and national liberation, the pathway of struggle for peace, for democracy, for Socialism.

Ordinary people in all countries see in the successes of the Soviet Union the living reality of the victorious Communist construction, the reality of the advance to Communism, their future. With its brilliant achievements the Soviet socialist state is exerting a powerful influence on the course of world history, on the entire international situation.

The Soviet Union is an inspiring example and guiding star for all the peoples of the world in their struggle for a happy future. With firm confidence in their inexhaustible strength and possibilities the Soviet people are going ahead with the great cause of Communist construction and there is no force in the world capable of halting their triumphant onward march to Communism!

PRESIDIUM OF SUPREME SOVIET OF U.S.S.R. ADOPTS DECREE "ON AMNESTY"

On March 27, 1953, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. adopted a Decree "On Amnesty" which states:

"As a result of the consolidation of the Soviet social and state system, the rise in the material and cultural standards of the population, the growth of consciousness of the citizens, their honesty in carrying out their civic duty, the law and socialist order have been strengthened and crime has considerably declined in the country.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. considers that in these conditions there is no longer any need to keep in places of detention persons who have committed crimes which do not represent a great danger for the state, and who by their conscientious attitude to labour have proved that they can return to an honest life of labour and become useful members of society.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. hereby **decrees:**

1. To release from places of detention and to free from other penalties not connected with deprivation of freedom, persons sentenced to terms of up to and including 5 years.

2. To release from places of detention persons convicted, irrespective of the term of punishment for malfeasance and economic crimes as well as for military crimes covered by articles 193-4 paragraph 'a', 193-7, 193-8, 193-10; 193-10 'a', 193-14, 193-15, 193-16 and 193-17 paragraph 'a' of the Criminal Code of the R.S.F.S.R. and the corresponding articles of the Criminal Codes of the other Union Republics.

3. To release from places of detention, irrespective of the

term of penalty, convicted persons: women with children under 10 years of age and pregnant women; juveniles under 18 years of age; men over 55 and women over 50 and also convicted persons suffering from grave, incurable illness.

4. To reduce by half the sentence on those deprived of freedom for more than 5 years.

5. To drop all investigations and cases not examined by the courts regarding crimes committed prior to the present Decree:

a) crimes for which the law provides a penalty in the form of deprivation of freedom for a term of up to and including 5 years or other penalties which do not involve confinement in places of detention;

b) malfeasance, economic and military crimes enumerated in Article 2 of the present Decree;

c) crimes committed by persons indicated in Article 3 of the present Decree.

In other cases of crimes committed prior to the present Decree for which the law provides deprivation of freedom for more than 5 years, the court, if it deems it necessary to impose as penalty deprivation of freedom for not more than 5 years, releases the defendant from penalty; if however the court finds it necessary to impose deprivation of freedom for more than 5 years, it reduces the term by half.

6. To remove the conviction and deprivation of electoral rights from citizens tried earlier and who, have served their penalty or who are being released ahead of time on the strength of the present Decree.

7. Not to apply the amnesty to persons sentenced to a term of more than 5 years for counter-revolutionary crimes, grave embezzlement of socialist property, banditry and premeditated murder.

8. To recognise the necessity of revising the Criminal Code of the U.S.S.R. and of the Union Republics with a view to replacing criminal responsibility for certain cases of

malfesance, economic crimes, breaches of the peace and other less dangerous crimes by administrative and disciplinary measures and also to mitigate criminal responsibility for certain penal offenses.

To instruct the Ministry of Justice of the U.S.S.R. to elaborate within one month corresponding proposals and to submit them to the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. for consideration and for submission by them to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.”.

DECISION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF U.S.S.R. AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF SOVIET UNION

On New Reduction In State Retail Prices For Foodstuffs And Manufactured Goods

The Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union **have decreed:**

1. From April 1, 1953 to reduce state retail prices for foodstuffs and manufactured goods as follows:

BREAD, FLOUR AND MACARONI GOODS

Rye bread, wheat bread, roils, cracknels and other bakery goods	10 per cent
Rye, wheat, maize and other flours	10 per cent
Macaroni, vermicelli, noodles and other macaroni items	10 per cent

CEREALS, RICE, BEANS AND FOOD CONCENTRATES

Millet, buckwheat, rice, peas and other cereals and beans	10 per cent
Food concentrates	10 per cent
Powdered jelly and jelly	10 per cent

GRAINS AND FODDER

Rye, wheat, oats, barley and other grains, bran,
oilcake, meal, combined fodder, hay and straw 10 per cent

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

Beef, mutton, pork, poultry, salami,
frankfurters and other sausage items,
meat pies, canned meats, canned meats
with vegetables, canned pork and beans
and other meat products 15 per cent

FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS

Fish, chilled, frozen, salted and smoked,
herring and canned fish, on the average, 10 per cent

FATS, EGGS AND ICE-CREAM

Butter, edible fats, margarine and vegetable oils	10 per cent
Mayonnaise and other sauces	10 per cent
Eggs	10 per cent
Ice-cream	10 per cent

POTATOES, VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

Potatoes	50 per cent
Beet	50 per cent
Carrots	50 per cent
Fresh cabbage and other vegetables	50 per cent
Sauerkraut	50 per cent
Apples	50 per cent

Pears	50 per cent
Grapes	50 per cent
Tangerines	50 per cent
Oranges	50 per cent
Lemons	50 per cent
Canned fruit	25 per cent
Dehydrated vegetables	25 per cent
Dried fruit and nuts	20 per cent

SUGAR, CONFECTIONERY PRODUCTS AND GROCERIES

Sugar, granulated and lump	10 per cent
Caramels, sweetmeats, chocolate, biscuits, wafers, cake, cream cakes, pastry, rusks and other confectionery products	10 per cent
Jam and fruit preserves	10 per cent
Tea, on the average,	20 per cent
Coffee and cocoa	20 per cent
Vitamins	10 per cent
Salt unground	30 per cent
Salt ground unpackaged	20 per cent
Salt packaged	

VODKA, LIQUEURS, WINE AND BEER

Vodka	11 per cent
Liqueurs, brandies, cordial, wines from fruit and berries, cognacs and Soviet champagne	15 per cent
Beer	15 per cent
Grape wine	15 per cent

FABRICS

Cotton prints, sateen, calico and other cotton Fabrics	15 per cent
Natural silk fabrics	15 per cent
Worsted, fine woollen and other woollen and Semi-woollen fabrics	5 per cent
Linen fabrics	8 per cent

READY-MADE CLOTHING, KNITTED GOODS AND HEADWEAR

Cotton dresses, blouses, underwear and other cotton items, on the average,	14 per cent
Linen dresses, blouses, underwear and other linen items, on the average,	7 per cent
Dresses, blouses and other items from natural silk	12 per cent
Knitted goods, on the average,	5 per cent
Hosiery, on the average,	20 per cent
Headwear from cotton, silk, semi-woollen and coarse-woollen fabrics	10 per cent
Hats, berets and felt cloches woollen	15 per cent
Straw hats	10 per cent
Fur articles and skins	7 per cent
Fur articles from skins of foxes and polar foxes	15 per cent

FOOTWEAR

Leather footwear	8 per cent
Leather footwear on rubber soles	10 per cent
Footwear made of leather substitutes, footwear made of fabrics and combined footwear on leather soles	12 per cent

Footwear made of leather substitutes, footwear made of fabrics and combined footwear on rubber soles	20 per cent
High overshoes and rubber boots	10 per cent
Overshoes and other rubber footwear	15 per cent
Felt footwear	5 per cent

HABERDASHERY

Textile and metal haberdashery and haberdashery made of leather and leather substitutes, on the average,	10 per cent
Lace and curtain-lace articles	10 per cent
Needles for sewing machines and other machines, for hand sewing and other needles	20 per cent
Thread and thread items	10 per cent
Articles from plastic materials	10 per cent
Tooth brushes, clothes brushes and other bristle and brush articles, on the average,	15 per cent

SOAP, PERFUMES AND COSMETIC AND TOBACCO GOODS

Household soap	15 per cent
Toilet soap	20 per cent
Perfumes, eau de cologne and other perfumery and cosmetic goods	10 per cent
High grade cigarettes	10 per cent
Cigarettes of other grades and tobacco	5 per cent
Makhorka	10 per cent

GOODS FOR CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS AND TOYS

Musical instruments, on the average,	10 per cent
Writing paper, notebooks and other articles made of paper and cardboard	10 per cent
Pencils, nibs, penholders and other writing and drawing appliances	15 per cent
Fountain pens and pencils, on the average,	20 per cent
Rubber, celluloid, metal and other toys and fir tree decorations	10 per cent

**PORCELAIN, EARTHENWARE AND GLASS
ARTICLES**

Porcelain articles and earthenware, on the average,	15 per cent
Glass items for lamps and high-grade pressed Glassware	20 per cent
High-grade blown glass articles and household glassware and mirrors	10 per cent

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Electric bulbs	25 per cent
Domestic electrical appliances, electric fixtures and other electrical goods	15 per cent
Vacuum cleaners	25 per cent
“ZIS-Moskva” refrigerators and washing machines	15 per cent
Axes, saws, drills, blacksmith, fitter, carpenter and other tools	20 per cent
Pitchforks, scythes, sickles and other small agricultural implements	20 per cent
Carts, wheels and other parts for carts	10 per cent

Castings for ovens	10 per cent
Utensils made from aluminium of primary alloys, enamelled iron, galvanized iron, enamelled cast-iron, brass, stainless steel and cupro-nickel	10 per cent
Utensils made from tinned iron	30 per cent
Cutlery	10 per cent
Hardware, meat-grinders, kerosene stoves, Lamps, lanterns and other metal household goods	10 per cent
Sewing machines	10 per cent
Furniture	5 per cent
Factory-made carpets and carpet articles	5 per cent
Feather and down articles	10 per cent
Oil cloth, granitol and calico	10 per cent
Wadding and fleecy stockinet	8 per cent
Dyes for household dyeing of fabrics	20 per cent

BUILDING MATERIALS

Slate and felt roofing	20 per cent
Window glass	10 per cent
Structural and roofing iron	10 per cent
Building nails	25 per cent
Nails for horseshoes, for footwear, and other nails	20 per cent
Bolts, rivets, screws for wood, ceramic slabs, metal nets, wires and pipes	20 per cent
Cement	25 per cent
Lacquers, paints and chemicals for household	10 per cent
Sanitary equipment	10 per cent
Linoleum	15 per cent
Wallpaper	20 per cent

MEDICINES AND SANITARY AND HYGIENIC GOODS

Sanitary and hygienic rubber articles	20 per cent
Medicines and other sanitary and hygienic articles, on the average,	15 per cent

MATCHES, KEROSENE AND BENZENE

Matches	17 per cent
Kerosene	25 per cent
Benzene and lubricating oils	25 per cent

BICYCLE'S, CLOCKS AND WATCHES AND. OTHER MANUFACTURED GOODS

Bicycles and spare parts for them	10 per cent
Tyres and tubes, for motor cars and motor cycles	10 per cent
Tyres and tubes for bicycles and balls for athletic games	20 per cent
Skates	10 per cent
Skis	15 per cent
Hunting guns, appliances and ammunition	15 per cent
Hunting and fishing appliances	10 per cent
Wrist watches	5 per cent
Pocket watches and clocks	10 per cent

2. To reduce prices accordingly in restaurants, dining rooms and other catering establishments.

**EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION
OF HUNGARY. Marton Horvath,
Member of Political Bureau, Central
Committee, Hungarian Working
People's Party**

April 4 will mark the 8th anniversary of the victorious battle, vitally significant for the liberation of all mankind, when the Soviet Army drove the last of the fascist hordes from Hungary. At that time in Hungary the four centuries of foreign oppression came to an end; an end came to the thousand years or landlord oppression, to the hundred years of capitalist exploitation, of imperialist rule and to the 25 years of Horthy-fascist reaction. The liberation mission of the Soviet Army, the constant friendly aid of the Soviet Union opened for Hungary the way to the most glorious epoch in its history, to the epoch of the greatest achievements of freedom, democracy and construction of Socialism, to the epoch on the banner of which the countries liberated from the yoke of imperialism and exploitation inscribed the great Stalin slogan of peace among nations, to the epoch which placed little Hungary, too, in the glorious ranks of the "Shock Brigade" of the world revolutionary and working-class movement.

The anniversary of Hungary's liberation, the country's greatest national holiday, is clouded this year by the irreparable loss sustained by the peoples of the world and the Hungarian people – the passing away of Comrade Stalin. The month which has passed since this day of misfortune has shown that the Hungarian people are fully conscious not only of the graveness of the loss suffered by them in the death of their liberator, their leader and teacher, but also of the fact that they must make still greater effort in socialist construction and in defence of peace. Never before has the feeling of gratitude and loyalty for the great, fraternal Soviet Union been so fervent

among our people as on this anniversary. Never before has socialist emulation in both town and countryside developed on such a scale and so successfully as now, in the weeks preceding the anniversary of liberation. Never before have the people been so united and rallied around their Party – the Hungarian Working People’s Party – and their leader, Matias Rakosi, as they are today when preparing for election under the slogan of national unity and under the banner of the Hungarian People’s Independence Front.

The celebration of Hungary’s liberation is the day when we sum up our achievements and chart our future tasks.

The achievements in the sphere of industry, agriculture and culture are striking testimony that the Hungarian people have succeeded in making good use of the freedom and in rapid development of the productive forces. The old Hungary was an industrially backward country. The Hungary of people’s democracy, due to the selfless and all-round aid of the U.S.S.R., to the labour enthusiasm of the people and to the correct policy of the Hungarian Working People’s Party, has been transformed, in an exceptionally brief space of time, into an industrial country. Volume of industrial output in Hungary has risen more than threefold compared with the last prewar year. The extra coal mined in 1952-53 alone will exceed the total coal output of 1938. Per capita coal output has doubled compared with prewar, steel output will rise more than threefold by 1954 and generation of electric power fourfold. The capital investment of 85 thousand million forints during the five-year period will provide for the construction of 341 industrial enterprises. New towns will arise, rural villages and agricultural towns will become industrial centres.

Agriculture which lags behind industry is being brought up to its level: over 37 per cent of the cultivated area in the country is already embraced, by the socialist sector. Striking testimony to the strength and stability of agriculture, which is developing

along socialist lines, is the fact that the aftermath of the unusually severe drought and frosts has not to any considerable degree affected either the food supplies of the population, production or the preparations for spring work. A natural disaster of this kind in old Hungary would have led to hunger, as is the case in neighbouring Yugoslavia.

In 1954 we shall complete our first Five-Year Plan the goal of which is to lay the foundations of Socialism in our country. A basic condition for successful fulfilment of the second Five-Year Plan, now being drafted, will be radical improvement of technical training and the general cultural level of the working people. The tempo of cultural development is not behind that of industrial development. A total of 800 million forints will be spent in the course of the first Five-Year Plan on higher education – 35 times more than the Horthy regime spent in the last five prewar years. Before the war there were 16 students per ten thousand – of the population, last year there were already 51. In the old Hungary students from among working-class and peasant families were rare exceptions, now they comprise already 60 per cent of the student body.

The same uplift is observed in the sphere of public education. Under the Horthy regime one quarter of the children of school age never finished the fourth grade, whereas in the 1952-53 school year 99 per cent of children of school age attend school and in the current year 100,000 pupils will finish the eighth grade of the elementary school. Compared with prewar the number of cinemas will increase sevenfold during the five-year period and the number of radio license-holders – fourfold.

The steady rise in the material wellbeing of our people can be seen from following data: in 1952 the natural increase of the population per 1,000 was 47 per cent higher than pre-war. Infantile mortality (for infants up to one year) fell nearly twofold compared with 1938. There are more hospital beds for

every 10,000 people in Hungary than in France or Belgium.

Naturally this rapid development of socialist industry, agriculture and culture is not taking place without difficulties. The Hungarian people, led by the Party of the working people, are advancing step by step in the fight against internal enemies, who offering stubborn resistance, in struggle against the imperialists' provocations and against all kinds of enemy agents who on the orders of their masters are extending their espionage, sabotage and undermining activity. The enemy is trying to cash in on the difficulties caused by the poor harvest last year, trying to intimidate the masses with insane ravings of the warmongers brandishing sabres, trying to take advantage of the survivals of capitalism in the minds of some backward sections of the population. This explains why the Hungarian Working People's Party and the Government regard it as their most urgent task to alert the vigilance of the working masses, to expose and crush the saboteurs. We explain to the masses that in their undermining work the imperialists use along with their old agency, such as clerical reaction and the Right-wing Socialists, also the Zionist gangs. As a result, the masses are becoming more and more conscious that the success of our peaceful construction is being gained in fierce struggle against the enemy and against backwardness.

In order successfully to complete the Five-Year Plan we need, in equal manner, a labour upsurge, fighting preparedness and vigilance of the broad masses. Together with the measures for ensuring higher professional skill of the working people, our vital task is to achieve an all-round enhancement of their socialist consciousness.

In both these spheres the aid of the Soviet Union is decisive.

J. V. Stalin pointed out: "The experience of this co-operation (that is, the co-operation among the countries of the socialist camp – **M. H.**) shows that not a single capitalist

country could have rendered such effective and technically competent assistance to the People's Democracies as the Soviet Union is rendering them”.

Better technical training and professional tempering of our cadres are a prerequisite for full utilisation of the technical help given by the Soviet Union and which is of great importance for us. More rapid development of consciousness among the working people constitutes another important and decisive prerequisite. The Soviet Union shares with us not simply **advanced** experience, it supplies us with **socialist** experience in the sphere of industry and agriculture. In order to utilise this experience to the full it is necessary not only to master, for example, the methods of high-speed metal processing or the most advanced agro-technique based on the Michurin teaching; it is necessary also to inculcate a socialist attitude towards labour, towards public property, to inculcate a socialist outlook, socialist consciousness. This signifies that we need not only to assimilate the technical knowledge and the rich experience of the Soviet people, but also to learn from them how to develop consciousness, patriotism, internationalism.

We have already reached the stage in our socialist construction when we can no longer rest content with the successes gained in the sphere of re-education of the working people. In order to complete the first Five-Year Plan and to prepare for the second Five-Year Plan, it is essential to intensify the struggle in the enterprises and in the socialist sector of agriculture against bourgeois survivals such as indiscipline and squandering; it is essential to ensure more successful mastery of the new technique both in industry and in agriculture, and do all this in close conjunction with deepening the Marxist-Leninist education of the people. In the period of socialist construction the Hungarian Working People's Party unswervingly guided by Marxist-Leninist theory, relying on the working masses, is successfully eliminating the survivals of the

past in the minds of the people.

The Soviet Army, by its liberation mission, opened for Hungary a new era in its history. On the basis of the experience of the eight years that have passed in struggle, in labour and victories, equipped with the life-giving teaching of the immortal Lenin and Stalin, relying on the experience of socialist construction in the U.S.S.R. and on the aid of the Soviet Union, having in our hands the historic decisions of the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U. – decisions that illumine our path forward, we can definitely say on this eighth anniversary of the liberation of our country that we have everything needed for the complete victory of Socialism in Hungary.

IN COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES

New Editions of Comrade Stalin's Works In China

In view of the big demand for Comrade Stalin's works in China the "Jenminchupanshe" Publishing House is putting out large editions of the works of the great leader of the peoples and also books devoted to his life and activity.

The following works are due to come of the press: "The International Character of the October Revolution", "Speech at the First All-Union Conference of Stakhanovites", "Problems of Agrarian Policy in the U.S.S.R.", "Industrialisation of the Country and the Right Deviation in the C.P.S.U. (B)", "A Year of Great Change", "Dizzy with Success", "The Results of the First Five-Year Plan". Political reports of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. (B) at the XIV and the XV Congresses of the C.P.S.U. (B), "Foundations of Leninism" and "Problems of Leninism".

Seminars For Functionaries of Rumanian Workers' Party

The members of the Rumanian Workers' Party are continuing to study J. V. Stalin's brilliant work "Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R." and the materials of the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U. Beginning with April 1 seminars opened for the first secretaries of regional committees during which lectures on J. V. Stalin's classical work will be delivered

by members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party and by outstanding workers on the ideological front.

A seminar was held for Central Committee organiser and for instructors of the department of Party, trade union and youth organ of the Central Committee. In addition to theoretical reports on Comrade Stalin's work important questions of Party political and organisational work were discussed in the light of the historic documents of the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U. Papers, for example, were read on subjects such as "V. I. Lenin and J. V. Stalin on organisation and verification of fulfilment", "On Party membership".

Sharing their experience of work, participants in the seminar stressed that the study of J. V. Stalin's brilliant work and of the historic decisions of the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U. greatly facilitate raising the level of Party organisational work of the regional and district organisations. This finds expression, in greater activity of Party members, in the growing militancy of the branches.

Participants of the seminar disclosed a number of serious shortcomings in Party work. They pointed out, for example that the decisions of the leading Party organs are not always made known to the branches and that control over the carrying out of decisions is inadequate. They also criticised some incorrect methods of work practised by the instructors of the Party Committee.

Similar seminars will be held also in the regional and district organisations of the Party.

Plenum Of Central Committee Of Austrian Communist Party

A plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the

Austrian Communist Party took place on March 24-25 in Vienna. Opening the meeting Comrade Johann Koplenig, Chairman of the Party, paid tribute to the memory of J. V. Stalin.

Comrade Koplenig spoke on the first point on the agenda "Results of the Parliamentary election and next tasks of the Party". After thorough discussion which revealed the unanimity of the entire Party, a resolution was unanimously adopted.

The report on the second point on the agenda "The fight for political and moral purity of the Party", was delivered by Comrade Friedl Fűrberg and was unanimously approved.

Plenum Of Central Committee Of Polish United Workers' Party

The VIII plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party was held on March 28.

Those present stood for a minute's silence in homage to the memory of J. V. Stalin, brilliant leader and teacher of the working class and of all progressive mankind, in homage to the memory of Klement Gottwald, great leader of the peoples of Czechoslovakia.

The meeting heard a report by Boleslaw Bierut "Immortal Teaching of Comrade Stalin a Weapon in the Struggle for Further Strengthening of the Party and the National Front".

After discussion a resolution was unanimously adopted:

"The VIII plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party adopts the report made by Comrade Boleslaw Bierut, Chairman of the Central Committee, Immortal Teaching of Comrade Stalin a Weapon in the Struggle for Further Strengthening of the Party and the National Front' as a guide for the work of the entire Party, at all levels and in all organisations".

The meeting co-opted Comrade Edmund Pszozolkowski to the Secretariat of the Central Committee, transferring him at the same time from alternate member to full member of the Central Committee. The meeting also co-opted to the Central Committee Comrade Tadeusz Gede, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and co-opted alternate members of the Central Committee.

Militant Programme of People's Struggle in Vietnam

Plenary Meeting, Central Committee, Viet Nam Working People's Party

At its fourth plenary meeting the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Working People's Party, basing itself on the brilliant theses of J. V. Stalin's classical work, "Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.", and on the documents of the XIX Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, analysed the international and national situation and indicated the path to victory in the war of resistance and defined the tasks for the Party and people during 1953.

Stressing the nature of the Viet Nam people's-democratic and national revolution as being basically a peasant revolution, the Central Committee pointed out that special attention should be paid to strengthening the forces of the peasants and to satisfying their legitimate economic and political demands. In this way the alliance of the workers and peasants will be effectively consolidated, the Party, the peasant associations, people's rule and the National United Front will be strengthened and final victory ensured in the war of resistance.

The Central Committee outlined the following five main

tasks for 1953:

The main task is to intensify the activity of the masses, a task which takes precedence over all others; other tasks include intensifying the wide mass struggle for full implementation of the policy of reducing land rent and usury interest for dividing among the peasants the communal land and land belonging to the French colonisers and Viet Nam traitors.

It is essential to strengthen political leadership by the Party in the Army and to intensify work for reforms in the Army and in the system of military training.

The Party must lead the emulation drive to increase production in co-ordination with the work of agitation among the masses. Care must be taken to improve the living conditions of the people, and measures must be taken to forestall a possible scarcity of food and against flooding. State trade and banking operations must be strengthened and also the economic struggle against the enemy, while active struggle must be waged against bureaucratism, corruption and waste.

Behind the enemy lines guerrilla warfare and the fight against enemy "mopping up operations" must be developed further with a view to consolidating and broadening the guerrilla areas and bases; to foil the design of the enemy to build up a puppet administration and army, and to counter the enemy policy of economic destruction and looting and political deceit. In the rear of the enemy the organisation and education of the people must be strengthened and the Party leadership unified.

It is necessary to improve the work of the Party cells in the villages in keeping with the task of agitation among the masses. To conduct work for remoulding Party and non-party cadre. The Party must be strengthened organisationally and ideologically.

The plenum called on the entire Party to enhance political vigilance in order to smash all enemy espionage nests.

The meeting was greatly inspired by the victories gained in the past year by the People's Army and the people of Viet Nam in the resistance struggle and by the achievements in democratic development and economic construction.

Raising Ideological And Political Level Of Meetings Of Factory Organisations Of Socialist Unity Party of Germany

Raising the level of the branch meetings is a matter which receives the constant attention of the leadership in the organisations of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. The example of the big organisation in the Bitterfeld electro-chemical combinat points to the need for thorough preparation of the Party meetings, to study and generalise the experience of the meetings.

The leadership thoroughly prepares the agenda of the meetings. Representatives of the leadership verify how the branch meetings are prepared and conducted.

Verification helped bring to light and to eliminate the shortcomings. For example, in the "Nord" works an affiliate of the combinat, some of the branches practised the policy of holding "joint meetings". This incorrect method did not give the members the possibility of making a thorough study of all aspects of the questions concerning the separate branches. Each branch was thus deprived of the opportunity to verify the carrying out of its decisions. And finally, these meetings did not ensure necessary development of self-criticism and criticism from below.

Now, together with better preparation of the closed Party meetings, the branches have begun to hold open meetings. In the course of preparing meetings the branch leadership discusses the main questions for the meetings; emulation in the

shop, the fight for economy, improving quality, etc. After holding open Party meetings, for example, the power house and in one of the shops of the combinat, the inter-shop emulation developed on a wide scale.

**ALBANIAN PEOPLE ON PATH OF
LAYING FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIALISM.
Enver Hodja, General Secretary,
Central Committee, Albanian Party of
Labour**

The Albanian people are successfully building Socialism under the leadership of their Party of Labour. Our people are firmly and unswervingly following the path blazed by the great Soviet Union, by the heroic Party of Lenin-Stalin, – the Stalin path.

J. V. Stalin was the leader of all progressive humanity, the organiser and inspirer of the victories of Socialism and Communism, the captain of genius of the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet people and the national-liberation struggle of all peoples in the world fighting against fascist enslavement. J. V. Stalin was the great coryphaeus of science. Until the last, Stalin's thoughts and actions were directed to the struggle for the happiness of the people, for world peace. He was the most consistent defender of the ideas of proletarian internationalism and international solidarity of the working people, a splendid fighter for the happiness and friendship of the peoples.

J. V. Stalin was the brilliant continuer of the cause of the great Lenin together with whom he founded and tempered the glorious Party of Bolsheviks, created and consolidated the great socialist motherland of the workers and peasants. Thanks to the brilliant leadership of Lenin and Stalin the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the first socialist state in the world became the source of the hope and cherished dreams of all peoples, their reliable mainstay in the struggle against capitalist oppression. The peoples of the world love the Soviet Union and will give all their efforts to its defence, since

encroachment on the Soviet Union signifies encroachment on the life of all peace-loving peoples. The peoples of the countries of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism could not have lived in freedom and happiness without the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union has become the indestructible steel bastion of defence of the interests of the peoples of the entire world, of their freedom, independence and sovereignty.

For mankind the great Stalin is not dead. He lives and will live throughout the ages. His behests, his teaching and his ideas of genius illumine and will continue to illumine the pathway of progressive mankind. The Communist and Workers' Parties in all countries, progressive people everywhere will, with boundless fidelity, follow the immortal teaching of J. V. Stalin. They will unswervingly carry out his teaching.

Stalin's cause is being continued with firm resolve by the great Communist Party of the Soviet Union, by his loyal disciples and companions-in-arms whom Comrade Stalin trained and tempered with such care and affection. The sacred cause of Lenin-Stalin is in reliable hands, it is being carried forward and upheld with boundless fidelity by millions of Communists and hundreds of millions of working people throughout the world.

Our people know that for the existence of the new, people's-democratic Albania they are indebted to the great Stalin, to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet people. Without Stalin, without the Soviet Union the Albanian people could never have won their happy life, freedom, independence and sovereignty; our Albania would not have been a people's-democratic country successfully building Socialism; it would have been an open grave, a country in which the fascists and their lackeys would have continued at will the criminal business of annihilating the people.

All the successes of our free country are linked with the name of Stalin – the creator of all that is new, splendid and

beneficial for our people. The suffering and impoverishment of the Albanian people in the past, in the years of the domination of the imperialists, the feudal lords and the bourgeoisie, are indescribable. In the past Albania was bartered among the imperialists who plundered and dismembered it at will. In the past the people of Albania had no friends, they were isolated and fought the imperialist robbers single-handed. The first to raise his mighty voice in defence of our small nation was the great Lenin who laid bare and exposed the secret treaties of the imperialists in respect to dismemberment of Albania.

The Great October Socialist Revolution was the sun, the rays of which illuminated also the pathway for our people. The great Stalin – brilliant continuer of Lenin’s cause – fulfilled Lenin’s behest in relation to our people; he secured their final liberation.

In 1939 Albania – our homeland – was barbarously attacked by the Italian fascists. Our people met the enemy arms in hand and did not cease the national-liberation struggle until Albania was completely delivered from the Italian-German fascist occupationists, from the feudalists and the bourgeoisie. In those years the Soviet Union alone, the loyal defender of the freedom and the rights of the peoples, raised its mighty voice in protest and resolutely opposed the occupation of Albania.

The peoples of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Government headed by the great Stalin sided with the Albanian people, solidarising themselves until the end with their struggle. The Albanian people have always keenly felt this support and this affection on the part of the Soviet peoples and Comrade Stalin. Hence the Albanian people, when launching their heroic struggle in April 1939, were convinced that the hour had struck for the final liberation of their country.

From the first days of the national-liberation struggle the people of Albania linked their fate with the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union was perfidiously attacked by the

bloody Hitler hordes, our small nation waged the struggle for national liberation with still greater persistence.

The founding of the Communist Party of Albania, born in the crucible of war and built on the basis of the Lenin-Stalin principles, ensured victory. Our Party succeeded in rallying the Albanian people around its platform and in pointing out the pathway to victory for the broad masses. Imbued with absolute faith in the Party, the people unswervingly followed it, fought and performed real miracles. Smashing the fascist hordes and the gangs of betrayers of the country the Party frustrated all the foul intrigues of the U.S.-British “allies” who sought to corrupt our heroic Party, to strangle the national-liberation struggle and to place internal reaction in power.

Our Party and our people were inspired in the struggle by the great Stalin, by the Soviet Union and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. With Stalin’s name on their lips, the Communists and heroic patriots of Albania fought for the homeland and triumphed. Stalin taught our Party courage, to surmount all dangers, to overcome all enemies, to preserve unity like the apple of the eye, to preserve the purity of its ranks, to be ruthless towards all deviators, Trotskyites and enemy agents. Fighting and following the example of the Bolsheviks, our Party strengthened its iron discipline and whetted its revolutionary vigilance. Our heroic Party resolutely followed the pathway charted by the great Stalin and brought out people to victory.

The Albanian people were liberated forever due to the world-historic victories of the glorious Soviet Army. The name of Stalin has become most dear to our people.

The war wrought fearful havoc in our country. But our people performed miracles. They emerged from the war strong as never before, tempered as steel and acquired their best friends: the Soviet Union and the People’s Democracies.

The enemies of our country headed by the U.S.-British

imperialists, calculated that they would have no difficulty in depriving the Albanian people of their great gains. But they bitterly miscalculated and were resolutely rebuffed. They tried in vain to organise internal reaction and to utilise it against the people's-democratic system; vain were the international provocation against our country, the pressure and the blackmail of the international arena. All these attempts suffered ignominious fiasco since our Party was alert, vigilant as J. V. Stalin taught us, since our people enjoyed the all-round and mighty aid of the Soviet Union and of J. V. Stalin personally.

In the complex postwar conditions, the Albanian people, under the leadership of their Party and with J. V. Stalin's aid, with the aid of the Soviet people, continued to consolidate the people's power and to lay the foundations of Socialism. But the U.S.-British imperialists never let up. A fearful danger loomed over our country in the postwar years. This danger was created by the Tito Belgrade bandits who became the vile agents of the U.S.-British imperialists. The Belgrade traitors' in collaboration with the Albanian betrayers – the Trotskyites Kochi Xoxe, Pandi Kristo and others – camouflaged themselves in every way in an attempt to sap the forces of our homeland from within to overthrow the people's democratic system. And again our people succeeded in averting this deadly menace thanks to Stalin's genius, to the Bolshevik Party – the mother saviour – who ripped the mask from the Titoite traitors. Our people and our Party breathed a sigh of relief and got down to work with the greatest enthusiasm.

Factories and huge amalgamations have been built in our country. In the past our country had no industry, now we have a fully up-to-date industry equipped with Soviet machinery. At present our country is supplied with manufactured goods, sugar, cement and other materials of home production. We have built and are building powerful hydro-electric stations, we have restored our mines and are successfully developing them. Our

agriculture, which was in a state of decline and backwardness, has made tremendous progress. Soviet tractors are ploughing the fields of Albanian peasants, the co-operative movement is being extended on solid foundations, as we have been taught by J. V. Stalin. Culture and education are developing on an unprecedented scale. This development is truly amazing: thousands of schools are being built and new cadres are being trained.

The face of our homeland has changed completely. A new consciousness permeates the people. They have become men and women of a new type, working heroically for their free homeland, for a still better life. All these brilliant victories, registered by our people, are linked with the Soviet Union, with the name of Stalin, with his paternal solicitude. His dear name will live forever in the hearts of our people, in the hearts of the future generations of Albania.

The enemies of the Albanian people and of all humanity – the U.S.-British imperialists and their accomplices – have not laid down their arms they are feverishly preparing for a new world slaughter. The Albanian people are fully conscious of the seriousness of this threat to peace. Consequently, they are closing their ranks as never before around their glorious saviour – the Soviet Union and the fraternal peoples of the People's Democracies.

Geographically our country is surrounded by rabid enemies of the peoples and of the peace. The Tito criminals in Belgrade, the Greek monarcho-fascists and the Italian neo-fascists – these foul lackeys of the U.S.-British imperialists – cannot become reconciled to the existence of the People's Republic of Albania. They provoke incidents daily on our borders, slander our country and elaborate devilish plans against our country, entering into secret agreements with a view to attacking and dismembering it. But they are mistaken in their hopes of success in carrying out these designs. The Albanian people

enjoy the mighty and reliable support of the Soviet Union, of all the countries of people's democracy and of all progressive people in the world.

The Albanian people and their Party are not afraid of enemy threats and intimidation. They have strong nerves. The valour and courage of the Albanian people are acknowledged even by the enemies. The heroic army of our people, closely linked with the people, tempered in the flames of struggle and trained in the spirit of Stalin's victorious science of war, is on the alert and always ready to defend our country and the people against any danger. Our heroic Party of Labour is more vigilant than ever. It has inculcated vigilance in the people and is ready resolutely to rebuff external and internal enemies should they dare encroach on the great gains of the Albanian people. The new Albania exists and will exist as an inaccessible granite cliff. The Albanian people will preserve with utter fidelity their love for the Soviet Union and guided by the immortal ideas of Stalin, unswervingly march onward to new victories.

NEW STEP TOWARDS STRENGTHENING PEACE. Statement by Governments of Korean People's Democratic Republic, Chinese People's Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

On March 28, Marshal Kim Ir Sen, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, and General Peng Teh-Huai, Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, in response to a letter from General Clark, agreed to a proposal for an exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war and simultaneously suggested resumption of negotiations with a view to settling the question of prisoners of war as a whole and thereby achieve an armistice in Korea.

On March 30, **Chou En-lai**, Prime Minister of the State Administrative Council and Foreign Minister of the Chinese People's Republic made a statement in which he stressed that "the time has arrived for the settlement of the entire question of prisoners of war in order to ensure an end to hostilities in Korea and to conclude an armistice agreement".

Chou En-lai stated that the Government of the Chinese People's Republic and the Government of the Korean People's Democratic Republic have always considered and consider now that a reasonable settlement of the war prisoners question "can be based only on the release and repatriation of prisoners, of war without delay after the cessation of military operations in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 1949 and in particular with Article 118 of this convention. However, in view of the fact that the disagreement of the two sides on this question is now the sole barrier to an armistice in Korea, and in order to satisfy the cherished hopes of the peoples of the world,

yearning for peace, the Government of the Chinese People's Republic and the Government of the Korean People's Democratic Republic, adhering to their consistent peace policy and to their standpoint of constant striving for a speedy armistice in Korea and for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question and in this way preservation and strengthening of world peace, are ready to take steps in order to eliminate the differences on this question for the sake of achieving an armistice in Korea."

On behalf of the Governments of the Chinese People's Republic and the Korean People's Democratic Republic Chou En-lai proposed that "the two negotiating sides should pledge to repatriate immediately upon cessation of hostilities all prisoners of war in to a neutral state with the aim of ensuring just settlement of the question of their repatriation".

In a statement which followed on March 31, **Marshal Kim Ir Sen**, Prime Minister of the Korean People's Democratic Republic, underlined that "the Government of the Korean People's Democratic Republic fully shared both the evaluation of the political situation contained in this statement and the concrete conclusions and proposals outlined therein". Kim Ir Sen noted further that "if the side of the Uno troops sincerely desires peace it will definitely accent our just proposals."

On April 1 a statement on the Korean question was made by Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov, Foreign Minister of the U.S.S.R.

V. M. Molotov stressed that "the Governments of the Chinese People's Republic and the Korean People's Democratic Republic have once again taken the initiative in the matter of reaching agreement for an armistice and for ending the war in Korea".

"I have been authorised to state," reads the statement of V. M. Molotov. "that, the Soviet Government expresses its wholehearted solidarity with this noble act of the Government

of the Chinese People's Republic and the Government of the Korean People's Democratic Republic, and has no doubt that this act will meet with the warm support of the peoples of the whole world. The Soviet Government also expresses the conviction that this proposal will be correctly understood by the Government of the United States of America.

"The Soviet Government has invariably supported all steps aimed at establishing a just armistice and at ending the war in Korea.

"A beginning was made by the reply of J. V. Stalin, head of the Soviet Government, to the message of Mr. Nehru, Prime Minister of India, as far back as July 1950.

"The radio address of the representative of the U.S.S.R. on the Security Council, delivered in New York in June 1951, as is known served as the basis for the commencement of negotiations for an armistice in Korea. These truce talks, which took place first in Kaesong and later in Panmunjom, led to agreement on all terms for an armistice with the exception of the question of repatriation of prisoner's of war. But the truce talks were broken off by General Clark last October and this delayed the signing of an armistice".

"There can be no doubt whatever", said V. M. Molotov, "that the peoples of the world and all who honestly desire an end to the war in Korea and to promote the strengthening of peace and the security of the peoples of the Far East and the entire world will greet this proposal with warm sympathy and give it their full support.

"The Soviet Government recognises the full justice of this proposal of the Government of the Chinese People's Republic and the Government of the Korean People's Democratic Republic, and expresses its readiness to give full co-operation in its realisation".

V. M. Molotov pointed out further that "the United Nations Organisation could do more as regards an armistice and the

termination of the war in Korea if it had in its composition the lawful representatives of China and Korea.

“The fact that the Chinese people and the Korean people are deprived of lawful representation in the United Nations undermines, in the first place, the authority of that organisation and, secondly, deprives it of the possibility duly to promote the consolidation of international security and world peace.

The Soviet Government feels obliged to recall once again that restoration of the rights of the Chinese people and of the Korean people in the United Nations is an urgent matter, and that restoration of the rights of China and Korea in the United Nations, especially in the present conditions, accords with the necessity of raising the prestige and international significance of the United Nations, and will contribute to strengthening world peace”.

PEOPLE OF ITALY UPHOLD DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

General Strike Protest Against Fraudulent Electoral Law

On March 29 the clerical government of Italy and its accomplices secured the adoption by the Senate of the anti-democratic fraudulent law for “reform” of the electoral system. This “law” has now received the assent of the President.

Even though the reactionary parties enjoy a considerable majority both in the Chamber of Deputies and in the Senate, the de Gasperi. Government had to resort to machinations, intimidation and violence in order to get it adopted by Parliament.

For the purpose of restricting the rights of the Opposition and of guillotining the debate on the bill, de Gasperi, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Scelba, Minister of the Interior, conferred more than once with Paratore, President of the Senate, demanding that he should “use his powers”. Subsequently, forcing the intractable Paratore to resign from the Presidency of the Senate, the Christian Democratic chiefs replaced him by their stooge Ruini. Gallante, Secretary-General of the Senate Bureau, who had the function of safeguarding rules of procedure in the Senate, was forcibly removed from his place beside the Chairman and replaced by a Christian Democratic senator. It turned out that the register of the Senate proceedings, recorded among those allegedly voting, for the bill the names of the Communist senators,

Scocimarro and Bei, and also the names of three senators who were not in the Senate when the vote was taken, including the name of Senator Anfossi, Social Democrat, who on the day of the voting was not in the Rome Province.

The leadership of the Italian Communist Party in its call to the people entitled “Uphold Freedom!” evaluated the adoption of the “law” by the Government majority as “an unprecedented, criminal coup effected in the Senate against democratic freedoms and against the rights of Parliament”. “Today no one can guarantee”, the call says, “that an even graver crime is not being concocted in secrecy against our Republic... It is imperative that all the working people, all who are concerned with the fate of democracy, who wish to save the Republic, should unanimously and resolutely voice their protests”.



All honest democrats, all working people in Italy are taking resolute action against the anti-democratic electoral law. Responding to the call of the General Confederation of labour an all-Italy general strike from 8 a.m. to 12 midnight took place on March 30. Millions of working people downed tools and crowded the streets and squares expressing their indignant protest against the anti-popular action of the Government in the slogans: “No – to the fraudulent electoral law!”, “Long live Parliament!”. More than 90 per cent of factory and office workers all over the country took part in the strike. Urban transport came to it standstill. Railway workers stopped trains for 15 minutes. Students too joined in the strike.

Popular demonstrations continued throughout March 30 in almost all districts of Rome where demonstrators resolutely rebuffed the police. A powerful demonstration was held in the centre of the city in the evening, despite the fact that the police

arrested nearly one thousand people.

Workers ceased work in the big enterprises in Milan – Alfa Romeo, Breda, Montecatini and others. A big demonstration was held on the central square of the city. The port of Genoa was idle throughout the day; 95-98 per cent of the personnel of the Ansaldo shipyard, the biggest in the country took part in the strike. About 120 thousand farm labourers and agricultural workers in the Florence Province took part in the protest demonstrations. The working people in other cities and provinces also took vigorous action against the anti-democratic electoral system.

Italy has never known such a broad political protest movement as this, with the vast majority of the working people fighting for democratic rights. The movement enjoys the backing of all sections of the population, all democrats of varying political convictions. National unity of citizens-democrats is being forged and the people are resisting the drive of reaction against democratic rights and the freedom of the people.

Increasing numbers of Italians are becoming conscious of the danger against which Palmiro Togliatti warned the people in his speech on January 17.

The Italian democratic press, pointing to the enormous scale of the struggle waged by the popular masses, expresses its confidence that the Communist and Socialist Parties, which have picked up the banner of democratic freedoms, will prove capable of rallying the people who, with ever greater resolve, will unfold victorious struggle for democracy and the Republican Constitution.



The Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic has resolved on measures to improve the work of the machine and tractor stations and to introduce a new system of remuneration for tractor-drivers—members of the producer co-operatives. Photo: Tractor-drivers in the Perkat machine and tractor station discuss the decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic.

The Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic has resolved on measures to improve the work of the machine and tractor stations and to introduce a new system of remuneration for tractor-drivers – members of the producer co-operatives. Photo: Tractor-drivers in the Perkat machine and tractor station discuss the decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic.

TWO WORLDS TWO WAYS OF LIFE

Budget For The New Sofia

The budget, recently approved by the Sofia People's Council of Working People's Deputies, envisages further development of the capital of People's Democratic Bulgaria.

One-third of the budget, which amounts to nearly 340 million levas, is earmarked for capital construction, including reconstruction of the centre of the city, new dwelling houses, schools, clubs and hospitals, extension of street-car and trolleybus lines, water supply and sewerage. The new budget provides the money for large-scale urban improvement: street paving, planting greenery, construction of new shops, canteens cafes and, restaurants.

The capital of the new Bulgaria is covered with construction sites. The value of last year's construction work in the city was 273 per cent compared with 1950. In February this year one thousand six hundred and five apartments for working people, thirteen administrative buildings and nine industrial enterprises were under construction.

House rent in Sofia nowadays does not exceed ten per cent of the earnings of the working people.

New York – City of Slums

In New York people live in dark, damp and filthy basements which words fail to describe. Families of 6, 7 and more people cook, take their meals and sleep in a single room. Such is the picture of present-day New York as described in an official report published by a Brooklyn Grand Jury. The report goes on to say that the slums in New York are rapidly growing

and present a serious threat to the city. This is confirmed in a number of other official statements.

New York workers are forced to pay half their earnings for dwellings, most of which, according to the press, are unfit for human habitation.

In March the New York State legislative assembly decided on a measure which will further aggravate the impoverishment of the workers and add to the profits of the landlords – a decision providing for a general 15 per cent increase in rent.

Growing Well-Being Of Working People In Czechoslovakia

The volume of consumer goods sold by the state and co-operative stores in Czechoslovakia for the period 1949-1952, that is, during the four years of the country's first Five-Year plan, is striking testimony to the steady improvement in the material well-being of the working population.

Sales of textiles and ready-made clothes rose 14 per cent in 1950 compared with 1949, 58 per cent in 1951, 68 per cent in 1952. Annual sales of leather footwear in 1950-52 were, on the average 40-42 per cent above 1949.

In 1949 the working people bought 55,000 suites of furniture. For 1950 the figure was over 62,000, for 1951 – 171,000 and for 1952 – 200,000. During these four years sales of radio sets, electric washing machines, refrigerators, bicycles and motorcycles exceeded the sales in 20 years of the bourgeois republic. During the four-year period the working people bought nearly half a million watches. There are now 2,717,000 radio license-holders in the country, that is, practically one for every family.

At Expense Of Cardinal Interests Of Austrian Working People

The Austrian Government, on U.S. instructions, is supplying electric power to West German munition plants. The Austrian consumer pays about three times more for every k.w.h. of electricity than any West German industrialist.

The loss thus incurred by the Austrian economy by March already runs into a sum of 450 million schillings or about 18 million dollars. According to the newspaper "Tagblatt am Montag" this sum would suffice to complete the electrification of Austria's vital railways, to build thousands of houses for the homeless and ensure jobs for the hundreds of thousands of Austrian unemployed.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION IN FRANCE

Highly important events have taken place since the National Conference of the French Communist Party, held on March 5-6, events which testify to the constantly growing serious political, economic and financial difficulties of the French bourgeoisie.

Two events occurred on March 24 a few hours before Prime Minister Mayer and a number of his ministers left for Washington in response to a summons from John Foster Dulles.

One was the latest fascist provocation of the Government which found expression in the unlawful arrest of Andre Stil, Chief Editor of "l'Humanite"; Lucien Molino, Secretary of the General Confederation of Labour; Andre Tollet, Secretary of the Seine Department of the Amalgamated Trade Unions and the issue of warrants for the arrest of Benoit Frachon, General Secretary of the General Confederation of Labour, and Marcel Dufriche, head of the youth sector of the General Confederation of Labour, and also in the despicable raids on the apartments of active workers and on the premises of trade union organisations.

The second was the sudden decision, imposed on the majority of the National Assembly by means of blackmail, of the advance to the Government by the Bank of France of 80,000 million francs in addition to the 25,000 million francs already advanced on January 22. Without this new credit the French capitalist state would have been forced to cease payments and its financial activity.

This testifies that the economic crisis in France is developing in scale and depth, a crisis which heralds growing unemployment and impoverishment for the masses.

Industrial production, which hitherto showed a steady but

very slow increase, beginning with the first quarter of 1952 begin steadily to decline. This applies mainly to production of consumer goods which in the fourth quarter of 1952, for example, dropped 11 per cent compared with the same period in 1951.

And the stagnation and decline which in 1951 already gripped the textile and footwear industries, spread to many other branches of production. Coal stocks at the pits amount at present to 3.5 million tons. In ferrous metallurgy orders have diminished from 506,650 tons in November 1952 to 376,900 tons in December 1952. Compared with the first six months orders for primary processing of steel declined in the second half of 1952 by 28 per cent, for the automobile industry by 30 per cent, for production of metal constructions by 45 per cent, for railways, road work and the nationalised branches of industry by 49 per cent. An ever greater part of industry works for war, and the growing share of raw materials and semi-manufactures in French exports impart to the economy of the country, in a sense, a semi-colonial character.

Agriculture has also been seriously affected by the crisis. This crisis expressed in particular in the difficulties experienced in marketing and agricultural products on the home market, in reduced use of fertilizers and reduced agricultural exports.

The shrinking industrial and agricultural production is leading to reduction in freight turnover. In the fourth quarter of 1952 rail freight carriage declined 14 per cent and, seaborne shipments by 10 per cent compared with the corresponding period of 1951.

One of the most telling signs of the economic crisis is the steady growth of unemployment.

According even to official data for March 1, 1953, the number of unemployed receiving benefit (75,200) increased by 84 per cent compared with March 1952 and the number

looking for jobs (216,700) by 56 per cent. Actually, however, the number of fully unemployed on March 1, 1953, numbered 650,000 as against 310,000 on January 1, 1952. In addition to the fully unemployed there should be added the nearly 2 million men and, women workers who are employed less than 40 hours a week. At present working hours are being cut more and more frequently even at the big enterprises and in almost all branches of industry.

According to data furnished in December 1952 by the Centre for the Study of Economic and Social Problems the wage fund decreased by 34,000 million francs as against December 1951.

The sole ascending curve is that of the profits of the monopolies. The trusts are not only adding to their profits, they are also taking advantage of the economic stagnation and militarisation of the economy to intensify concentration of capital and with the help of the banking system and the state to liquidate many small and medium enterprises who cease to exist or are swallowed by the big enterprises.

Every day more and more people, and not only ordinary people, but also the more far-sighted representatives of the bourgeoisie acknowledge the correctness of the evaluation of the economic situation in the country given by Jacques Duclos on January 6, 1953, from the tribune of the National Assembly. "The serious difficulties experienced by France", said Jacques Duclos, "are generated firstly by militarisation of the economy, secondly by the shrinking of the home market in consequence of the decline in the purchasing power of wages and the general impoverishment of the working masses in town and countryside, thirdly, by the reduced export facilities as a consequence of U.S. domination of the French economy and fourthly, as a result of the enormous military expenditure".

Thus, analysis of the situation in France provides yet another vivid illustration of the destructive force of the basic

economic law of modern capitalism, formulated by the great Stalin.

The aggravation of France's economic and financial situation evokes keen discontent and fierce resistance on the part of all working people, whose conditions worsen day by day. "Simultaneously it evokes profound confusion even among influential bourgeois circles, which, placed by the U.S. billionaires on rations, encounter the menace of competition on the part of Western Germany, which according to MacCloy, late U.S. High Commissioner in Bonn, is the continental sword of the United States.

The open revival of the fascist Wehrmacht and the serious threat arising from this to the security and the very existence of France as a sovereign and independent nation further aggravate the discontent and intensifies the resistance.

The sinister perspective of intensified war in-Viet Nam and the threat of a new world war, now being prepared by the U.S. imperialists, are giving rise to concern among the working masses. At the same time these perspectives are not at all to the liking of the more far-seeing representatives of the French bourgeoisie itself.

The movement which has developed in France is so powerful that the rulers have not yet succeeded in ratifying the Bonn and Paris military treaties.

It should be noted that the antagonisms, both among the members of the "European Community" and between each of these countries with the U.S., are not becoming smoother, on the contrary, they are sharpening.

This explains the feverish search of the imperialist rulers of the U.S. for every possible means to avoid fiasco for the Bonn and Paris military treaties. It is this that explain why they are demanding from the Marshallised rulers of France more and more severe repressions against the working people and all patriots.

Washington demanded guarantees from the Marshallised rulers of France. And the latter provided these guarantees in the shape of foul persecution of the leaders of the French Communist Party and the General Confederation of Labour who are the heart and soul of the patriotic movement of the working class and popular masses against the Government's policy of betrayal of the sacred interests of the country and who firmly hold aloft and carry forward the banner of democratic rights, the banner of national independence, the banner of peace.

The Marshallised rulers who went to the U.S. as supplicants and beggars wanted to demonstrate to Eisenhower, Dulles and Co. that the dollars allocated to France were not spent in vain, that in its repressions against the Communists, workers and democrats the French Government is guided by the Hitler methods of Senator McCarthy.

This aspect of the arrest of a number of leaders of the French working-class movement was stressed in a statement issued by the French Communist Party on March 24. "Obedient to their masters, and reluctant to appear before their masters with empty hands", reads the statement, "Mayer and his accomplices made, on the day of their departure, another serious encroachment on freedom".

Another feature of this fascist provocation is that it was committed on the eve of the municipal election, at the moment the struggle and propaganda of the French Communist Party had become particularly effective, because from their own experience the working people realised that the year of the "Pinay experiment" and the months of the "Mayer experiment" had only resulted in general impoverishment and greater hardships.

The people of France are becoming increasingly aware that the proposals of the French Communist Party designed to solve the immediate problems fully correspond to the sacred interests

of the entire nation.

The attempts to weaken the General Confederation of Labour, particularly the efforts of the splitters from the American-subsidised “Force Ouvriere” and the efforts of the Right-wing Socialist leaders have not yielded the results anticipated by the warmongers.

The working class as a whole reposes its confidence in the General Confederation of Labour. This was once more confirmed in recent weeks, and particularly in connection with the elections of the parity commissions in the decisive corporations such as the Corporation of the Workers of the Coal and Ore Mines. Actually, despite the severe repressions, the General Confederation of Labour received 81 per cent of the miners’ votes in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Departments and 87 per cent of the votes in the ore mines of the Eastern basin.

Precisely for the purpose of effecting the plans for enslavement and war the French Government sought, by means of another plot and by manufacturing fresh police falsifications, to strike a severe blow against the General Confederation of Labour.

The Government is frantically attacking the organisations of the working class. If seeks to prevent the unity of the working class – the basis of the National Front which, by organising and activating the struggle of the masses all over the country, will change the course of events, save France from poverty, foreign enslavement, fascism and war.

In order successfully to rebuff reaction’s encroachment on the republican freedom’s, encroachment spearheaded against the working class, against the people as a whole and against their most generally acknowledged rights, the working people and patriots of varying outlook are uniting in the course of broad, mass and numerous actions to frustrate the anti-republican plot, to bar the way to fascism and war and to

ensure victory for the sacred cause of national independence and peace.

This will to struggle will become stronger and stronger. The French people brand with shame the outrageous attitude of the French Ministers who, crawling before their imperialist masters, have betrayed to the dollar magnates the last attributes of French sovereignty. The French ministers discussed war plans with the U.S. rulers at the very moment when the Government of the Korean People's Democratic Republic through Kim Ir Sen, People's Republic of China through Chou En-lai and the Soviet Union through V. M. Molotov gave to the whole world further striking testimony of their unswerving desire for peace.

Every day "l'Humanite" reports longer and brief strikes, demonstrations and other actions taking place throughout the country.

The movement for unity is gaining strength every day, despite the efforts of the leaders of the "Force Ouvriere" and of the French Confederation of Christian Workers who are doing all in their power to help the Government and to justify its criminal policy of repressions.

It should be stressed that the policy of repressions is the outcome of the attitude taken by the Socialist leaders since the Marshallisation of France which was carried out on their initiative. Their stubborn efforts to split the working class and the brutal repressions taken in 1947 by Jules Moch paved the way for the present fascisation policy pursued by the parties, which contested the 1951 Parliamentary election jointly with the Socialist Party and de Gaulle's RPF.

All the facts testify that there are tremendous possibilities for ensuring united action from below. Hence, the sections and branches of the French Communist Party, while conducting persistent explanatory work among all Socialist working people, pointing to the need for united action against the

common enemies of the working class and the people, simultaneously put forward to the sections of the Socialist Party concrete proposals for joint struggle against the Government plot, for joint support of the action taken by the trade union organisations.

Hence, all the sections of the General Confederation of Labour, while exposing the injurious role of the disruptors – the leaders of the “Force Ouvriere” and of the Confederation of Christian Workers – are addressing, the working people and the sections of these two organisations with proposals for joint action in building up a broad popular movement to frustrate the plot and ensure satisfaction of the workers’ demands.

Benoit Frachon, General Secretary of the General Confederation of Labour, wrote in the newspaper “Vie Ouvriere” on April 1: “Searches and arrests will not solve any of the problems facing us. On the contrary, they evoke a new wave of wrath, and give added will to put an end to this situation”.

Unity and struggle – such is the slogan of the moment, such is the path for ensuring victory for the forces of freedom, national independence and peace.

IN HONOUR OF PALMIRO TOGLIATTI'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

With ardent love the people of Italy celebrated the 60th birthday of Comrade Palmiro Togliatti – leader of the Italian Communists and working people.

Hundreds of conferences, thousands of meetings of Communists, devoted to Comrade Togliatti's 60th birthday, took place on March 26 and on the following days. Comrade Togliatti received birthday greetings from the fraternal Workers' and Communist Parties – from the Soviet Union, China, from the countries of people's democracy, France, Britain, Japan and many other countries. He received greetings also from the Central Committee and Auditing Commission of the Italian Communist Party, from the Italian General Confederation of Labour, from women-Communists, from the Italian Socialist Party and from other democratic organisations.

A ceremonial, meeting devoted to Togliatti's 60th birthday, held on March 26, was attended by representatives of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party, by representatives of the Communist Parliamentary groups, Editorial Boards of the Party newspapers and magazines and by representatives of the mass democratic organisations.

Comrade Togliatti expressed his thanks for the greetings and said that for everything he had attained he was indebted to three main conditions. First, that he was one of the school of Antonio Gramsci from whom in his youth he received counsel and help. Second, that he lived and fought in Turin – the place of the struggle of the most advanced section of the working class and thus passed through the school of the Turin working class. Third, and this is the most important, that he lived and fought, having passed through the school of Lenin and Stalin,

under the direct leadership of Stalin.

In connection with Comrade Togliatti's 60th birthday the "Rinascita" Publishing House released from the press the first volume of Togliatti's collected works (from 1919 to 1925). The book "Talks with Togliatti" – biographical notes under the editorship of Marcella Ferrara and Maurizio Ferrara – will shortly come off the press.

The "Gioventu Nuova" Publishing House published a symposium of Togliatti's speeches under the title "Addresses to the Youth".

The members of all Party organisations honoured Comrade Togliatti's 60th birthday by intensified work for recruiting new Party members. In Crotone 716 new members were admitted, 539 in Brindisi, 102 in Cosenza, etc. The Communist Youth Federation opened a "Togliatti Recruiting Campaign". Everywhere the Party members are pledging to extend circulation of the Party press.

The Party federations, sections and branches are unfolding study of Comrade Togliatti's works. A campaign for subscriptions for "Rinascita", social-political magazine edited by Togliatti, is under way to the accompaniment of the slogan: "Best present to Comrade Togliatti".

The National Co-operative League pledged to provide a library for the Togliatti Party school now under construction. Many Party federations have allocated considerable sums for this school.

THE ANKARA DEAL OF FASCIST AGGRESSORS. Mincho Neichev, Member, Political Bureau, Central Committee, Communist Party of Bulgaria

On February 28 an agreement was signed in Ankara between the ruling cliques of Turkey, Greece and Yugoslavia providing for political and military collaboration. This agreement was not the result of free understanding reached between the countries, it was dictated to the present rulers of these countries by their Washington and London masters. The U.S.-British aggressors, both directly and through their representatives, kept the negotiations under their constant control. The pact is, above all, their handiwork.

The Ankara pact is an aggressive, military-political deal. It is perfectly understandable that the participants of this deal, for camouflage purposes, seek to deny its military nature. For instance, Kardelj, one of the chiefs of the Belgrade fascist clique, declared in the Skupshchina that the pact was a “political agreement” and not a “pact for military collaboration”. However, this demagogic assertion is completely refuted by the text of the pact which speaks of joint military action, co-operation by the general staffs and of co-ordinated decision of military questions.

As is known, prolonged negotiations took place between the military delegations of Yugoslavia, Turkey and Greece prior to the signing of the pact. A Titoite military delegation visited Athens and Ankara. In their turn, the Greek and Turkish militarists visited Belgrade. These military talks were conducted under the direct supervision and participation of U.S. and British General who were running about all the time from capital to capital of the three fascist states. Finally, it was announced that agreement had been reached between the

general staffs of Yugoslavia, Turkey and Greece.

Also noteworthy is the fact that the press in the Western imperialist countries commenting on the Ankara pact focused attention, in the first place, on the number of divisions which the member-countries are to provide for the North Atlantic bloc. It is clear that the U.S.-British imperialists regard this pact as a means of getting cheap cannon fodder – a fact which further confirms the military nature of the Balkan deal.

Vain and ridiculous are the efforts on the part of the participants of the Ankara deal to portray it as a “defensive pact”. They slavishly parrot the foul lie used by the imperialist warmongers to cover lip the aggressive nature of the North Atlantic military bloc. First and foremost they resort to fables about “aggression” allegedly threatening them from the countries of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism. The U.S.-British imperialists and their satellites in the Balkans, imitating Hitler’s foul example, declare as “aggressors” those countries against which they themselves are spearheading their aggression.

The lie about “Soviet aggression” long since been refuted. The Soviet Union and the People’s Democracies have no desire to attack anyone. They do not and cannot harbour plans for seizure of foreign territory. The people of the Soviet Union and the countries of people’s democracy base their wellbeing on free and peaceful labour, on the titanic socialist construction, on steady economic and cultural progress. The Government of the Soviet Union and the People’s Democracies have clearly and openly and repeatedly proclaimed their firm resolve to pursue a policy of peace and friendship among the people and to facilitate in every way the cause of consolidating peace in the Balkan, in Europe and throughout the world.

But the governments of Turkey, Greece and Yugoslavia, on the contrary, pursue a policy of naked enmity in relation to the Soviet Union and the countries of people’s democracy. This

policy is fostered in every way by the imperialist cliques of the U.S.A. and of other capitalist states. The U.S. rulers openly demonstrate their hostility towards the democratic camp headed by the Soviet Union.

Imperialist reaction in the U.S.A. sees in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies the main and insurmountable obstacle in the way of realising their crazy plans for world domination. The U.S. imperialists bank on using the countries enslaved by them for furthering their adventurous aggressive designs. "A distinctive feature of the strategy of U.S. imperialism is", said Comrade G. M. Malenkov, "that its bosses base their war plans on the utilisation of the territory of others and the armies of others... on utilisation of other peoples who are to serve, according to the schemes of the U.S. strategists, as blind instruments and cannon fodder in the conquest of world dominion by the U.S. monopolists".

The ruling fascist cliques in Athens, Ankara and Belgrade fall over themselves in currying favour with the U.S.-British bosses. They imagine that war will save them from the inevitable, wrathful but just popular indignation, from retribution for their crimes against the working people of Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey.



The Ankara bloc is in crying contradiction to the Uno Charter and is a Balkan branch of the aggressive North Atlantic bloc. It is an instrument for realising the aggressive aims of the North Atlantic bloc in the Balkans and in the Near East. This follows above all from the text of the Ankara agreement. Paragraph seven of the agreement stipulates that none of the international agreements concluded by the three countries is in contradiction to the pact. Paragraph eight says that the treaty "in no way affects the right and commitments of Greece and Turkey

arising from their participation in the North Atlantic pact”.

The Ankara deal in fact incorporates Titoite Yugoslavia into the North Atlantic bloc just as the notorious “European Defence Community” brings Western Germany into this aggressive bloc.

It is known that the Belgrade fascist rulers have already pledged their loyalty to the aggressive North Atlantic bloc. Tito declared in a speech that his Government would collaborate with the North Atlantic bloc countries. Now the Ankara pact has legalised this “collaboration”, that is, it has, in fact, brought Titoite Yugoslavia into the aggressive North Atlantic bloc, into the war forces of imperialist aggression.

The Titoite fascist foreign minister Popovic stated at a press conference after the signing of the Ankara pact: “The three states have established still closer contact among themselves as a result of the treaty. Naturally, all organisations, including the North Atlantic bloc organisation, will benefit from this”.

This admission by the Titoite minister reveals the true aim of the Ankara deal. Submitting to the demands of the ringleaders of the North Atlantic bloc the fascist rulers of Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey place their armies under U.S. command, turning their peoples, in the interests of the U.S. imperialists, into cannon fodder.

The true meaning of the Ankara plot was revealed also by Kardelj who asserted that Turkey and Greece “will fulfil their commitments under the trilateral agreement in conformity with their North Atlantic pact obligations”. It is quite clear that the North Atlantic pact obligations determine the essence of the commitments undertaken in the Ankara pact.

At the same time the Ankara pact is a means for realising the aggressive designs of the fascist cliques of Yugoslavia, Turkey and Greece. These designs became known long ago. Way back in 1947, at the time of the Paris Peace Conference,

the Greek monarcho-fascist Government approached the Yugoslav Government with the suggestion that it agree to and pursue at the Conference a joint plan for the seizure and dismemberment of Albania. The monarcho-fascist rulers in Greece have not abandoned their predatory designs in respect to free Albania. In their turn, the Titoites are openly pursuing their hostile policy, seeking all the time to violate the peaceful life of the free people of Albania.

At the Paris Peace Conference the monarcho-fascist rulers of Greece sought to prove that it should get part of Bulgarian territory. The monarcho-fascists wanted to seize our Rhodope region, to take possession of Plovdiv and the Thrace plain. They then declared that these aggressive claims were but minimum. They held forth at length about extending the Greek borders up to the summit of Stara Planina. Nor do the Titoite rulers conceal their intention of seizing Pirin region. It must be stressed that the Turkish nationalists also deplore that Turkey has lost its former dominant position on Bulgarian soil.

The Titoites hope that the Ankara deal will reinforce their positions in their controversy with Italy concerning the dismemberment of the Free Territory of Trieste.



The Ankara deal, however, is, in the main, spearheaded against the people's-democratic states in the Balkans, – Albania and Bulgaria – and also against the other countries of people's democracy, against the Soviet Union.

Last year in connection with the military agreement signed between Turkey, Greece and Yugoslavia, Papagos, the present Greek Prime-Minister, wrote in the newspaper “Katimerini” about the need for joint military action by the three states and about the launching of “large-scale offensive operations”. Papagos links these anticipated military operations with

military action by the North Atlantic bloc in Central Europe and considers that the task of the U.S. satellites in the Balkans is to deliver a “flank attack” against the Soviet troops.

Another Greek military “strategist”, General Gergulis (retired), stated in the same newspaper: “Should the allied plan on the Balkan front be based on passive defence it will not be successful. Consequently attack is a more suitable method of defence”.

The same thought was expressed last month in an article by the retired Turkish General Erkilet, in the newspaper “Miliet”. According to this General: “... defence means not only being on the defensive. In some cases the most effective defence is the offensive”. This excessively belligerent General asserts that it is necessary to act against Bulgaria precisely in this manner.

In Greece the monarcho-fascist press openly advocates aggressive action against people’s-democratic Albania. Even prior to the signing of the Ankara pact the newspaper “Embros” wrote: “It is said that we must guarantee the integrity of Albania. We declare that we must first get Northern Epirus and only afterwards shall we think about giving a guarantee”. It is known that by Northern Epirus the Greek monarcho-fascists mean all of Southern Albania.

These and other pronouncements reveal the true meaning of the Ankara pact as an instrument of aggression in the hands of the imperialist states headed by the U.S., as a means for realising the aggressive designs of the fascist rulers of Yugoslavia, Turkey and Greece. This is a plot against peace in the Balkans and throughout the world. The rulers of these three states seek to conceal the true aims of the Ankara pact in order to deceive their peoples. It is obvious that this criminal deal is spearheaded against the Yugoslav, Greek and Turkish peoples, against their interests, against their desire for a peaceful and free life.

The Ankara deal is a product of the criminal predatory

policy of the imperialist jackals. But in no circumstances does it lead to an easing of the contradictions between them and, first of all, between the U.S. and Britain. Nor does it ease the contradictions between Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia, between Yugoslavia and Italy.

The signing of the Ankara pact means extension of the menace of imperialist aggression in the Balkans and in the Near East. Here, however, as is the case throughout the world, the forces of peace are becoming stronger and stronger; they are in a position to frustrate the criminal designs of the instigators of a new war.



In vain are the attempts of the imperialist aggressors to enmesh the peoples in lies. All honest people in the world see that the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy are not threatening anyone, that they are ready to cooperate with all countries, provided there is mutual respect for state interests.

Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov declared in relation to the preparations for signing the pact of the three imperialist satellites in the Balkans and in the Near East:

“... We are far from not noting or underestimating the danger to our People's Republic and to peace in the Balkans, in connection with the military preparations in the neighbouring capitalist countries. We see, and we are aware of these preparations which constitute an integral part of the aggressive, predatory designs of U.S. imperialism. But we are also far from over-estimating the loudly advertised strength and possibilities of the British-American lackeys in the Balkans or of being taken in by their provocations. We calmly and confidently evaluate our position; we are not afraid of the threat. We are calm and confident because our cause is a just cause, because

we stand for peace, but we never forget that we are surrounded by enemies, and we are whetting our vigilance, and strengthening our defence capacity. We are calm and confident because we are not alone, because we are part of the mighty camp of peace, because the peoples of the capitalist countries also want peace, and, particularly, because we are a loyal and true ally of the Soviet Union – great mainstay of peace, democracy and Socialism”.

PLIGHT OF WORKING PEOPLE IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES

Facts and Figures

Present-day monopoly capitalism, J. V. Stalin teaches, secures for itself the maximum capitalist profit through the exploitation, ruin and impoverishment of the majority of the population of the given country, through the enslavement and systematic robbery of the peoples of other countries, especially backward countries, and, lastly, through wars and militarisation of the national economy, which are utilised for obtaining the highest profits.

The monopolists wax rich while the popular masses become poorer; their diet becomes more and more meagre and they live worse and worse. The share of the working people in the national income falls, real wages are lowered, consumption dwindles and unemployment grows.

Monopolists Become Richer, Working People Poorer

Way back in 1918 V. I. Lenin in his “Letter to American Workers” pointed out that America has become “one of the foremost countries as regards the depth of the abyss which divides a handful of brazen billionaires who are wallowing in dirt and in luxury, on the one hand, and millions of toilers who are always on the verge of starvation”, This characterisation of American imperialism holds good today also.

The obviously understated data published in the U.S.

reveal that aggregate profits of the American corporations **during the two and a half years** of the war in Korea (from June 1950 to the end of 1952) equal the total profits pocketed by them **during the five years** of the second world war. At the same time the obviously doctored figures published by the U.S. Department of Commerce show that average annual earnings of factory and office workers hardly amount to 70 per cent of the subsistence minimum assessed by an official committee. Actually, average earnings of factory and office workers in the U.S. fall short of even 60 per cent of the subsistence level. These figures do not take into account the millionfold army of the unemployed of whom only an inconsiderable part qualifies for meagre unemployment benefit.

Growing Taxes

The ruling cliques in the capitalist countries make the working people bear the main brunt of the arms drive and of the war preparations. Compared with the prewar fiscal year, 1937-38, the current budget in the U.S. adds twelvefold to the direct taxes paid by the population, even taking into account the currency depreciation. In Britain the current budget envisages an approximately 18 per cent increase in taxes compared with 1950-51. According to the figures published by the "Service Economic et Finance" direct taxes in France increased during the first eight months of 1952 by 21 per cent compared with the corresponding period for the previous year. In Italy and Greece taxes rose ten per cent in 1952 alone.

During the period from 1937 to 1951 the share of taxes in the wages and salaries of the factory and office workers rose in the U.S. from 12 to 41 per cent, in Britain from 29 to 53 per cent. In 1946-47 the working people of Western Germany paid 51.3 per cent of the total sum of the taxes, by 1951 they were

paying 82.6 per cent while the share of the capitalists in taxes dropped correspondingly from 48.7 to 17.4 per cent.

Soaring Prices For Items Of Mass Consumption

In all capitalist countries prices for items of prime necessity are constantly rising.

In 1952 retail prices for bread in the **U.S.** rose 28 per cent compared with 1947, for meat – 26 per cent; in **Britain** bacon prices were up 24 per cent in September 1952 compared with 1950, sugar was up 40 per cent, butter – 50 per cent, cheese – 85 per cent, etc. All in all, there were price increases for nearly one hundred items of food. In the period 1947-1952 the price of bread in Britain has risen 90 per cent, the price of meat – 35 per cent; in **France** the price of bread more than doubled, meal rose 88 per cent. In the course of one year (September 1951-September 1952) prices for items of mass consumption in France went up 15 per cent, in **Italy** – nearly 11 per cent.

During the two and a half years of the barbarous war waged by the U.S.-British imperialists against the heroic Korean people the cost of living, according to the official, obviously understated, data rose 12 per cent in the U.S., 23 per cent in Britain and 34 per cent in France. The extent to which these data are doctored can be seen, for example, from the calculations by the U.S. United Electrical Workers' Union which found that by the end of 1952 the cost of living in the U.S. had risen not 12 per cent but by 25 per cent compared with 1950 and threefold compared with 1939.

Real wages in France and Italy in 1952 were less than half of prewar; in Britain real wages have declined 20 per cent compared with prewar.

Fall In Consumption

The growing process of absolute and relative impoverishment of the working people in the capitalist countries gives rise to a steady decline in food consumption, in the purchase of domestic articles, clothing and footwear. According to the data of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe consumption of textiles and clothing in the first quarter of last year, compared with 1949, declined in France and Denmark 13 per cent, in Belgium – 22 per cent, in Sweden – 23 per cent, in Britain – 26 per cent, in Holland – 27 per cent, in Austria – 37 per cent. In the period from 1949 to 1951 meat consumption in France fell 24 per cent, consumption of vegetables and fruit declined 27-28 per cent.

In 1951 (before the latest rise in prices) per capita consumption of meat products and butter in Britain declined 40 per cent compared with prewar, consumption of rice 37 per cent, sugar – 16 per cent. In the U.S. consumption of butter for the same period declined 41 per cent, consumption of mutton – 56 per cent.

Growing Unemployment

According to the “Survey of the Economic Situation in Europe in the Postwar Period”, compiled by the Secretariat of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, five million people in the capitalist countries of Western Europe were fully unemployed in 1952, that is, as many as in 1938 when these countries were in the grip of economic crisis.

At present the actual figure for unemployment is much

higher, to say nothing of those suffering from part-time unemployment which is not reflected in these obviously doctored statistical surveys.

At present the number of wholly and part-time unemployed in the U.S. exceeds 13 million, in Italy it exceeds 4 million, in Western Germany nearly 3 million.

In Grip Of Chronic Hunger

As a result of predatory plunder of the natural resources of the colonial and semi-colonial countries by the imperialists and the brutal exploitation of the colonial peoples the economic situation in the countries of the Near and Middle East, Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America is rapidly deteriorating and the peoples of these countries, who comprise nearly three quarters of the population of the capitalist world, eke out a miserable existence. Tens of millions in India, Indonesia, Iran and in the countries of Africa are in the grip of chronic hunger; large numbers have become victims of death from starvation. According to the data of the U. N. Secretariat concerning the world economic situation in 1949-1950, the national income of approximately **one-third of the population of the world**, including the people of Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and of other dependent countries, amounted to **less than five per cent of the total world income.**

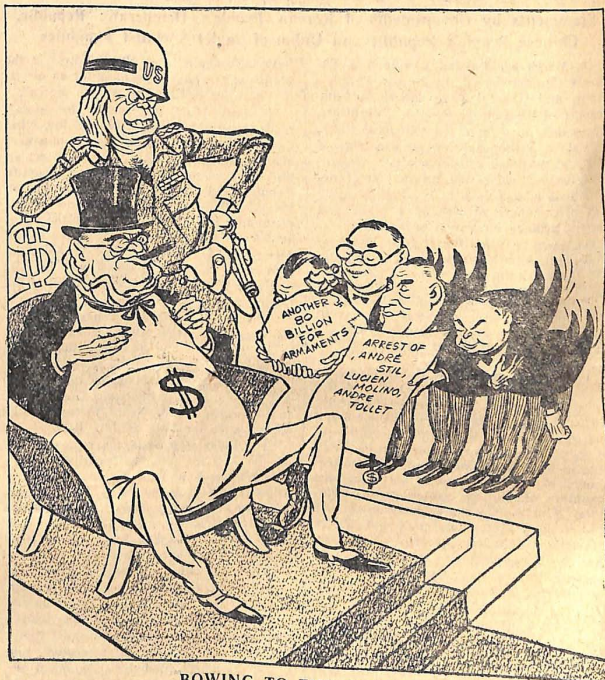
BOWING TO THE DOLLAR. Drawing By J. Novak

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(Press item)

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BOWING TO THE DOLLAR

Drawing by J. Novak

POLITICAL NOTES

The "Steel Helmets" Again

War preparation in Western Germany continue day and night with feverish haste: airfields, arsenals and bases are built; guns bark on practice grounds; mercenary soldiers are drilled;

the “factories of death” are busy producing arms and munitions. These preparations are accompanied by intense war hysteria, militarist propaganda, terror against peace fighters, activation of fascist organisations – legal and underground.

The war psychosis and the intensified activity of fascists became particularly manifest after the Bonn Bundestag ratified the military treaties in the third reading. Next day the shares of a number of monopoly concerns soared – the self same concerns whose owners waxed rich on past wars and who today are again raking in super-profits. The chiefs of the fascist and militarist organisations have become more brazen than ever. Once more bellicose speeches are made. In Western Germany the militarist “Steel Helmets” – the same “Steel Helmets” organisation which at one time was a shock group of the German militarists, the ultra-reactionary chauvinistic organisation of the German military brass and which paved the way for the sanguinary Hitler dictatorship and facilitated the unleashing of the second world war. Members of this organisation are again wearing their old badges and recently, with the permission of Lehr, Bonn Minister of the Interior, it took to flying its black, white and red flag and the old imperial war standard.

“The fact that Lehr officially allowed the ‘Steel Helmets’ to fly their black, white and red flag and the Hitler war standard”, writes “Freies Volk”, central organ of the Communist Party of Germany, “testifies to the growing degree of fascisation of Western Germany. Five days after the debate on the Bonn treaty Lehr turned against the German youth the ill-starred weapon of the German imperialists, now enjoying official government support”.

Simultaneously soldiers’ leagues and Nazi organisations such as the “German youth League” and others have intensified their activity. All these organisations are in receipt of large subsidies from industrial and banking bosses, both German and

American. There is nothing surprising in this since both one and the other seek to establish a fascist dictatorship in Western Germany, hence they need support. And the Nazis provide the needed support. The German and American imperialists look on the fascist organisations as their instrument and on the fascist war criminals as their docile servants. Small wonder that the Bonn rulers and the Western occupation authorities have of late displayed such touching concern for active Nazis. Great effort is being made to “rehabilitate” and release them and their “lawful property” is restored to them. Recently, for example, the U.S. military authorities returned to butcher Himmler’s family – one of the chief war criminals – the house in Munich which had been confiscated. This is done at a time when thousands of people have been brazenly driven and are being driven from their houses which are turned over to the U.S. troops.

The concern displayed for the Nazis by the reactionary leaders of the Social Democratic Party is no less touching. As is known, the Social Democratic deputies in the Bundestag, striving by hook or by crook to bolster their already badly tarnished prestige among the masses, voted against the Bonn separate treaty. But Wilhelm Mellies, deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Party, stopped playing at “opposition” immediately after the session of the Bundestag. Together with the Bonn Vice Chancellor Blucher and Minister of Interior Lehr he hurried off to a meeting of the fascist “German Soldiers’ League”. At this medley Mellies and his companions paid tribute to the Nazis. According to “Neue Zeitung”, an American newspaper published in Western Germany, Mellies in a speech “demanded a final solution to the so-called problem of War criminals”, otherwise “no German can be expected against wear uniform”.

This is what worries German Social Democracy.

That which is taking place in Western Germany is

astonishingly reminiscent of events in Germany in 1932: the same ravings by new-fangled 'fuehrers', the same "Steel Helmets", the same Nazis, the same hypocrisy and betrayal by Social Democratic leaders. But there is one essential difference – the German people are not what they were in 1932. Today the progressive forces in Germany have grown considerably and are much stronger, and they are tirelessly fighting for peace, against fascism and war. Today many people in Germany realise that they must act not in isolation but together, must act vigorously if they are to frustrate the attempt to instal a fascist dictatorship and unleash war. Such men and women are becoming more and more numerous in Germany. Evidence of this is, in particular, the fact that in the course of the popular referendum 15 million people in Western Germany demanded a Peace Treaty and all-German elections. Wrath and hatred – such was the reception recently accorded plague General Ridgway by the West German population. All the military preparations on West German territory meet with active resistance and sharp rebuff on the part of German patriots.

Meetings and demonstrations against the Bonn and Paris aggressive treaties were held throughout Western Germany. "Down with the 'general treaty'!", "Down with the death pact!" – these inscriptions are today chalked on the walls all over Western Germany. In the town of Schweningen the people manifested their attitude to the militarist "general treaty" by publicly burning a copy of it at a protest meeting. When the American interventionists requisitioned fields in Muhlhofen for military purposes, the peasants tilled them again and then placed guards on their fields. These examples show the scale and extent of the mighty patriotic movement in Western Germany, the strength of the rebuff accorded the U.S.-British interventionists and their Nazi accomplices.

This widespread patriotic movement of the German people for peace, for a united, democratic and peace-loving Germany

cannot be stifled either by the imperialist occupationists or by their Bonn accomplices.

Jan MAREK

FACTS EXPOSE...

Fruits of Militarisation of Britain

The number of bankruptcies in Britain is steadily growing, according to the London "Times". In 1945 they totalled 207; in 1946, 323; in 1947, 626; in 1948, 1,132; in 1949, 1,491; in

1950, 1,823; in 1951, 1,816 and in 1952, 2,043.

Thus, bankruptcies in Britain have increased roughly tenfold in less than eight years. This is due not only to rivalry and concentration of capital, it is, undoubtedly, an outcome of the curtailment of civilian production and militarisation of the economy.

EDITORIAL BOARD



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