

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

**Bucharest. Organ of the
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TOWARDS NEW VICTORIES OF SOCIALISM, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE!

With the advent of the New Year millions and millions of people in all parts of the world ask themselves: What has the past year brought us and what has the coming year in store for us?

The world of democracy and Socialism, embodied in the peace-loving, democratic camp headed by the powerful Soviet Union, and the world of imperialism and war represented by the aggressive, anti-democratic camp headed by the United States of America, are summing up different results during these days. Equally different and diametrically opposed are the prospects of their development for 1953.

With legitimate pride, profound satisfaction and with great and real joy the working people of the Soviet Union who, on the eve of the New Year celebrated the brilliant 30th anniversary of the founding of the U.S.S.R., bade farewell to

1952 which has departed into history. For the Soviet people the past year was a year of further outstanding victories, of inspired labour for the common benefit of peace and happiness of the peoples, victories among which first place is held by the completion of the first of the great projects of Communism—the V. I. Lenin Volga-Don Navigation Canal. 1952 was the year of the historic XIX Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, a Congress the decisions of which are the embodiment of the magnificent programme of Communist construction charted by J. V. Stalin's genius. The unforgettable events of the past year were crowned with the publication of J. V. Stalin's classical work "Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.", a work which is the peak of Marxist-Leninist theoretical thought in political economy.

The grand achievements in consolidating the economy and culture, in raising the material wellbeing of all the working people, in advancing science and technique, literature and art, substantial achievements in the struggle for peace and friendship among the peoples, the future growth of the international prestige of the U.S.S.R. and its growing influence ... course of historical development that are the results of yet another glorious year for the Soviet people.

Shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Union in the mighty peace-loving democratic camp stands the great People's China which throughout the past year, under the leadership of the Communist Party went ahead with historic social-economic transformations. The agrarian reform, completed in the main during 1952, has raised from poverty to a well-to-do life not just thousands and not tens of thousands but hundreds of millions of people—the toilers of agriculture. The past year saw hundreds of kilometres of new railways laid, the unfolding on a vast territory of irrigation and melioration work and the building of a large number of enterprises in different branches of industry. Tens of millions of people learnt to read and write,

assimilated technical knowledge, learnt trades and entered into active public and political life.

Splendid successes were registered during the past year by the working people of the European countries of people's democracy, who, under the leadership of their Communist and Workers' Parties, are confidently marching along the pathway of Socialism. In Poland and Rumania, new constitutions which received popular assent, were recently adopted and for which the Stalin Constitution of the Soviet Union, the most democratic Constitution in the world, served as, the bright prototype. Further successes were registered in all spheres of economy and culture in the Republic of Czechoslovakia where the despicable Slansky gang—the fifth column of American imperialism—was exposed and smashed. 1952 saw the working people of Bulgaria complete their first Five-Year Plan in four years. In Hungary, Albania and in the other countries of people's democracy there were built and commissioned scores of new industrial enterprises and power stations, new schools, clubs and higher educational establishments were opened; hundreds of thousands of square metres of dwelling space and new towns and workers' settlements were built.

The past year was an outstanding year for the working people of the German Democratic Republic. Expressing the will of the working class the Socialist Unity Party of Germany advanced, as the main task, transition to laying the foundations of Socialism in the German Democratic Republic. Inspired by this lofty and noble aim the working people of the Republic are now directing all their efforts towards fulfilling and over fulfilling their first Five-Year Plan, towards consolidating the economic might of the Republic which constitutes a solid bulwark for all German patriots in their struggle for a united, democratic, independent, peace-loving Germany.

From China and Korea to Czechoslovakia and Hungary, there manifests itself in full vigour the powerful creative

energy of free peoples building a new life. United by community of interests and final aim, and linked in inviolable friendship, the "Shock-brigades" of the world revolutionary and working-class movement have rallied under the leadership of the Soviet Union, into a single, powerful socialist camp confronting the camp of capitalism. Having joined together economically after World War II, they established close co-operation at bottom of which lies the sincere desire to help one another and to further the economic progress of all. As a result, the rate of industrial development in these countries is steadily accelerated.

Thanks to the generous and all-round aid of the Soviet Union and to utilisation of its inexhaustible experience, all the countries of people's democracy are now experiencing a rapid advance in their economic and cultural life. Their industry and agriculture, well-equipped with technique, are capable of satisfying the ever-increasing demands of the population for consumer goods and food. Consumption of meat, sugar, fats and manufactured goods in these countries is rising year by year; prices for prime necessities are systematically reduced; wages of factory and office workers are rising. During the third quarter of the past year, for instance, the quantity of food and manufactured goods sold to the population increased compared with 1951: in Albania—20 per cent, in Rumania—28 per cent, in the German Democratic Republic—36 per cent.

Science and culture, literature and art are steadily advancing in the countries of the socialist camp; the school network of all grades is being extended. Of 4.5 million illiterates in Rumania 3.5 million have learnt to read and write during the years of people's-democratic rule. The number of higher school students in Hungary now exceeds the prewar level fourfold.

Even more splendid vistas for a new upsurge in economy and culture open before the Soviet people and the working

masses of the people's-democratic countries in their plans for the near future.

At the dividing line of the old year and the new, the peoples of the countries of the camp of peace and democracy say with a sense of duty done and rightfully: the past year was a good one, much was done, but much more will be done in the new year, new successes and victories will be registered in the struggle for peace, against war and for a bright future for the peoples.

The world of capitalism and war enters 1953 with results that are the very opposite. For capitalism the past year has been a year of serious upheavals and grave setbacks. It was a year of further deepening of the general crisis of the world capitalist system arising from the disintegration of the world market—the most significant result of World War II. The contradictions between the capitalist countries above all between Britain and the U.S. were aggravated.

1952 was a year of maturing conditions for an economic crisis. As a consequence of the formation and consolidation of the new, democratic world market, as a consequence of the discriminatory measures against the countries of the peace-loving democratic camp, as a consequence of mass unemployment and the growing impoverishment of the toiling masses, the world capitalist market is experiencing great difficulties in selling its goods. The imperialist powers, headed by the U.S.A., sought and seek now to surmount these difficulties by intensified militarisation of their economy, the arms drive and by deliberately prolonging the war in Korea. In this way they hoped to improve their affairs, to stave off the oncoming economic crisis.

Accompanied by curtailment of civilian industry, catastrophic deterioration of the living standard of the working people, growing impoverishment of the majority of the population and luxury for the handful of monopolists amassing

maximum profits from war orders, the militarisation of the economy further intensified the difficulties of the internal market, produced growing inflation and still more disorganised the entire economic life of the capitalist countries. Militarisation of the economy did not eliminate and cannot eliminate the reasons which lead to inevitable economic crisis.

The unrestrained drive of the capitalists for maximum profits and the accompanying intense exploitation of the working class, the ruin and impoverishment of the majority of the population as a consequence of soaring prices and taxes, the continued decline in real wages and the constant increase in the huge army of unemployed —all this cannot but lead and indeed is leading to further sharpening of the irreconcilable contradictions between labour and capital, to intensified struggle on the part of the working class for its vital interests. The past year saw the highest rise of the strike struggle in the capitalist countries in the post-war period. In the United States, for example, 3,560,000 working people were on strike in the first nine months of 1952 alone. The number of strikes in Britain in 8 months of the past year was double the annual average for prewar. The strike struggle in Italy, Western Germany, Japan and other capitalist countries developed on a tremendous scale last year.

A notable result of the past year was the vast development of the national liberation movement of the peoples of the colonial and dependent countries which are offering increasingly active resistance to the imperialist policy of enslavement and systematic plunder. A feature of 1952 was intensification of the national-liberation struggle of the peoples of the countries in Asia, in the Middle and Near East and particularly the fact that additional millions of peoples enslaved by imperialism and, in the first instance, the peoples of Africa, have risen in struggle against foreign domination. The upsurge of the national-liberation struggle is shaking and undermining

ever more the entire colonial fabric of imperialism.

The genuinely mass, nation-wide non-party, democratic movement in defence of peace is the banner of our times. In the past year additional millions of people of different convictions and social strata, people who previously kept aloof from the peace struggle, have been brought into its mighty stream. The Peoples' Congress for peace, held in December, clearly demonstrated the indomitable striving of all peace-loving mankind, their indestructible resolve to uphold peace and bridle the warmongers. Inspired by the decisions of the Congress and by the consistent peace-loving policy of the U.S.S.R., the peoples of all countries and continents are entering the new year conscious of their vastly increased forces —forces capable of averting the menace of a new world war, of saving the world from the greatest misfortune, of compelling the retreat of the forces of reaction, fascism and aggression before the organised broad popular masses.

The struggle of the peoples for the vital interests of the working people against exploitation and impoverishment, for national independence of their countries and for peace is everywhere headed by the Communist and Democratic Parties. The Communist Parties embody in themselves the mind, honour and conscience of their people; they are the genuine tribunes of their cherished aspirations, their great hope and leading force in the struggle for a bright future. The outgoing year saw the further growth of the international Communist movement; it was a year of extension of the ranks of the Communist and Workers' Parties, of their continued organisational and ideological strengthening. In this there is manifested over and over again the law of irresistible growth of the forces of Communism and the inevitability of their final victory.

The publication of Comrade Stalin's brilliant work "Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.", his historic

speech at the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U. and the materials of the XIX Congress, which enrich the Communist and Workers' Parties ideologically and which have become a mighty weapon in their hands for the ideological education of the working people, played an invaluable role in raising the militancy of the Communist and Workers' Parties and in tempering them ideologically.

Guided by this reliable compass, the Communist and Workers' Parties will, in the New Year, lead the peoples of their countries to new successes in struggle against imperialist reaction, against the aggressive actions of U.S. imperialism, for the vital interests of the working people and the national independence of their countries, for preserving and consolidating world peace.

J. V. STALIN'S "ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF SOCIALISM IN THE U.S.S.R." AND MATERIALS OF XIX CONGRESS OF C.P.S.U. PUBLISHED IN BULGARIA

The publishing house of the Communist Party of Bulgaria has issued J. V. Stalin's "Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R." in an edition of 150 thousand copies, his speech at the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U. in an edition of 150 thousand and Comrade Malenkov's report also in 150,000 copies. The reports by Comrades Khrushchev and Saburov and the speeches by Comrades Beria, Bulganin, Vasilevski, Voroshilov, Kaganovich and Mikoyan have also appeared in big editions.

To help propagandists and those studying Comrade Stalin's work the propaganda and agitation department of the Central Committee published 35 thousand copies of a collection of articles devoted to this work, which appeared in the "Communist", theoretical and political journal of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U., and in "Pravda". In view of the fact that the first edition has been sold out another edition will appear shortly. Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov's report in the work and decisions of the XIX Congress has come off the press in an edition of 100 thousand copies. The propaganda and agitation department has published 50,000 copies of a syllabus to help those studying Comrade Stalin's works independently.

PEOPLES OF COUNTRIES WARMLY APPROVE DECISIONS OF PEOPLE'S CONGRESS FOR PEACE

Chinese Working People Welcome of Great Assembly

The toilers of People's China wholeheartedly approve the decisions of the Peoples' Congress for Peace and are pledging to back them up by new production successes.

Soong Cheng-hua, a worker, in one of the Peking

enterprises said that the Appeal of the Peoples' Congress and its Address to the Five Great Powers express the cherished hopes of all people of good will. "We shall do our best", he said, "to carry out these decisions".

Professors and teachers in higher educational establishments in the capital also expressed support for the decisions.

"The Vienna Congress", stated Chien Po-tsan, Dean of the history faculty of Peking University and delegate to the first World Peace Congress, "was on a much bigger scale than the first World Peace Congress. This shows the tremendous growth of the peace forces". At meetings and rallies the working people are pledging to do all in their power in order to preserve world peace.

Acquaint all With Appeal

A mass rally organised by the all-Hungary Peace Council was held in Budapest on December 30. A report on the Peoples' Congress for Peace was delivered by Academician Erzsebet Andics, member of the World Peace Council and Kossuth Prize winner. Speakers at the rally included Congress delegates: Academician Elmer Szadeesky-Kardos, Kossuth Prize winner; Sandorne Tollas, member of the Petöfi producer co-operative, Debrecen ; Janos Maté, the Dean of Veszprém, member of the Board of the all-Hungary Catholic Clergymen's Peace Committee; Ferenc Puskas, Olympic champion, and Tibor Méray, journalist. Ferenc Juhasz, poet and Kossuth Prize winner, recited his poems, dedicated to the Peoples' Congress.

In the first half of January, the all-Hungary Peace Council and the county peace committees will hold reporting-back meetings in the big enterprises in the capital and in other towns. Tens of thousands of local peace committee meetings,

scheduled for January, will discuss the decisions of the Peoples' Congress. Peace committee members are firmly resolved to acquaint each citizen with the Congress Appeal. The "Szikra" Publishing House will shortly issue a collection of the main speeches delivered at the Congress.

Delegates Address the People

Wide popularisation of the decisions of the People's Congress, for peace is underway in the German Democratic Republic. Gertrud Sasse, honoured peoples teacher, Congress delegate, addressed a meeting of Cultural Union members in Halle. She said: "It became clear to us in Vienna that the desire of the peoples throughout the world for peace is stronger than the forces of the warmongers, who want to reduce humanity to misery and poverty". Prof. Arthur Baumgarten, national prize winner, director of the Berlin Institute of the theory of state and law, stressed in his speech that groups and public figures who hitherto remained aloof from the organised peace movement took part in the Congress. He pointed out that the U.S. imperialists were accused of charges at the Congress, charges which profoundly touched every thoughtful person.

The newspaper "Bauern Echo" published an interview with Ernst Goldenbaum, Chairman of the Democratic Peasant party of Germany, in which he shared his impressions of the Vienna Congress and denounced the treachery of the Adenauer clique and its accomplices. "The secret talks between the Adenauer and Ollenhauer are aimed at concealing the state crisis and plans for a coup d'etat, at ensuring forced endorsement of the war treaties", he declared. "The greatest activity on the part of the German people, and, consequently, of the toiling peasantry, is needed in order to render impossible the ratification and carrying out of the

treaties and to guarantee peace”.

All-Out Popularisation of Congress Decisions in Italy

A meeting of leaders of the peace movement and members of the “Parliamentary Conciliation Peace Committee” in Rome resolved to unfold an all-out campaign for popularisation of the Appeal of the Peoples’ Congress for Peace and its Address to the Governments of the Five Great Powers. The meeting also decided to take measures against the repressions and hostile action on the part of the Government towards the Congress delegates.

The entire Italian democratic press comments at length on the Congress decisions. “Unita” stresses that the highly significant conclusions reached by the Congress inculcate boundless faith in the future not only among peace fighters but among all those who want to avert the danger of war.

“Avanti” points out that close attention was given by the Congress to the defence of national independence. The newspaper stresses that many delegates who do not agree with the Marxist ideology or who are opposed to it have learnt from experience that it is not enough to desire peace, in order to defend and ensure peace it is necessary to fight for it, having concrete aims in view.

The newspapers “Paese”, “Paese sera”, “Milano sera”, “Nuovo corriere” and others devoted much space to the results of the Congress.

“Struggle Will Become More Resolute”

The broad masses of the French people followed the work of the Peoples' Congress for Peace with close attention. The very composition of the French delegation, which voted for the Congress Appeal, demonstrated the profound striving of the different sections of the population for peace. The delegation included 35 Communist Party members, 21 Progressists, 20 Socialists, 6 MRP members, 34 Catholics and 49 Radicals, Republicans and Independents.

Tens of thousands of Parisians who attended a meeting devoted to the Vienna Congress supported the Congress Appeal.

Addressing the meeting Jean Paul Sartre, author, said: "In Vienna we saw not only a Congress for Peace, but peace itself. We saw what peace looks like".

Yves Farge, Chairman of the French peace movement, declared: "In France we look on the Peoples' Congress as a beginning; the unity which began while preparing for the Peoples' Congress will continue". Yves Farge stated that special "Department Days" would be held throughout the country in January to popularise the Vienna Congress decisions. "The discussion will be extended, the struggle will become more resolute and more effective", said Farge in conclusion.

Congress delegates have reported on the Congress in many towns throughout the country.

Brilliant Victory for Peace-Loving Mankind

On December 27, the Uruguay newspaper "Justicia", published two editorials devoted to the recently concluded Peoples' Congress.

Welcoming the Congress decisions the paper stated that

they demonstrated a brilliant victory for the peoples of the whole world, for progressive and peace-loving mankind. By fighting for peace the peoples of more than 80 countries have frustrated the frantic attempts of reaction to sow confusion and dissension among the popular forces who are preparing for decisive battles against the real danger of a third world war. Almost 2 thousand delegates, including outstanding figures in world science and culture, religious personalities of different denominations, trade union leaders and members of Parliaments, openly declared that the peoples will not be dragged into a new slaughter. They said that the peoples of the world are fully convinced that the peaceful co-existence of the two systems—capitalist and socialist—is quite possible.

The newspaper added that the resolutions adopted in Vienna are a serious warning which should make the finance magnates ponder.

GOVERNMENT CRISIS IN FRANCE

French Communist Party Statement

The reactionary Pinay Government resigned on December 23. This resulted above all from the growing discontent of increasing sections of the French people with the fatal consequences of the policy of enslavement and preparation for war pursued by all the French governments since May 1947. The discontent with this policy and with the difficulties evoked by it among the French bourgeois parties is so strong that

Soustelle (RPF) and Bidault (MRP), to whom the Socialist President Auriol assigned the task of forming a new government, failed to solve the government crisis.

On the first day of the government crisis the French Communist Party explained the serious reasons underlying the present difficulties experienced by the country: "The policy of subordination to U.S. imperialism, pursued since 1947 by the ruling circles of the French bourgeoisie with the complicity of the Socialist Party, a policy against which the French Communist Party waged struggle from the very outset, is today revealing its bitter consequences".

The present political crisis, points out the Communist Party, can only be solved by rallying the broad masses around a united working class, by struggle "for the formation of a French government which will pursue a policy of national independence and peace. Renouncing the "Marshall Plan" and breaking with the Atlantic Pact and other aggressive military agreements, this government would put an[d] end to U.S. occupation, it would facilitate the peaceful settlement of the German problem, end the war in Viet Nam and switch our economy to a peace footing. This can only be a government which will guarantee personal and constitutional freedoms".

Different actions have taken place throughout the country for the establishment of such a government. Resolutions and letters, insisting on the formation of a government capable of defending peace, independence and democratic freedoms, have been addressed to the President of the Republic, in particular by the working people of the Lyons arsenals, the Federation of Textile Workers affiliated to the General Confederation of Labour, by three trade unions in the "Loire" shipyards in Saint-Denis, by the "Committee in Defence of Workers Dismissed from the 'S.I.M.C.A.'" firm and by 250 teachers in Lyons. Miners in Cessons (Gard Department) held token strike. Marseilles dockers held a meeting.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

Amid great political and production enthusiasm the working people of Rumania celebrated December 30th—the fifth anniversary of the overthrow of the monarchy and of the proclamation of the Rumanian People's Republic.

The working people marked this glorious anniversary with new labour achievements under the slogan of fulfilling the Five-Year Plan in four years.

Already by December 23 the oil workers had fulfilled the production assignment for 1952. The Resita "Sovrommetal" combinat began producing pig-iron, steel and rolled metal for 1953 long before the year ended. Rolling-mill operators in the Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej Non-Ferrous Metallurgical Combinat in Hunedoara also completed the year's assignment ahead of schedule. About a hundred metal-processing plants, 60 building enterprises, over 30 railway depots, numerous enterprises of the timber industry and other plants proudly reported to the Rumanian Workers' Party and the Government that they had fulfilled the 1952 assignment ahead of schedule.

Boldești oil workers took the initiative in planned dissemination of the advanced labour methods of Soviet stakhanovites in honour of the 5th anniversary of the Republic. This initiative received the support of hundreds of thousands of working people in the country. At present Rumania have about 236,000 workers and technical personnel using the advanced methods of Soviet stakhanovites.

The capacity of existing enterprises is being extended. New enterprises are under construction. Blast furnace number 6 in the Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej Non-Ferrous Metallurgical Combinat in Hunedoara—the largest blast furnace in Rumania,—the Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej power generating plant, (Doicești) and the Ovidiu II power plant, the Carbochim works in Cluj, the tanning mill in Pitești and other big plants were commissioned in 1952.

Two new cement works have been commissioned, existing cement works extended and more building materials plants put into operation in 1952.

The number of collective farms has increased from 1,089 to 1,744 in 1952, the number of associations for joint cultivation—to 1,817.

Large numbers of new houses for working people with comfortable and spacious apartments were built in 1952 in

Bucharest, city of Stalin, Hunedoara, Reşita, in the Jiu Valley and in other industrial centres.

The Government decided to strike a medal "the Fifth Anniversary of the Rumanian People's Republic". The medal has been awarded to 9,407 people.

PEOPLE'S COUNCILS IN BULGARIA

**Dimitr Dimov, Candidate Member, Political Bureau,
Central Committee, Communist Party of Bulgaria**

On December 14, for the second time, elections were held in the People's Republic of Bulgaria for the regional, county, town, district and rural people's councils of deputies of the working people. The people of Bulgaria elected nearly 60,000

of their representatives to the local bodies of state administration.

As was the case three years ago, the recent elections for the people's councils were held under the banner of the national social-political organisation—the Fatherland Front—an organisation characterised by Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov as the "broadest social bulwark of people's rule and its local committees", as the "powerful lever linking the leading force of people's democracy—the Communist Party—with the broad non-party masses of town and countryside, enabling it still more successfully to realise its co-operation, its common fraternal cause with all the progressive forces in the country and to direct them".

The elections were accompanied by exceptional enthusiasm in production and political activity; they gave rise to widespread socialist emulation for fulfilling production quotas ahead of time. A number of enterprises completed their five-year plan schedules in the course of the election campaign. Election day was marked by the commissioning of a number of new enterprises.

The working people came to the polling booths profoundly conscious of their civic duty and with hearts filled with pride for the remarkable achievements of their homeland in building Socialism, with a feeling of sincere gratitude and eternal love for the Soviet Union, for Comrade Stalin. Election day turned into a genuine national festival, into a triumph for our people's democracy.

Of 4,877,658 electors for the area people's councils 4,820,704 or 98.83 per cent voted, of whom 4,757,604 or 98.69 per cent voted for the candidates of the Fatherland front. The Fatherland Front polled 98.61 per cent of the votes in the elections for the county people's councils, 99.26 per cent—for the urban people's councils, 99.63 per cent—for the district councils and 98.06 per cent—for the rural people's councils.

These figures are convincing proof of the strengthening of moral-political unity, of the oneness of the working people embodied in the Fatherland Front, of the boundless confidence reposed by the people in the Communist Party and its leader—the first deputy—Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov, the readiness of the working people to build Socialism in our country, to fight for the cause of peace and to guard our national freedom and independence against the machinations of the imperialists.

I.

The class essence and nature of the people's councils of deputies of the working people in Bulgaria are determined by the essence and nature of the people's-democratic power whose organs they are.

Elaborating Georgi Dimitrov's definition of the nature of people's-democratic rule in Bulgaria Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov in his report to the Third Congress of the Fatherland Front (May 1952) pointed to the two phases in its development: "The first phase of the development of people's democracy in our country... embraced the period from September 9, 1944, to the end of 1947. This was the period when people's democracy, as a specific form of the power of the working class in closed alliance with the working peasantry, was born and took shape. In this phase people's rule for a number of reasons, could not directly begin realisation of the task of complete elimination of the economic base of the big bourgeoisie who had been deprived of political power. "The nationalisation of the capitalist enterprises and banks marked the end of the first phase and paved the way for the second phase in the development of people's democracy—the phase of laying the foundations of socialist society in our country".

The founding in Bulgaria of the people's councils of

deputies of the working people is precisely linked-with the beginning of the second phase in the development of people's democracy in our country—the laying of the foundations of Socialism. The new historic tasks which confronted the people's-democratic state could not have been carried out without drawing into the work of running the state and without the direct participation of the broad masses of the working people in socialist construction.

The Lenin-Stalin teaching on building Socialism and the world-historic experience of the Soviet Union have shown that the Soviets constitute the most acceptable and expedient form for realising this task. "The Soviets", Comrade Stalin said, "are mass organisations of all the working people of town and country. They are not Party organisations. The Soviets are the direct expression of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Through the Soviets, all and sundry measures for strengthening the dictatorship and for building Socialism are carried out. Through the Soviets, the state leadership of the peasantry by the proletariat is exercised. The Soviets connect the millions of working people with the vanguard of the proletariat".

In essence, the same holds true for the people's councils of deputies of the working people in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. "The people's councils", Comrade Tchervenkov said, "are the direct expression of people's democracy. It is through these councils, as organs of the popular power, that state leadership is realised along all lines".

The local organs of the people's-democratic power deal directly with such vital questions for the working people as for instance municipal economy, planning and organisation of public services, public health, education and culture, socialist education of the working people, organisation of socialist (state and co-operative trade, and improving the material wellbeing of the people. Directly handling questions of the socialist reconstruction of agriculture, the organisational economic and

political consolidation of the agricultural co-operatives, as well as questions of commodity exchange between town and countryside, the people's councils, in practice, effect the alliance of the working class and the working peasantry, lead the working peasants, under the guidance of the working class, along the path of Socialism.

The people's councils in Bulgaria are mass, non-party, democratic organisations, and consequently,—the most democratic organs of power. They are formed by means of general elections in which all citizens from the age of 18 and upwards take part, irrespective of race, nationality, sex, religious belief, education, social origin and property status, including also citizens serving in the army. The councils are elected with a full guarantee of universal, direct and equal voting by secret ballot.

The formation of the election commissions and the nomination of candidates is a right which, in accordance with the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Election Law, belongs to the political, trade union, co-operative and other mass organisations of the working people, scientific and cultural societies, to meetings of workers and employees in enterprises and offices, to working peasants in the agricultural co-operatives, meetings of soldiers and officers in Army units, etc.

A vital prerequisite which guarantees the democratic nature of the people's councils in Bulgaria is the right of electors to recall their deputies should they fail to discharge their duties properly. This right ensures control by electors in relation to their deputies, and ensures the sovereign right of the people to be masters of the country and makes the deputy a servant of the people who is obliged to work in the interests of the people. "We must not tolerate deputies", Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov said, addressing the electorate of the 91st electoral precinct in Sofia on December 12, "who isolate themselves from the

electors, who forget them. People's Bulgaria has no need of such deputies. Such deputies must be recalled in good time".

The new electoral law, on the basis of which the December 14th election was held, guarantees the exercise of this right also by envisaging only one deputy for each electoral section. This ensures close contact between deputy and the electors, enables the deputy to report about his work, from time to time, to his electors and creates conditions for constant and direct verification of the work of the deputy by the electors. This makes the deputies the direct medium for expressing the will of the electors, gives them a better insight into their immediate needs, views and sentiments.

But it is not this alone that characterises the democratic nature of the people's councils of the deputies of working people in the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The public sessions of the people's councils, the right of electors to attend them, to ask questions and to express their views, the work of the permanent subcommittees comprising broad sections of the population the help given the people's councils by the mass organisations and, particularly, by the organisations of the Fatherland Front in fulfilling their tasks—all these are the forms which help to draw the working people into direct participation in running the country.

The Fatherland Front—the two million strong social-political organisation of the people of Bulgaria is a particularly powerful social base of the people's councils. In his report to the Third Congress of the Fatherland Front Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov laid special stress on the vital significance of the broad and deep-going contact of the people's councils with the working people and placed before the Fatherland Front the task of becoming in practice the first and direct helpmate of the people's councils, to link all its work with the work of the people's councils, in the localities so that their social base should assume a more mass nature and become still broader.

The carrying out of this task will impart still greater force to the people's councils and add to the activity of the popular masses in socialist construction,

One of the main factors which ensure for the people's councils their nature of organs of the people's-democratic power is the political leadership of the Communist Party of Bulgaria tempered in bitter struggle against the class enemy. Without this leadership the people's councils would not be what they are today. In this respect the Communist Party of Bulgaria is guided by Comrade Stalin's counsel to the effect that "... it is not only a matter of the Soviets as a form of organisation, even though that form is a great revolutionary achievement in itself. It is primarily a matter of the content of the work of the Soviets; it is a matter of the character of the work of the Soviets; it is a matter of who leads the Soviets—revolutionaries or counter-revolutionaries". In Bulgaria on December 14 there were elected to the people's councils true sons and daughters of the people, leading workers in industry, and worthy representatives of the people's intelligentsia. "The present people's councils", Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov points out, "are, in the true sense of the word, people's councils not only because they are elected freely, but also because, by their very nature, they cannot function if they do not rely completely on the people, on their political activity, on their social, professional, economic, cultural and other organisations, if they are not helped by the initiative and by the verification of thousands and thousands of working people, if they do not maintain, in every possible way, the closest contact with the working people. The present people's councils are people's councils in the true sense of the word since they report on their activity to the people and are subject to control by the people... These factors make our people's councils the most democratic form of state management".

II.

Until now the people's councils in Bulgaria have been going through a period of organisational reinforcement, of establishing closer contact with the working masses, a period of inculcating new forms and methods of work, inherent in the people's councils as organs of state "Power of a new type. In our efforts to inculcate socialist methods of work in the people's councils we are learning from the rich experience of the Soviets of deputies of working people in the Soviet Union.

The basic method of work of the people's councils in our country is collective discussion of questions and collective decisions. But this method was not easily achieved nor was it achieved all at once; it was achieved in constant struggle against the harmful habits of issuing commands, against the bureaucratism inherited from the past. After the 1949 elections a number of people's councils did not hold regular sessions. The functions of sessions were appropriated by executive committees and not infrequently personally by their chairmen. But our Party, which from the very first day of the establishment of the people's councils, correctly appraised their role and significance, waged a resolute struggle for overcoming this shortcoming and, in the main, has overcome it. Taken as a whole the sessions of the councils of working people's deputies are held regularly. The content of the work of the sessions has also changed. They decide, mainly, basic questions which come before the people's councils.

The experience of our people's councils shows that the fruitful work of their sessions depends in the first place on the activity of the permanent subcommittees which are a form of creative participation by the popular masses in state administration. As a result of greater help on the part of the Fatherland Front organisations and the everyday leadership of the Party, the subcommittees, from the end of last year, began

to give active help to the people's councils and their executive committees. In June 1952, 10,915 subcommittees of the people's councils were doing good work.

An important role in improving the work of the people's councils, in ensuring close contact with the working people and rallying them for active participation in the solution of local problems and general state tasks is played the meetings between deputies and their electors, organised with the help of the Fatherland Front. Big success has been registered in this respect. In Sofia, for example, the majority of the deputies of the urban and district people's councils arrange monthly meetings with their electors.

The reporting-back meetings of people's councils held in 1952 were much better organised than in 1951 and helped further to strengthen their ties with the working people. Nearly everywhere the councils' reports evoked keen interest and lively discussion among the population. The working people criticised the work of the councils, and submitted numerous valuable suggestions mainly on questions affecting urban and rural improvements, water supply, health protection and education.

The people's councils have considerable achievements to their credit in the sphere of national economy, public welfare, health protection, education, local industry and physical culture. A major achievement of the people's councils is the construction of a large number of administrative, health, cultural, educational and residential buildings and many other undertakings in the towns and countryside. In 66 years prior to September 9, 1944, 3,800 kilometres of water-mains were laid in Bulgaria and in only 8 years of people's rule 2,300 kilometres. Prior to September 9, 1944 there were altogether 784 localities with electricity supply and now, after 8 years of people's rule, they number 2,415. The people's councils have also considerably extended their industrial enterprises,

including 400 new local enterprises opened in 1951 alone.

The people's councils are doing much to strengthen the socialist sector in trade. The number of state and co-operative shops rose from 10,900 in 1948 to 17,708 in 1951. In 8 years of people's rule a total of 879 new schools have been built in town and country. Instead of the half-day kindergartens accommodating 10,643 children in 1951, we now have 5,018 kindergartens and children's homes with accommodation for 228,641 children. The people's councils built 643 maternity homes, of which 631 are in the countryside.

The number of cinemas in rural areas increased almost twentyfold by 1952 and in the country as a whole now number 805. Whereas prior to September 9, 1944 Bulgaria did not have a single locality with radio diffusion, there are now 781 villages and 110 towns with diffusion centres.

In 1949-51, 11,622 volley-ball, basket-ball and other playing grounds were laid out throughout the country.

But there are still a number of people's councils that have not yet eliminated serious shortcomings in their work—a matter which prevents them from becoming real leaders in economic, political and cultural life in their town, district or village. The fundamental weakness in the work of these councils—mainly in rural localities—is that they do not sufficiently combine economic and administrative work with mass political activity, they do not adequately organise the activity of the working people, do not rely on their mass organisations, do not inspire them to activity and rely mainly on their administrative apparatus.

There is also an underestimation of the Fatherland Front as the powerful social base of the people's councils. Instead of rallying the masses and firmly relying on their organisations and, above all, on the Fatherland Front, instead of operative and concrete leadership, the executive committees of such people's councils devote too much time to meetings, violating

the collegiate principle in their work and resort to methods of command.

Another serious shortcoming in the work of a number of people's councils is that they badly organise the carrying out of decisions and execution of these decisions is not verified. Some leaders have not as yet learnt to combine general state interests with the interests of the local population. At times they reveal political short-sightedness, giving preference to local interests in solving vital economic issues.

One reason for these shortcomings is inadequate help and weak leadership of the Councils on the part of the respective Party committees and lack of systematic control over their work.

The Communist Party and the People's Government spare no effort in liquidating these shortcomings and in strengthening the people's councils organisationally and politically.

Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov's recommendations at the meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria on April 23, 1951 in connection with distortions of Party policy in some villages when forming agricultural co-operatives, helped to focus the attention of the people's councils on this exceptionally important problem for our socialist construction. Stressing the need constantly to help the people's councils, the Political Bureau of the Party obliged regional county and urban Party committees to take an everyday interest in their activity and to adopt concrete measures for improving their work. In order to ensure that the policy of the Party and of the Government is correctly carried out, the Political Bureau decided to form Party groups in the executive committees of the people's Councils.

The advice given by Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov at the Third Congress of the Fatherland Front about the need to merge the work of the Fatherland Front organisations with the work of the people's Councils is and will be decisive for

strengthening the latter.

As a result of Party and Government measures there has been a definite improvement, both organisational and political, in the work of the people's councils; there has been a decisive improvement in their methods and in their actual conversion into genuinely mass organs of the people's-democratic government. The all-round attention on the part of the Party and the Government raise the people's councils to a higher plane, corresponding more and more to their political tasks in the system of people's democracy.



The elections campaign which ended on December 14 and which constituted a brilliant victory for people's rule brought into action the broad masses of working people. More than 400,000 working people were drawn into the election commissions. Tens of thousands functioned as agitators and canvassers.

At meetings, conferences and gatherings of electors and candidates, and also through the medium of the press, working people critically analysed the activity of the people's councils and of some deputies. This criticism on the part of the electorate revealed a number of shortcomings in the work of the people's councils, in the work of some of their leading functionaries and of many party members. There can be no doubt that this will help further to strengthen the people's councils, to strengthen the alliance between the working class and the working peasantry, to consolidate the patriotic unity of our people. The popular confidence reposed in the Communist Party and the People's Government, headed by Comrade Vylko Tchervenkov, is another contribution to laying the foundations of Socialism in our country, a powerful manifestation of the will of our people in the future too, to keep their place in the

camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, to go ahead and consolidate the life-giving Bulgarian-Soviet friendship and friendship with all the democratic peoples under the leadership of our wise teacher and father—the great Stalin.

TRAINING PERSONNEL FOR ALBANIAN INDUSTRY

As a result of the steady growth of Albania's national economy new cadres of factory and office workers are needed. By the end of the first Five-Year Plan (1951-1955) the number of factory and office workers will have increased by 79 per

cent.

Training of new cadres for industry is now being undertaken in a big way. Three industrial two-year schools for young workers are training turners, milling-machine operators, blacksmiths, electrical workers, welders, etc. The one-year school attached to the Stalin textile combinat trained last year 1.6 times more workers than in 1951! Hundreds of skilled workers and technical cadres were trained in the recently commissioned big enterprises such as the November 8th sugar refinery, the Lenin hydro-electric station, the tobacco factory in Skoder, etc.

The fraternal countries are giving substantial help to Albania. Scores of engineers, specialists in different fields, graduates of higher educational establishments in the Soviet Union and in the countries of people's democracy, entered industry in 1952.

CATASTROPHIC GROWTH OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRIA

Ever since the "Marshall plan" came into force unemployment has grown steadily in Austria. In 1948 there were over 54 thousand unemployed; in 1949 the number

already exceeded 100 thousand, and in mid-December 1952 according to official data, clearly understated, there were 215 thousand unemployed workers.

Forty thousand workers were sacked during the first fourteen days of December. To the total number there should be added the scores of thousands of unemployed not registered, those working short time and some 50 thousand juveniles who are unemployed but do not figure in the official data.

The standard of living is going from bad to worse. According to far from complete figures issued by the Austria Institute of Economic Research, the subsistence minimum for a family of four increased by 17 per cent during the period from July 1951 to June 1952.

Mass unemployment; serve exploitation of the working people, steady lowering of real wages—such are the fruits of Marshallisation of Austria.

IN COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES

Deep Interest in China in Documents of XIX Congress

Ever broader sections of the Chinese public are studying Comrade Stalin's work "Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R." and the materials of the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U. Leading functionaries in state enterprises, advanced workers in industry, workers in the realms of culture and art display profound interest in these historic documents. According to a decision by the Party committees a cycle of radio lectures was held during November and December: the international situation, the experience and tasks of Party building in the C.P.S.U., successes of the national economy in the U.S.S.R.

The propaganda department of the Peking city committee of the Party published the materials of the XIX Congress in tens of thousands of copies. Nearly 76 thousand factory and office workers, leading functionaries of the democratic parties and organisations, professors in the higher educational establishments and school-teachers are studying these materials.

In Shanghai over 13,000 people attended a meeting of functionaries of the Party apparatus of the East China Bureau of the Party and of the Party organisations of the Shanghai railway administration. The deputy head of the propaganda department of the East China Bureau dwelt in detail on the main theses of Comrade G. M. Malenkov's report and other documents of the XIX Congress.

Over 50 thousand Party functionaries in Kiangsu Province began study of the documents of the XIX Congress by the end of November. The Congress materials are also being studied by most functionaries of the Province Administration.

Meeting of Party Agitators in Industry, Polish United Workers' Party

Meetings of agitators in the main branches of industry took place in many of the regional towns in Poland.

Together with the agitators, editors of the plant newspapers and wall newspapers, plant radio announcers, leaders of clubs, houses of culture, youth houses and hostels, secretaries of the Party branches in the factory, chairmen of the factory trade union committees and leaders of the enterprises took part in the meetings.

Over 600 were present at the meeting of agitators of the Coal industry in the Katowice region, 270 were present at the meeting of agitators of the metal-working industry in Poznan; 300 were present at the meeting in Gdansk; 400 attended the meeting of agitators of the Wroclaw textile industry.

The meetings took place to the accompaniment of great activity by the participants who gave a detailed analysis of their work. For example, Jozef Tepa, agitator in the "Baldon" metallurgical works, is fighting for higher labour productivity, for improving quality of output and for strengthening labour discipline. Irena Ksiazek, agitator in one of the Kalisz enterprises devotes special attention to popularising the methods of Soviet stakhanovites. In a brief space of time her shop went over to the Soviet stakhanovite Zhandarova's method.

Agitators told of the help given them by the factory newspapers, by the "extra-special" editions, by the radio-diffusion centres and by group reading of newspapers during dinner intervals or before work, about using effective methods of agitation in the enterprise, methods which proved successful during the election campaign; they told how they expose the falsehoods spread by the radio of the capitalist countries; they also stressed the need for raising the ideological level of the

agitators and of mastering the art of agitation. Those taking part in the discussion pointed to the great significance of the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U. for the Polish working class.

The meetings have shown that there are many active and able agitators in the enterprises; they also made clear that not always did secretaries of Party committees in the factories display ability to make proper use of their agitators, they do not always instruct them, give them concrete assignments and do not verify their work.

Concrete conclusions, aimed at improving mass political work in the given branch of industry, were drawn at all the meetings. These conclusions will be discussed at agitators' meetings in individual enterprises.

Reorganising Urban Territorial Branches of Communist Party of Czechoslovakia

The new Rules of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia introduced the territorial-production principle as the basis of the organisational structure of the Party. In this connection the Political Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Party resolved to reorganise the street (territorial) branches in towns which function alongside factory branches. This reorganisation is to be completed before the 1953 annual meetings.

The decision points out that the grand tasks of socialist construction demand that the activity of the members and probationers be concentrated in Party branches organised on the production principle. The construction of new plants and the almost complete elimination of private industry and trade in the towns resulted in a large number of Party members being transferred to factory branches. Thus, there is no need to register members of factory branches in the street

organisations. As for Party members who belong to factory branches and live in villages they must in future be on the list of village organisations.

New branches based on the production principle will be formed wherever possible. Member ... probationers who are in touch with factory organisations and who pay ... membership dues in street organisations (pensioners, housewives who formerly worked in enterprises etc.) will be recommended to register with the factory branch. The transfer should be exercised with due consideration to the interests of the members and the actual need for the transfer.

Rebuilding of the street Party branches in towns should facilitate improvement in mass-political work among those of the population not linked with factory or office. This work should be led by district or town committees with the help of the factory branches. Agitators for each house, block of dwellings and street will be specially selected from members of factory branches.

Attention of Organisations of the Hungarian Working People's Party to Strengthening Agricultural Producer Co-operatives

At members' meetings of the agricultural producer co-operatives, now being held in Hungary, the results of the economic year are being discussed and decisions taken on sharing income. Those co-operatives which used the advanced Soviet methods of agriculture and animal husbandry which properly organised their work, ensured their members a significant income even in 1952 which was a year of exceptionally unfavourable weather. But in a large number of producer co-operatives the results are worse than in 1951 when

crops were good.

For this reason political explanatory work is of particularly great significance in connection with the general meetings and assessing of balance sheets. The Party committees and organisations are devoting

close attention to this work. For example, the Party committee in Baranja county held a meeting of Party secretaries and activists in the co-operatives; the Party committee in Solnok county held a meeting of secretaries of the Party organisations in the bigger (farming over 1,000 holds) co-operatives. The committee works closely with the chairmen of the co-operatives and secretaries of the Party organisations. In the Nograd county the leaders of the Party organisations in the producer cooperatives discussed the questions of preparing for the general meetings of the co-operative members. In the Pest county Party meetings were held prior to the general meeting of the co-operative members.

As a result of the explanatory work the co-operative members take an active part in the meetings, boldly point to shortcomings and rebuff kulak encroachments. Simultaneously with summing up the year's work a struggle is being waged for further strengthening of the co-operatives and for ousting enemy elements who wormed their way into them.

More working peasants are joining the co-operatives; in November 400 families joined the co-operatives in the Nograd County. Nearly 6,000 families have joined the co-operatives since the beginning of the general meetings. A large number of villages are now 100 per cent co-operative villages.

Preparations for Congress of Italian Communist Youth Federation

The XIII Congress of the Italian Communist Youth Federation will be held in mid-February.

To date, over five thousand of the 9,000 youth sections have already held pre-Congress conferences. Not only members of the Federation but also youths and girls belonging to other political organisations, independents, as well as parents, teachers, sports instructor and others are taking an active part in the work of the conferences. At these conferences the young people discuss all aspects of their life, education and work and outline concrete forms of struggle for improving them.

For example, the conference of Communist youth in Piembino was attended by young Catholics, members of the Italian social movement and independents. It was pointed out at this conference that the membership of the Communist youth organisation of the town, which in 1950 numbered 500, has increased to 1,450. The conference outlined concrete measures for joint struggle with all the youth of the province in defence of peace and national independence, against the closing of local enterprises and for providing unemployed youths and girls with jobs.

Devoting close attention to the preparation: for the XIII Congress of the Communist Youth Federation and noting certain improvements in the work of the Party among youth, the Communist press sharply criticises shortcomings in the work of the Party organisation in this sphere. Many Party organisations lack definite plans for concrete aid to the Communist youth organisations in preparing for their Congress, have not called on Communists working in the mass organisations to support the youth, have not allocated groups of propaganda activists to help in the campaign for recruiting members to their Federation. In places where there are no Communist youth organisations, not everywhere have the Party members helped to organise inaugural meetings for the creation

of the first youth organisations.

IN COUNTRIES OF DEMOCRACY AND PEACE

Solicitude of People's Government in China for Working People

Day by day life for working people in the Chinese province of Kweichow is becoming better and brighter. There are at present about 140,000 factory and office workers in the province, over 52 per cent of whom are trade unionists. In 1951 wages of factory and office workers in state industrial enterprises were already 43.6 per cent higher than the 1949 level. The average monthly earnings of transport workers have risen by more than 70 per cent compared with pre-liberation days. In the course of 1952 prices for most goods were reduced, on the average, by 6.8 per cent.

The people's Government devotes close attention to improving conditions for the workers. Thus large-scale house building is now underway in the town of Hukawng. Two hospitals for working people, 12 dispensaries and 9 crèches have been opened in the town. In addition, managements of a number of enterprises have agreements with 24 urban hospitals for treating workers. Most enterprises have their own canteens. A workers' sanatorium is being built in one of the suburbs.

Hukawng alone has four workers' clubs and 13 libraries and reading rooms. There are amateur theatricals, various sports sections in the majority of the factories. Nearly twenty-three thousand factory and office workers attend the 60 evening schools in the town, combining work and study; several thousand workers attend political classes and the courses for improving skills.

In the past three years over 2,000 workers in Kweichow provinces have been promoted to leading Party and administrative posts.

Health Protection in People's Poland

Under landlord-capitalist rule Poland ranked among the lowest in Europe for health services and the number of doctors. In 1938 there were 3-4 doctors per 10,000 citizens. Fifty-six county districts had no medical institutions at all.

The picture in present-day Poland is altogether different. In 1952 the number of health establishments had increased by 1,134 per cent compared with 1938! The countryside alone has nearly 900 medical establishments (before the war there were but 68).

The results of the paternal solicitude of the people's Government for the health of the citizens are seen in the steady growth of population in the declining mortality rate and in the sharp decrease in illness. Growth of population in 1951 was 18.6 and in the first quarter of 1952, 21.5 per 1,000 citizens. The mortality rate per 1,000 citizens declined from 13.9 in 1938 to 11.4 in 1947·50. Infantile mortality in the large towns has dropped to 8.7 compared with 13.8 in 1938. The death rate from tuberculosis declined from 18 cases per 10,000 of the population in 1938 to 10.4. There has been a thirtyfold decrease in the number of cases of venereal disease and a sharp drop in other infectious diseases.

Hungarian People Study

Big success has been registered in the sphere of public education during the years of people's rule in Hungary. At present 1,533,700 people are studying, that is 16.7 per cent of the entire population.

107,889 pupils attended secondary schools in 1951; in 1952 the number had grown to 119,432, that is more than double the number of secondary school pupils before the

liberation (52,349). 66.7 per cent of the secondary-school pupils are children of workers and working peasants.

The number of students in universities and higher schools, including those attending evening classes and taking correspondence courses, has arisen from 40,000 in 1951 to 49,000 in 1952. Today there are 53-54 higher-school students per 10,000 of the population that is 1.5 times more than in Denmark and France, 2.5 times more than in Sweden and 4 times more than during the Horthy regime in Hungary in 1937-38.

Rising Wellbeing of Peasantry in German Democratic Republic

Output of agricultural machinery by the national industry in the German Democratic Republic is steadily growing. The machinery enabled the peasants considerably to increase the yield of all agricultural crops. Compared with 1936 the Republic harvested in 1952 nearly 600,000 tons more grain and 1.1 million tons more sugar beet. With a view to further support for the working peasants and first and foremost for the producer co-operatives, the 1953 plan for the development of the national economy in the German Democratic Republic envisages a 46 per cent increase in the output of the agricultural machines, compared with 1952.

The wellbeing of the working peasants is steadily rising, accordingly as their output increases: moreover, sale of their products is fully ensured. The state is giving every support to the working peasants.

Stalin Avenue in Berlin.

Margot Pfannstiel



On September 27 the population of Berlin celebrated in the Straussberger Platz the opening of the Avenue named after Stalin. By this date practically all the building work of the 1952 National Programme for the Rehabilitation of Berlin had been completed. New six and seven-storied houses stretch on both sides of the Avenue for nearly two kilometres, from the Straussberger Platz to Bersarin Street.

On December 21,—J. V. Stalin's birthday—1,148 apartments were transferred to the working people for occupancy.

On this day thousands of Berliners realised, perhaps more so than ever before, what Berlin means to them, how closely they are linked to it, since simultaneously, they demonstrated their determination to win the battle for the unification of Berlin, for the unification of Germany.

In November 1951 when the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany put forward the suggestion for rehabilitating the capital of Germany and asked "would this be a good thing", it received the unanimous answer from hundreds of thousands of working people: "It would be splendid!" Numerous letters, telegram and pledges testified to the resolute determination of the population of all Germany to build a splendid, peaceful future. People who not so long ago queried: "Fight for peace? Excellent! But tell us exactly what we have got to do?" began to work with enthusiasm.

"The enthusiasm for the job will rally the people"—this was the prediction of the Central Committee when it made its suggestion.

How quickly these words became reality! The population of the democratic sector of Berlin like one friendly family took to pick and shovel. First one, then another brigade cleared the

sites of the rubbish and rubble, stacking bricks, iron and other material capable of being used. Many people in Berlin are now proud of the gold badges awarded them for the one hundred shifts worked on the construction site. They are proud of their successes.

Every working man in the German Democratic Republic is doing his bit in the rebuilding of Berlin; and this is no small tribute. Trains loaded with scrap-iron salvaged from the ruins come to our steel works and then return to Berlin loaded with building steel and iron. Voluntary shock-shifts of steel workers smelt and roll the steel in excess of norm.

Tools, cement, lime, bricks, glass, rails—all the materials needed for the construction of Stalin Avenue were supplied in excess of plan by the Republic. Every day train loads of these presents arrived in Berlin, vividly demonstrating the devotion of the Germans to their capital. Suffice it to say that to date 7 freight trains with different kind of building equipment—beginning with plasterer's trowels and ending with cranes, came from the Niesky district alone, a small district on the Oder-Neisse border, the border of peace.

Peasants supplied the site with timber free of charge and presented baskets of food to the builders. For the population of Western Germany and West Berlin as well the National Rehabilitation Programme became a powerful factor in the fight for freedom and independence.

On February 3, 1952 Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl laid the foundation stone of the first building of the new Berlin. And a few weeks later the walls of new houses rose on the site, thus confirming the belief of Berliners in the rapid appearance of large and splendid blocks of dwellings.

Stalin Avenue became a peculiar kind of battle-ground for peace. The wall of houses rose, the people erecting them grew as well. They learnt to have confidence in their strength; working in the interests of society moulded in them a new

socialist consciousness.

Right from the very beginning of the construction work in Stalin Avenue an all-out, resolute struggle has been waged for the introduction of new methods of labour. Relinquishing the centuries-old traditions, the Berlin builders wanted to work in the new, socialist way. Invaluable help in this respect -was the experience of Soviet and Polish bricklayers who gladly acquainted their German comrades with the perfected Stakhanovite methods. The "Moscow" and "Warsaw" building rates stimulated the appearance of "Berlin" rates on the site. The call to work faster, better and with lower production costs has become the motto of the builders who have assimilated the new technique and abandoned the old and outmoded methods. In the course of the socialist emulation talented workers came to the fore, workers who considerably advanced building technique and accelerated the general rate of building.

The mass socialist emulation for the "Red Banner of Stalin Avenue" drew the attention of the entire population of Berlin. They followed with keen interest the daily newspaper report about the best bricklayer of the day on the Stalin Avenue site. The best workers included those who only a few months ago went into a fury at talk about new methods of labour. Now these same workers, using better methods, are doing seven and ten times the daily norm.

The Berlin builders have demonstrated to the world that they are class-conscious workers and genuine patriots. They corrected the work of the leadership on the site, helped the architects with criticism and suggestions and inculcated in themselves a feeling of responsibility for the job as a whole.

Their readiness to defend that which they are building has risen together with love for their constructions, with pride in their achievements. Placards on the scaffoldings read: "Woe to those who dare encroach on our Stalin Avenue!"

Hundreds of thousands have visited Stalin Avenue. People

from all parts of Germany came to see it. At the sight of the splendid buildings and upon observing the enthusiastic labour of the builders, many have had their eyes opened. An official of a reformist trade union said: "I have seen the sunlit part of Berlin". He came from West Berlin whose rulers are imitating the worst that exists in America. There is also building work in West Berlin, but only military barracks and bank offices are being erected there, while the workers remain cooped up in wretched huts and cellars amid ruin.

A Boy Scout delegation from Western Germany said to the apprentices on one of the youth construction sites: "Yes, now we believe in what you are doing. We know now that you are sincerely against war. We also understand that you should be vigilant since you really have something to defend".

On Sundays Berliners and their families in the democratic sector of Berlin visit Stalin Avenue. They are delighted, they rejoice, and they are proud of their Avenue. Mothers say to their infants: "Look, by the time you have grown up all Berlin will be as beautiful as this". Workers' families, activists, and the best representatives of the intelligentsia are occupying the new apartments on the Avenue. They will live in bright, airy and comfortable apartments. It is worth noting that rent is 90 pfennigs per square metre, while in West Berlin it is twice as much.

Stalin Avenue will be the most splendid, the most beautiful of Berlin's streets. Its nearly 100 shops will testify to the growing prosperity of the Republic.

And when the lights go on in the Straussberger Platz, the first stone marking the beginning of the 1953 National Programme for rehabilitation of Berlin will have been laid. And our people, as is always the case when they are about to begin or complete a new undertaking, will remember with love and profound gratitude the man whose name has been given to the first socialist street In Germany—Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin.

Berlin. December, 1952.

Industry in Czechoslovakia in 1952

In the last few days of 1952 hundreds of factories and entire branches of industry have reported fulfilment of assignments of the fourth year of Czechoslovakia's Five-Year Plan. According to preliminary data, industrial production in People's Democratic Czechoslovakia in 1952 rose 17.8 per cent compared with 1951, including output of consumer goods 10 per cent, and means of production 24 per cent. Compared with 1951 steel production rose 26.9 per cent; electric energy, 13.3 per cent; coal, 9.7 per cent. Output in the heavy machine-building enterprises increased 36.8 per cent, general machine-building 39.7 per cent and in the chemical industry, 20.3 per cent.

Receiving enormous technical aid from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovak industry produces highly complex machinery and instruments. For the first time, Czechoslovakia is now building big river steamers and is producing complex equipment for industry and power stations.

The high assignments of the 1953 plan open up new vistas for the development of Czechoslovak industry. And the industrial development creates conditions for further improving the material and cultural standards, for the further flowering of the happy life of the working people in people's Czechoslovakia.

Advance in Education in Albania

An intensified campaign is underway to wipe out illiteracy in

Albania where prior to the liberation there were 670,000 illiterates. By the end of the 1951-52 educational year this figure had been reduced five-and-a-half times. Complete elimination of illiteracy is envisaged during the five-year period.

Illiteracy has been almost completely liquidated in Korchë district. In 60 villages of this district all people can now read and write. Prior to the liberation less than 3 per cent of the population in Gruemir administrative unit (uniting a group of villages) could read and write. Not a single village had a school before the liberation. Today all 12 villages have their own elementary schools and Gruemir itself has a seven-year school. The Gruemir peasants are determined to wipe out illiteracy during 1953.

IN COUNTRIES OF CAPITALISM AND WAR

44,000 Unemployed in one Month

Additional thousands of workers' families in Britain are being thrown onto the streets and deprived of shelter and food as a result of curtailment of civilian industry. Nor does the New Year hold out any better prospects for them.

According to the official figures cited recently by the "Daily Worker" the number of unemployed in Britain is now over the 400,000 mark. The period between October 13 and November 10 alone added 8,500 workers to the army of unemployed. Employment in the basic industries declined by 44,000 during November.

People Live in Slums in Italy

The present social insurance system in Italy does not cover the majority of the population. 24 million Italians, that is 51 per cent of the population practically get no medical aid whatsoever.

Disease is rife among the working people. Of 8,000 children examined in Naples 16.8 per cent were found to be suffering from active tuberculosis. Investigation proved that illness among children is directly linked with bad living conditions.

Over half a million Italians are forced to live in barracks, tents, caves or beneath the skies. Thirteen thousand people live in caves near the town of Matera and about the same number in Foggia. Over 3 million people live in houses unfit for habitation.

Armaments Drive Instead of Building Schools

Schools in the Netherlands are in a critical state. In December the “Netherlands Teachers’ Union” addressed a statement to the Government in which they express alarm at the state of affairs. The country is short of a considerable number of schools, many old school buildings are no longer fit for use and require capital repairs, but funds are not allocated. Classrooms are overcrowded. School teachers get miserable wages. Recently Catholic teachers in Amsterdam addressed an open letter to the leadership of the “Catholic People’s Party” saying that they would stop work in the event of wages not being raised.

The Netherlands’ rulers display very little interest in this matter. Their interests are of different character—they are interested in the armaments drive. The huge sum of 3 billion guldens was allocated for war purposes in 1951-2. In 1953 military expenditure will amount to 1,800 million guldens.

Growth of Military Expenditure

Year by year the New Zealand Government, obeying the orders of the U.S. imperialists, allocates ever larger sums for war preparation. Already in the 1950-51 fiscal year direct military expenditure was eight times the prewar figure. In 1952, according to a recent issue of the “People’s Voice”, 50,000 population of the North Shore district of Auckland were forced to pay out of their pockets £60,000 for military expenditure.

Everyday Facts from Life in Britain

In one of its latest issues in 1952, the “Daily Mirror”, a

British bourgeois newspaper, published a special message to its readers wishing them “A Merry Christmas”.

In the same issue the newspaper reported that Santa Claus had neither forgotten... the 630 dogs and cats which came to Britain from all corners of the world and sent into quarantine for six months at Hackbridge Kennels, Surrey.

Dogs and cats belonging to the wealthy will have a special “Christmas meal” which will include fish and rabbit with various spices...

The same newspaper describes the tragic fate of 28-year old Dorothy Dolan, the wife of an unemployed worker, who was charged with having attempted to poison her child. The proceedings showed that the Dolan family had nothing whatever to live on. Reduced to despair by hunger and poverty the mother decided to poison her boy...

Dire Plight of Peasants in Western Germany

Western Germany’s agricultural debt during the period from 1948 to 1951 alone rose from 2.48 billion to 4.27 billion marks. This debt burdens above all the small and medium peasants who, more and more frequently, are forced to take credits. The taxes are becoming unbearable.

The desperate plight of the toiling peasantry is inevitably accompanied by poorer cultivation. The peasants lack the means for mechanised soil cultivation, for fertilizers, etc. As a result, the grain harvest in Western Germany in 1952 was 15 percent below that of 1951. The rye harvest declined by nearly 30 per cent.

EXPOSED CONSPIRACY OF U.S.- BRITISH SPIES.

**Karol Bacilek, Member of the Presidium, Central
Committee, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia**



The trial of the leading core of the anti-state conspiracy centre in Czechoslovakia state conspiracy centre revealed in all its ugliness the foul activity of the U.S.-British warmongers and their agents, including the Tito gang of spies and assassins.

The trial once again confirmed that the threads of the conspiracies, of the espionage and sabotage uncovered and smashed in the countries of people's democracy lead, in the final analysis, to the espionage centres of American intelligence which, in fact, directs .the intelligence services of other capitalist countries. The fact was again confirmed that the U.S. imperialists, for the purpose of preparing another world war which according to their crazy plans, is to ensure world domination for them, are mobilising all their agents in .the countries of people's democracy, uniting them into a single front of inveterate enemies of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union. At the same time the U.S. warmongers, quite often in the guise of diplomats, are always on the lookout for new methods of brazen interference in the internal affairs of the countries of people's democracy.

In the Prague trial there figured no small number of names of spies, "experts" in the countries of people's democracy and, in particular, Noel and Hermann Field, the zealous Wall Street scoundrel Dulles, etc. The names of the Titoite spies were also frequently repeated at the trial. The list beginning with the names of Tito, Djilas, Rankovic and Moshe Pjade was

supplemented by the names of the professional spies such as Kevic, Novosel, Gorski, Cernej, Barbaric, Moric etc.

The Tito fascist clique was assigned by its U.S. masters an active role in the preparation for a counter-revolutionary coup in Czechoslovakia. The anti-state conspiracy centre in Czechoslovakia for the purpose of furthering the plan of the U.S.-British imperialists virtually used the same methods and means used by Tito and his accomplices in Yugoslavia. Slansky, the chief of the conspiracy, frankly admitted during the trial that, being in the service of the imperialists of the West and, in the first place in the service of the American pretenders to world domination, he engaged in hostile activity, that he wanted to become the "Tito of Czechoslovakia".

It was not surprising, therefore, that the trial produced much new evidence testifying to the criminal activity of the Tito gang of spies and assassins and their contact with the U.S. imperialists during the second world war and in the post-war years.

At the end of 1945, six months after the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the heroic Soviet Army, the Yugoslav military attaché Ivanovic came to Prague and suggested to Reicin, Slansky's accomplice that he should collaborate with him in espionage. Reicin a former Gestapo agent, who betrayed to the Gestapo the members of the underground Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and its national hero Julius Fucik, and who afterwards with Slansky's help, wormed his way to a leading position in the Czechoslovak Army, when questioned by the prosecutor about his direct contact with the Yugoslav agents, testified:

"This began at the end of 1945 at the time of the official visit paid to me by Colonel Miladin Ivanovic, Yugoslav military attaché, in my office at Army Headquarters. At that time Ivanovic stated quite openly that the Yugoslav intelligence service was aware of my collaboration with the Gestapo

against the Soviet Union during the occupation and that I, naturally, realised what exposure would mean for me. He warned me that henceforth I would be expected to collaborate along the same line with the Yugoslav intelligence service".

Reicin's subsequent criminal collaboration with Ivanovic revealed that the Tito agent Ivanovic maintained direct contact with the espionage centre of the American intelligence service and that his word carried weight in the U.S. Army Headquarters also, the clearest proof of which is provided by the story connected with the so-called Stechovice archives.

What archives have we in mind? In 1945, the German fascist troops, retreating under the blows of the Soviet Army, covered the flight of the Gestapo agents from all the countries of Central and South-East Europe. The Gestapo hastily shipped, its archives, documents and the lists of its agents in the occupied countries. These documents also included the list of the key Gestapo agents who remained in the countries of people's democracy as well as the lists of Gestapo agents in Yugoslavia. The Gestapo regarded Prague as a place relatively remote from the front and so these archives were taken there. The rapid advance of the Soviet troops prevented the Gestapo from removing their archives from Czechoslovakia. So they ordered prisoners of war, whom they killed afterwards, to bury the archives, and to mine them, at a place not far from the town of Stechovice. The existence of the archives became known to Reicin who immediately informed the American agent—military attaché Ivanovic,—who, in his turn, with equal haste transmitted the information to his American benefactors.

Reicin testified: "Early in 1946 I informed Colonel Ivanovic about the secret archives of K. H. Frank in Stechovice, near Prague, which were seized by the Americans".

Question: "In this way you helped the Americans to steal the Stechovice archives?"

Answer: "Yes. In January 1946 when I received the note

about the archives of K H. Frank being hidden in Stechovice, with an attached plan showing, the exact location of the archives, I informed Colonel Ivanovic and on his instructions delayed excavation of the archives.

"Thus, the archives were seized by the Americans and the day after they were seized Ivanovic informed me that everything was fine as far as the archives were concerned. On the basis of this instance and from further observations I concluded that the Yugoslav intelligence service closely collaborated with American intelligence in pursuit of one and the same aim, against the Republic of Czechoslovakia".

After Reicin disclosed the place where the Gestapo archives were buried armed units of the U.S. Army arrogantly intruded onto the territory of the Czechoslovak Republic, dug up these archives and removed them to Western Germany.

The question arises whether the Americans in so doing wished merely to cover up a reliable spy such as Reicin? Was it their aim simply to cover the agents of the Gestapo and to use them for their purposes in Czechoslovakia? But how to explain the zeal, the readiness on the part of the Titoite to serve the Americans?

No! It was not just a question of Reicin. The U.S. aggressors gambled on something much bigger. It was a matter of an intrigue on a large-scale, of big game. Far-reaching plans involving all the countries of people's democracy were at stake. This explains why the U.S. aggressors made their gangster raid on Czechoslovakia, seized the Gestapo archives and, in this way, saved and acquired agents not only in Czechoslovakia but also in Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Poland and, particularly in Yugoslavia.

The Rajk trial already proved the existence of collaboration between Tito and Dulles, the agent of the U.S. monopolies. They acted in common against the U.S.S.R. and the peoples of Central and South-East Europe. With the knowledge of and

acting on orders from, the U.S. imperialists, Tito and his gang and his entire diplomatic corps linked with American intelligence, sought after the second world war to establish contact with Trotskyites bourgeois-nationalists and other hostile elements in the people's-democratic countries. American intelligence established a reliable branch in Titoite Yugoslavia and used Yugoslav diplomats as their reliable agents.

Naturally, the Titoite spies quickly found the way leading to the Slansky gang. Slansky and his accomplices Geminder, Reicin, Frejka, Clementis, Löbl and others were equally keen on establishing speedy contact with the Tito agents and supported in every way the Tito clique in Yugoslavia. A most important role in this criminal contact between the Titoites and the Slansky gang was played by the Angle-American agent Koni Zilliacus and by the Zionist agents who travelled regularly between Belgrade and Prague. Slansky and his henchmen knew long before the exposure of the Titoites that the Tito clique was serving the same master as they' were—the U.S. imperialists—and that the Titoites were working for the realisation of the same aims of the U.S. aggressors, seeking to wrest the countries of people's democracy from the Soviet Union, to harness the peoples of these countries in the imperialist yoke and kindle a new world war.

Characteristic in this respect was that part of Frejka's testimony which dealt with the Titoite plans for establishing an anti-Soviet federation. In 1947, secretly, like rats, the conspirators gathered in a private residence in Prague. Those present included Petrovic, the Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Trade, Ivo Barbaric, the Yugoslav trade attaché in Czechoslovakia and other Titoites. The Titoites voiced the "concept" about the need for a strong Yugoslavia which would rally all the people's-democratic states into a federation and thus create a "second centre of Socialism" on equal footing

with the U.S.S.R. The question was obviously that of setting up the U.S. version of an anti-Soviet European federation, a counter-revolutionary concept, inspired by Wall Street. In pursuing this aim Titoite Yugoslavia was helped by the gang of conspirators in Czechoslovakia. On the one hand the gang weakened and undermined Czechoslovak economy and, on the other, aided the Titoites and weakened the co-operation of Czechoslovakia with the other countries of people's democracy.

The plotters headed by Slansky constantly advertised the "successes" of Yugoslavia and lauded Tito in every way. Frank, Slansky's assistant, testified that in 1946, after Tito's visit to Czechoslovakia, Slansky informed him and the other conspirators that he had had talks with Tito and Djilas and that the latter had promised, should the need arise, to send to Czechoslovakia a regiment of Titoite cut-throats. Thus, the Tito gang of spies and assassins expressed their readiness to place their armed fascist rabble at the disposal of their associates in the countries of people's democracy.

Acting on the advice of the Titoites, Slansky and the other conspirators zealously planted their agents in the army and in the security organs. They were preparing the ground for the seizure of power by the methods of the Tito assassins; they plotted an attempt against the life of President Clement Gottwald—the beloved leader of the Czechoslovak people—who for them was the chief obstacle to the seizure of power in the Party and state.

The conspirators whom Slansky installed in the national security organs enabled the Titoite, that is, U.S. agents, to establish an espionage network without any interference and the activity of which they covered up in every possible way. Although after the exposure of Tito and his gang in 1948, the plotters in Czechoslovakia continued their criminal activity and began more subtly to camouflage their activity, they could not

escape the alert eye of the Party and the people. They were dragged out into the light and fully exposed.

Everybody knows now the danger that the camouflaged Tito gang constituted before its exposure. We see that the conspiracy centre headed by Slansky also followed the Titoite path. On all sectors, wherever possible, Slansky tried to injure the Republic, did everything in his power to weaken the defence potential of Czechoslovakia, to undermine the capacity of the Czechoslovak army and to disorganise the national economy.

The invaluable service rendered by the Information Bureau of Communist and Workers' Parties, by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and personally by Comrade Stalin was that they fully and in good time exposed the role of the Tito fascist rabble in the international conspiracy against peace, democracy and Socialism. The chief accomplices of the Tito fascists were exposed at the trials of Slansky, Rajk, Kostov and others. The forces of the people's-democratic system are dealing blow after blow to the forces of gloom and reaction which from Washington direct the Tito fascist scum. Titoite Yugoslavia, chained to the imperialist chariot has become the curse of the peoples of Yugoslavia groaning under the bloody fascist whip of the Tito butchers. The countries of people's democracy rallied still closer around the Soviet Union and benefiting from its enormous and all-round aid are marching forward along the pathway of Socialism.

We can say to the imperialist chieftains brandishing the sabre in the West. You have lost again, gentlemen! The masses have seen through your dirty game and unhesitatingly support their people's-democratic governments, their Communist and Workers' Parties, they are with the Soviet Union, with the great teacher and friend of all mankind—with Comrade J. V. Stalin.



THE YEAR IN RETROSPECT...

(Letter From U.S.A.)

On December 15, when President Truman, at an official ceremony in Washington, embalmed the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence in a specially made 50-ton fire-proof, bomb-proof safe, the walls of which are 25 inches thick, with doors weighing five tons, he performed more than a symbolical act. The embalming of the yellowing parchments was, at the same time, the state burial service conducted by the head of the Government over the banner of bourgeois freedoms and democratic rights in the United States of America.

In our country each of the days of 1952 that preceded the

burial of democratic rights witnessed acts of violence against peace fighters, Communists, trade unionists Negroes, and progressive people in all walks of life, against those whom the Constitution was supposed to defend.

Every single day during 1952 the brazen thugs of Hoover's secret police added more and more to its 113 million sets of finger prints. 1952 was a record year for trials and jailing of Communists; it was the year when the paid informer and the agent-provocateur flourished as never before; it saw the building of concentration camps in the United States; it was the year—the first in American history—of book burnings.

And yet, despite the police-fascist terror, and continued fascisation of the political regime, 1952, was a year of indefatigable struggle by the progressive forces for peace, a year of glorious struggle by the working people of the U.S.A., for their rights, for better conditions; during 9 months of the year alone, the number of strikers reached the record figure of 3,560,000.



The opening of 1952 in the United States was heralded with the foul slaughter of the Moore family in Florida, slaughtered by the Ku Klux Klan because of their active struggle for Negro rights. To this day Hoover's FBI has done nothing to find the murderers. Since then, month by month, Negroes have been murdered with impunity in New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh and in other cities. In Los Angeles alone, the police, on December 3rd, shot their twelfth Negro for the year.

Denouncing the genocide practised by the Truman racists in relation to the Negro population Pastor Taylor; addressing a protest meeting in Brooklyn, said: "America's hands are dripping red with the blood of her own citizens: Our nation stands embarrassed before the civilised world".

Slavery, according to a distinguished American writer, Stetson Kennedy, is as widespread in the year 1952 in the deep south of the United States as it was in the days of "Uncle Tom's Cabin". To quote from documents submitted by Mr. Kennedy to a United Nations committee: "Peonage or debt slavery has by no means disappeared from our land... there are more Negroes held by these debt-slavers than were actually owned as slaves before the Civil War".

Another feature of the process of the fascisation of the state regime in the U.S. during 1952 was the vicious and concentrated attacks made on people defending the Constitution. The reactionaries directed their main fire against the Communist Party. Trials of Party leaders began in New York, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Los Angeles and elsewhere. The Government used the same provocative methods in these trials as in the Foley Square frame-up of Eugene Dennis and his comrades.

Methods reminiscent of the Gestapo brutality are used against Steve Nelson, the Pittsburgh Communist leader, who was framed and given a savage sentence of 20 years imprisonment. Not content with this act of juridical barbarity the reactionaries, it would seem, wanted physically to destroy this hero of the American working people. At the beginning of December Nelson was removed from the ordinary prison cell to a dark, damp dungeon.

The American grave-diggers of the bourgeois freedoms, of democratic rights, naturally, would like to bury alive Eugene Dennis, Steve Nelson and their fellow Communists—the staunchest fighters for the rights of our people, But the vigilance of the masses which won the release of Nelson from his dungeon will stay the hand of the American Gestapo.

Continuing their onslaught against militant trade unions Hoover's secret police worked throughout 1952 "screening" seamen, dockers and other port workers.

Over 125,000 workers have already been "screened" on the West Coast. Of these, 15,000 were blacklisted.

By December the F.B.I. had extended its tentacles to the British port of Southampton where it was "investigating" the political sympathies of English seamen.

In April 1952 the F.B.I. broadened its activities so to speak; it began to victimise men whose wives are active in the peace movement. For example, Frank Crezlak, a resident of Scottsburg, Indiana, was dismissed from his job on the charge that "his wife had attended a peace meeting!"

Or take the case of Mrs. Katherine Hyndman of Gary, Indiana. Two months ago he was arrested for the "crime" of distributing leaflets calling for the withdrawal of American troops from Korea. Although the local judge dismissed the case the Truman Government has not only refused to release the woman peace fighter, it is trying to get her deported from the country. In a message from her prison cell Mrs. Hyndman wrote: "To those who say they abhor what is being done to me but refuse to speak up for fear of their own personal security. I say your security is a figment, you have no security".

An even worse fate befell another peace fighter, Jacob Greene of Depauw, Indiana. Greene was seized and thrown into jail for circulating excerpts from the Commission of the Women's International Democratic Federation for Investigation of atrocities committed by our militarists in Korea. In jail Greene was "examined" by two doctors, neither of them psychiatrists, who after questioning him for half an hour mainly about politics and religion, pronounced him insane. He was then taken to the Michigan Colony for the Criminal Insane and kept there for six months,

Fear of peace and fear of Communism have produced a climate of unprecedeted hysteria among the monopolists and their henchmen. In June, the "Louisville Courier Journal" reported that a bourgeois trust Markle Foundation, had

allocated "100,000 dollars to the National Research Council to try to develop tests that will predict whether a citizen, would or would not become a Communist".

On May 15, the Los Angeles Daily News carried a report about Fascist-minded elements censoring school books in the city.

One of the inquisitors, a Mrs. Logan, found a geography textbook to be "un-American", because it told how certain areas of the U.S.S.R. had the same climate and topography as some parts of the U.S., and grew the same products.

On February 12, 1952, for the 'first time since the Hitler book burnings in Germany, a bonfire, according to a United Press agency report was made of "subversive" books in the town of Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

The American Library Association has reported hundreds of incidents of action having been taken to destroy teaching material and books denounced as "un-American" by reactionaries.

The fascisation of the educational system embodied in the Feinberg Law—a fascist measure spearheaded against teachers—was characterised by Supreme Court Justice Douglas in these words: "This law inevitably turns the school system into a spying project... The principals become detectives, the students, the parents become informers..."

The onslaught against freedom of speech and freedom of thought continued throughout 1952. The journal Nation reported (28/6/52) that, in Pittsburgh, "Only in the most intimate groups are politically divergent ideas freely expressed. Public discussion is circumscribed by fear", "In Chicago", said the Nation, there is "the silence of fear". In Los Angeles the journal found "civil liberties stifled".

The pathway of fascism leads, as the history of Hitler Germany and Titoite Yugoslavia teaches, to the sinister death camps. It is not surprising, therefore, that having taken this

path, the American imperialists who, as the experience of Korea shows, imitate Hitler in everything, allocated millions of dollars during 1952 for building and equipping future Buchenwalds, Oswiencims and Majdaneks in their own country.

At Tulelake in California, at Florence and Wickenburg in Arizona, El Reno in Oklahoma, at Avon Park in Florida, concentration camps for "subversives" are ready for occupancy. Hoover told Congress that he now has everything in readiness to round up "500,000 subversives" the moment he gets the word.

McCarran's inquisitors travel all over the country spreading fear and hysteria.

In November pressure and persecution drove Abraham Feller, an official of the United Nations, to commit suicide. The earlier suicide of Laurence Duggan, State Department official, likewise driven to death by persecution led the poet Archibald MacLeish in the poem "The Black Day", dedicated to Duggan, to write of present day America:

God help that country where
informers thrive...
God help that country by
informers fed...

But black though the 366 days of 1952 were for democratic freedoms and the rights of the individual in the U.S.A., they were far from being only black days. They were 8150 days of heroic struggle. The Truman-Hoover grave-diggers of the Bill of Rights encountered an opposition that is growing, spreading to ever wider groups of the population. There is a mounting strike wave. In September, a solid front of Chicago factory workers and militant trade unionists' resulted in a big victory—it compelled the House Un-American Committee to cancel its

inquisition in Chicago and to steal out of the city in secret and disgraceful retreat.

In a special Christmas message to Eisenhower these same Chicago trade unionists demanded that he fulfil his election pledge of peace in Korea. "The American people are sick and tired of the Korean war", the message said. An editorial in the latest issue of the United Mine Workers journal says: "the foremost thought and hope of the people is to end the Korean war."

And just as 1952 was drawing to its close, at the very moment Truman was putting the finishing touches to his speech for the embalming of the Constitution, he received a protest signed by 280 prominent personalities in American public life—a protest couched in words that made him shudder, as if he had seen a ghost. "In the spirit of the American Declaration of Independence and its principles of liberty and equality", said the protest, "we urge that you grant an amnesty to the imprisoned leaders of the Communist Party of America".

For -the American Communist Party 1952 was another year of hard but glorious struggle against the monopolists' policy of fascisation and preparation of a new war. In the factories, in the mines, in the trade unions, in the streets and in the docks of the fascist courts in New York, Pittsburgh Los Angeles and Baltimore, members and leaders of the Communist Party fought as true defenders of peace and the people's rights as the standard-bearers of democratic rights and of our national honour.

J. B.

Washington, December 1952

IDEAS OF PEACE AND DEMOCRACY CAN NOT BE. JAILED

Letters from Former Inmates of American Jails
(From French newspaper “*Lettres Françaises*”)



The U.S. imperialists are doing all in their power to make the great American people a people of slaves, to deceive and stupify them. Carrying out the will of their masters the newspaper and radio gangsters have launched a feverish attack on the minds of the masses, seeking to enmesh the working people in lies, to demoralise them and turn them into "cannon fodder". The sinister Un-American Activities Committee aggravates the atmosphere of fear surrounding the American people.

But all the people cannot be fooled. Notwithstanding the monstrous persecution in the U.S., growing numbers of courageous people are beginning to speak up and raise their voices against the actions of the Government directed against the people. These are not only the Communists who embody the mind honour and conscience of their people. There are many among the champions of peace, freedom and democracy in the U.S. whom the repressions, far from breaking their spirit,

have summoned to struggle.

The French weekly "Lettres Françaises" recently published letters by a group of eminent figures of the progressive intelligentsia in the U.S. whom the American fascist court sentenced to a year's imprisonment and fined 1,000 dollars each. Basing themselves on the American Constitution, which gives formal recognition to the right of every person to express or not express his views, they refused to bow to the illegal Un-American Activities Committee and to answer questions before the Committee. Such was their "crime".

Upon their release from prison and having been thrown onto the streets by Hollywood, by the manufacturers and financiers, these intellectuals had to abandon their professional pursuits and perform any work that would provide food for their families. But they refused to capitulate. Upon leaving the prison gates they became active fighters, against the fascisation of their country, and together with thousands of patriots are waging a resolute struggle for peace and freedom.

In their letters they describe the unbearable conditions of the intellectuals in present-day America and expose the fraudulent machinations of the notorious un-American Committee. These letters are a striking manifestation of the profound indignation of the masses against the fascisation of the country, '

Albert Maltz, author of many novels, plays and scenarios writes that he learned much in prison and above all he learned the genuine value of the incomparable might of humanity prompted by an ideal. When the Wall Street magnates feel the ground slipping from under their feet they can do only one thing—try to jail ideas which set the peoples in motion. That is why we were thrown into prison yesterday; that is why other Americans are in prison today.

The Wall Street magnates, Albert Maltz continues, probably think that if they silence by force a sufficient number

of men and women they can strangle the idea of peace itself, the ideas of fraternity, liberation of mankind and Socialism. What a paltry hope, born of complete bankruptcy! Gone are the days when it was possible to keep ideas on the leash. Ideas spread like lightning to all continents, Masses of people are awakening, beginning to be conscious of their strength, beginning to see their future. ‘

By this writing, says producer Herbert Biberman, nearly 200 film workers, men and women, have been thrown onto the streets and blacklisted. “The investigation” continues all the time in the film world and is now spreading to radio, television, to medical workers and even clergymen.

Samuel Ornitz, author, writes that the list of those ostracised is growing daily. Only yesterday the American Legion (fascist organisation—Ed.) submitted to the studio a list containing the names of 300 employees, men and women, subject to purge. I ask you, says Biberman, particularly to note that one has only to find himself on such a list to lose his job in a film studio, in radio or television.

Script writer Lester Cole denounces with contempt those scoundrels who, in the hope of retaining their jobs in a theatre or studio, renounced every vestige of dignity and became dirty informers. He denounced in particular, producer Kazan who, points ‘out the author, disgraced himself by grovelling before the committee tyrants who cannot intimidate anyone with the slightest sense of human dignity.

Playwright John Howard Lawson gives a devastating exposure of the alms pursued by the Hollywood movie rubbish. He describes how in 1950 when he was in a Federal jail prisoners were shown the film “Hell is His”. This film lauded a murderer guilty of six or eight crimes and who is completely indifferent to the consequences of his acts, On leaving prison, continues Lawson, and seeing what Hollywood had produced on the war in Korea, I began to understand the connection

between films such as "Hell is His", which advocate violence for the sake of violence and films which seek to justify U.S. aggression in- Korea. Hollywood has renounced "democracy" even in words, imitating exactly Hitler films which lauded the "cast spirit" and "white supremacy. Every film about Korea is devoted to one topic: "training" of killers, the training of young soldiers capable of fighting with a relish for blood and violence. A general analysis of Hollywood productions reveals their pessimism and corruption.

The authors of these letters describe the unfolding struggle of the American people against fascism of the regime, the rise and consolidation of unity among the different groups of the population and call for resolute action in defence of democratic liberties. Herbert Biberman writes that Negro art workers are entering the struggle with unprecedented unity, relying on the growing Negro liberation movement; they are demanding real citizenship, equality and the right to play a creative role in the life for their country. Alliance of art workers—Negro and white—with any restriction... is at present a matter of life and death for all of us.

The working intelligentsia of Mexican origin, many representatives of whom live in South-West California, is another new force which is becoming more vigorous because it draws strength from the struggle of their people. The establishment of solid, life giving contact between these two forces would eliminate the weakness and possible isolation of both sides.

I am proud to be able to declare: such contact has been established and, particularly, new films will soon be produced. These films will dwell on the struggle of the masses in the U.S., on the remarkable struggle of the Negro people and will demonstrate a new type of hero and a new heroine—people from the ranks of those fighting for moral purity, for security and peace for our nation.

Lester Cole counterposes the baseness of the informers who have wormed themselves into the midst of the intelligentsia to the courageous stand taken by art workers. The press, he says, has raised a hullabaloo, seeking to create the impression that all resistance to the Un-American Committee has ceased. Nothing could be more false. It is to the credit of the vast majority of those named and interrogated by the Committee that they displayed firmness of will despite the threat of unemployment and imprisonment. Convinced that the sole correct behaviour is fearlessly to face the fascist provocation they fought for the triumph of democratic rights.

The correspondence of former inmates of American prisons, published in "Lettres Françaises", graphically proves that the democratic forces in the United States are being consolidated and that a growing number of Americans are rising for struggle against fascisation of the regime, against the policy of war, for peace and democratic freedoms.

POLITICAL NOTES

1. Maritime Police Agents

Describing the police system rampant in the U.S. Frank Oliver, a New York judge, once wrote in the journal “American” that any house may be broken into and searched, during the day or night, without any warrant and for no reason at all!

Nowadays the U.S. secret police are not content with terrorising their own citizens. For the U.S. pretenders to world domination this “child’s play”, practiced by Himmler, is not enough. They decided to astonish the world with something more subtle on New Year’s Eve...

On Christmas Eve there went into effect the so-called McCarran-Walters Act (Immigration and Naturalisation Act). This act gives FBI agents the right to screen the crews of all ships entering U.S. ports, every foreign pilot flying to the U.S. Only those who pass the “loyalty test” and get a “FBI permit” are allowed to step on U.S. soil. Investigations can be carried out by FBI agents both in U.S. ports and en route.

The first to go into action even before the “act” went into operation were the maritime secret police. Recently the crew of the French liner “Liberté” went ashore in Plymouth, according to “l’Humanité”, after a brazen screening by FBI agents en route. The crew held a meeting at which they wrathfully protested against the fascist methods of the U.S. secret police. Voicing the opinion of the entire crew one of the seamen told a British journalist: “This is an insult to our political freedom!”

Indeed, the interrogation of a foreign citizen is an unheard of insult and a crying violation of international law of the national sovereignty of foreign states. The action of Hoover’s secret agents, who have run amuck, has evoked a wave of

indignation throughout the world. "We will not tolerate U.S. police on Norwegian ships," declared Haugen, Chairman of the Norwegian Seamen's Union. The Swedish' Seamen's Union warned that many seamen would quit if anyone dared apply the law to them.

Even bourgeois newspapers accustomed to everything are indignant. Such a policy stains U.S. prestige, wrote the "Manchester Guardian". The French "Monde" poses this legitimate question: what would U.S. seamen say if on arrival in Cherbourg or Havre they would suddenly be subjected to interrogation by the French secret police? These decisions can be interpreted only as a fear reflex—such is the significant conclusion drawn by the newspaper.

Protests have also been voiced by official representatives of the West European countries, including Britain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Sweden and Norway. True, the British Foreign Office explained its protest by the fact that Britain would have to pay £350 for every trip of the FBI agent in a first class cabin. But this of course, is the Foreign Office's concern.

All these protests were ignored. The violation of national sovereignty continues. The U.S. gestapo is drawing up lists of foreign ships subject to screening. They boast that their plans for the New Year are so great that they will probably "run short of inspectors".

But these plans are drawn up without taking into account the will of the common people in Western Europe and throughout the world who, unlike their governments, have not lost their sense of national dignity. And it is still a question as to whether Mr. Hoover will need his maritime agents.

2. U. S. "Death Chambers" In Action

People who survived the horrors of the Hitler murder

camps, all who have heard about the gas chambers in Majdanek and Oswiencim will recall these lines:

When the executioner turned on the gas in the chamber, Cook's mouth' and eyes were open and his head thrown back. For about five minutes he was sick and finally vomited. All was over. His wide-open eyes stared at the ceiling.

This, surely, is a description of the Hitler gas chamber, one will say. Or the testimony of an eye-witness or an excerpt from the report of a commission investigating Hitlerite atrocities.

But it is neither one nor the other! This is the latest report of the Associated Press agency about a gas chamber used for executions in San Quentin (California). The U.S. executioners have indeed surpassed the Hitler butchers. The Californian killers in doctor's robes even listen to the heartbeats of the choking victims, using for the purpose a "special stethoscope". That was how they established, said the U.S. agency, that the agony in the gas chamber "lasts ten minutes".

The San Quentin gas chamber serves definite aims. It is not only the "latest" invention for execution, it is a kind of "laboratory" for testing monstrous means of wholesale annihilation of people, a means which the U.S. imperialists intend using in the war they are now preparing. The Hitler "gas chamber" has become Truman equipment I

The similarity of the phases of the criminal path of the Hitler and U.S. cannibals is astonishing. The same fascist terror, the same burning of books, the same concentration camps and the same gas chambers. There is no doubt that the end will be the same too. The gas chamber in San Quentin will serve as one of the many material evidences at the future trial by the peoples of the enemies of mankind-the U.S. atom-maniacs.

3. Netherlands Had Sovereignty...

There was a time when the Netherlands was a sovereign state. True, it was restricted and paltry, deafened by the roar of “Flying Fortresses” and flattened out by U.S. tanks but still it was sovereignty,—at least the Netherlands Constitution said so. And although this Constitution outmoded in the eyes of the present Dutch rulers lay covered with dust and forgotten in the archives, the very fact that the country possessed rudiments of sovereignty was a source of worry to the American masters of the Dutch Government. So shortly before the New Year they decided to do away with it at one blow.

The liquidation ceremony took place in the Lower Chamber of Parliament in The Hague. There was no funeral music or wreaths, no solemn farewell speeches. There were 66. U.S. puppets trained in advance and briefed by their masters. The pretext for the debate was the question of amending the Constitution, in particular, a proposal to annul the right of Parliament to decide on matters of war and peace. Notwithstanding protests by a number of deputies who declared that the proposal would reduce the role of Parliament to nought, it was adopted by a majority. From now on a state of war can be declared without the consent of Parliament “in accordance with international commitments.”

The significance of the vote was quite frankly explained by the “New York Herald Tribune”—organ of the U.S. masters—which declared that in this way the Netherlands voluntarily subordinates its sovereignty to the supra-national organisations, that is, to the U.S. imperialists who involved the Netherlands in the aggressive Atlantic bloc and who are now preparing a new world war.

And so, the Netherlands rulers have prepared a kind of New Year’s “gift” for their people. The country’s sovereignty, radically undermined by enslaving agreements of the “Marshall

Plan” type, as well as by membership of the North Atlantic bloc has now been officially abolished by the 66 U.S. puppets who raised their hands for remitting questions of war and peace to the Americans.

The Dutch are a proud, enlightened nation, wrote the same “New York Herald Tribune”, since, being a small nation, they display greater daring than bigger nations...

But the people of the Netherlands have long known, and have known only too well, that despite their honeyed speeches the U.S. butchers remain butchers. The people of the Netherlands are indeed a proud and enlightened people, sufficiently enlightened to understand whither the country is being driven by its present rulers and sufficiently proud to fight for national dignity and independence.

Jan MAREK

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