

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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WOMEN—GREAT FORCE IN STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

The Third Women's World Congress, sponsored by the Women's International Democratic Federation, will be held on June 5 in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark.

Women all over the world look forward with hope and gladness to their international Congress, since the things which unite them and in which they are vitally interested are much stronger and much more important than anything dividing them. Meeting in Copenhagen they will discuss such vital questions—questions profoundly agitating millions of people—as the rights of women, defence of homes and children, the struggle for peace and national independence. The aim of the Congress—the broadest and most representative assembly in the history of the women's movement—is to unite all women and, on the basis of a free exchange of opinion to find the correct approach for solution of the questions agitating them. The World Congress will consolidate friendship between the women of all countries and will contribute to intensified struggle for the rights of women and children, for peace and

friendship among the nations.

The Congress agenda and its noble aims have evoked a most heartfelt and extremely broad response in all countries. Every ordinary woman, upon learning of the forthcoming Congress, could not but say to herself: "This is my Congress". Responding to the call addressed by the Women's International Democratic Federation to the women of the world urging them to extend a hand to each other across every frontier in order to bar the way to war, oppression and poverty, active preparations for the Congress began in more than 80 countries. Women of varied social strata, varied convictions and beliefs, of different colour of skin and nationality, women trade unionists, women belonging to co-operative, cultural, religious and other organisations and unorganised women—all are taking part in the preparatory campaign. Preparatory and sponsoring committees have sprung up everywhere; national conferences of women workers, peasant women and housewives, and also general national congresses are being held to elect delegates to the World Congress.

Ever greater masses of women are becoming conscious of the fact that a lasting and durable peace is the main, decisive prerequisite for success in their struggle for a better life and a happy future for their children. The preparatory meetings, rallies conferences and congresses are taking place under the slogan of intensified struggle for peace and against the danger of a new war. In the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic and in the other countries of people's democracy, in the countries of Western Europe and America, in Asia, Africa and Australia—everywhere women are resolutely demanding an end to the barbarous wars against the peoples of Korea, Viet Nam and Malaya and are taking action for reduction of armaments and for a Pact of Peace between the five Great Powers, for solving controversial and unsettled international problems on the basis of mutual agreement of the interested

countries. More and more, the women's international democratic movement is merging with the general great struggle waged by the peoples for peace.

The Congress in Copenhagen will vividly demonstrate to the whole world the powerful energy now being realised among the masses of women, the powerful force that they represent right now in the struggle for progress and peace. Numerous women's bodies, organisations for defence of the family and children, parents' associations etc.—all are acting in unison against the threat of a new war. The Women's International Democratic Federation, uniting in its ranks 135 million women in 65 countries, is waging a ceaseless and ever extending struggle for peace and co-operation among the nations. Such courageous, unbending fighters for peace as Eugenie Cotton, Soong Ching-ling, Pak Den Ai, Monica Felton, Anna Seghers, Elisa Branco, Raymonde Dien Lilly Wächter, Maria-Maddalena Rossi are held in the highest esteem by the entire international democratic public, by all honest people in the world.

The women of the Soviet Union, the Chinese People's Republic and of the People's Democracies are marching in the van of the democratic women's movement. The Constitution of the U.S.S.R. guarantees Soviet women equal rights in all spheres of state, economic, cultural and social-political life. The exercise of these rights is ensured in the Soviet Union by law, granting women equally with men the right to work, to equal remuneration for work, to leisure, education, social security and state protection of the interests of mother and child, by granting state benefits for mothers with large families and for single mothers, by establishing a wide network of maternity homes, creches and kindergartens. The Communist Party and the Government of the U.S.S.R. have always displayed and display now tireless care and concern for raising the material and cultural standards of women. In 1952 alone

the Soviet state spent 6,355 million roubles on benefits for mothers with large families, single mothers and infants. The wide network of social-communal enterprises enables the Soviet woman to fulfil in real earnest her duties of mother, worker and citizen. Working women all over the world see in Soviet women their faithful friends, active fighters for peace and for the bright future of the peoples.

Following the example of the women in the Soviet Union, the women of the Chinese People's Republic and of the People's Democracies in Europe and Asia are actively participating in building the new life. The new social and state system has forever rid the women and all working people in these countries of the horrors of capitalist oppression, impoverishment, unemployment and has opened up perspectives for steady improvement in the well-being and culture of the people. The equality of women is secured by the basic laws of the people's-democratic countries and in practice is guaranteed in the greatest possible measure. The splendid example of the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy and the unparalleled rise in the political and cultural level of women and their public activity in the conditions of the new system testify to the boundless possibilities provided for women by the people's power.

Working women in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries live, work and bring up their children in altogether different conditions. Their status is characterised by appalling inequality and not infrequently by complete denial of rights in society and in the family. In more than 15 countries and in dozens of colonies and trustee territories women are deprived of all human rights. Even in those capitalist countries where political equality for women is recognised, they are subjected to discrimination in the economic sphere particularly in regard to remuneration for work and in the matter of acquiring a profession. In Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Italy, for

instance, the discrepancy in pay for men and women amounts to 30-40 per cent. In Britain where the principles of equal pay has been recognised by the Government for the past thirty years, women's pay in April 1953 was but 53 per cent of men's pay. In Western Germany 64 per cent of the women over 35 years of age are doomed to chronic unemployment. In the United States women's pay is, on the average, 55 per cent of men's pay.

Not infrequently, however, a woman is the sole family breadwinner, in France, for instance, of 7 million working women 3 million are widows and 2.3 million heads of families; in Western Germany 75 per cent of all working women are the sole bread-winners. The conditions of working women have worsened particularly as a result of the militarisation of the economy, of the swollen war budget, increased taxation, rising prices, decline in real wages and the growth of unemployment.

Monstrous indeed is the oppression experienced by women in the colonial and dependent countries. Article 10 of the Iranian Legal Code stipulates, for instance, that the insane, criminals, thieves... and women are not allowed to vote. In most countries of Asia and Africa there is no unemployment benefit, no social insurance and no family allowance. In the drive for maximum profits the capitalists subject women and children to ruthless exploitation.

The Women's World Congress is a vital stage in the fight of the peoples for peace. It will help in giving wide publicity to the women's movement; it will be the best tribune from which women will be able to tell how their most elementary interests and rights are trampled upon, of the monstrous exploitation and inhuman oppression to which, they are subjected in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries.

In the person of the representatives at the Congress from the countries of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism the women of the world will find the living confirmation of the

fact that women who constitute one half of humanity, can and must have equal rights, that the children can be happy.

There has not been a single great movement in the history of mankind in which working women have not participated. The Communist and Workers' Parties have the obligation and the duty of drawing wider masses of working women into the political and public life and into the peace movement, of giving every support and guidance to women in the struggle for their vital rights, for national independence, for friendship among the peoples, for world peace.

ARABIAN TRANSLATION OF J. V. STALIN'S WORK "ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF SOCIALISM IN THE U.S.S.R."

In February the "People's Publications Bureau" in Damascus (Syria) and Beyrouth (Lebanon) issued in Arabian translation of Comrade Stalin's work "Economic Problems Socialism in the U.S.S.R."

ELECTIONS TO LOCAL CONFERENCE OF PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES IN CHINA

Chinese People's Republic for the All-China Assembly of People's Representatives and for the local conferences of people's representatives. Elections to the local conferences of people's representatives are already underway in thirty-three areas of the Lincheng district in Shantung province and in six counties in the Lingtung district of Shensi province and in other provinces.

In all districts elections will be held in several stages. Although the electoral commissions are small bodies a total of two million people will be needed for them throughout the country.

The country is actively preparing for the elections. Electoral commissions are being formed. They include

representatives of different sections of the population, various nationalities, members of the Communist and democratic parties and representatives of public organisations. The members of the commissions are carefully studying election materials and conducting explanatory work among the population.

The electoral commission in the Kweichow Province has organised preparatory courses for studying the technique of conducting elections. These courses are attended by 400 cadres and nearly 600 graduates of the Institute for National Minorities. Large-scale agitation is being conducted by the local Party organisations and the press.

The electoral commission in Anshan has decided to send 600 cadres to help in the election work in the outskirts of the city.

The provincial electoral commission in the Kiangsu province has worked out a schedule in preparation for the elections. Training of election workers is underway in the province and talks have been held concerning the order of registering the voters and the carrying out of the elections in the districts, towns and villages inhabited by national minorities, etc.

The electoral commission in the autonomous region of Inner Mongolia which includes 20 representatives of different nationalities is busily engaged in translating the election and agitation materials into the languages of the national minorities residing in Inner Mongolia.

Meetings of propagandists and heads of the county Houses of Culture, devoted to the agitation and propaganda, are being held in many districts. Provincial and urban conferences of heads of the electoral commissions and responsible workers in the civilian administration are being held in connection with the preparations for the election.

As a result of these measures the consciousness of the masses was considerably deepened and they displayed much greater political activity. This found expression, in particular, in letters from the working people in which they criticised the work of the local organs of people's power and advanced suggestions for improving it.

PEOPLES DEMAND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS

“Peace Week” in Finland

Peace champions in Finland held a “Peace week” over May 10-17, which signified, at the same time, summing up the results of the campaign for popularising the decisions of the People’s Congress for Peace. Approximately 1,400 different measures were carried out in popularising the Congress decisions during the spring. The organisational base of the peace movement has been extended: 131 new peace committees have been formed.

The “peace week” culminated in the holding of peace conferences in various parts of the country. The well-represented conferences convincingly prove that the local peace councils’ have extended their influence. Christian ‘Workers’ Associations, local women’s organisations and representatives of the intelligentsia took part in preparing the conferences.

In their resolutions the conferences called on all peace-loving people and on the Government of Finland to give all support to the demand for a conference of the five Great Powers.

Many conferences called on the different sections of the population to extend the co-operation in the struggle for preserving peace, stressed the possibility of co-operation and declared that the difficulties standing in the way can be eliminated.

The “peace week” and the peace conferences illustrated that the peace movement in Finland has the support of big

sections of the population and that the growing activity of the masses can exercise a big influence in developing peace-loving aspirations in the country.

End Bloodshed In Korea!

A significant growth in the movement for ending the war in Korea, for peace, has been observed in recent weeks in the U.S.

A new peace organisation the "New York Peace Council" has been founded in New York. In a resolution adopted at 8 recent meeting the "Peace Council" urged all New Yorkers to join in active struggle for ending the war in Korea and for settling controversial questions through negotiations.

The "Peace Council" addressed a letter to President Eisenhower expressing, in particular, the deep concern of New Yorkers of all walks of life with the continued killing in Korea and the slowness in reaching an armistice.

Mass Meetings In Burma

Mass rallies are taking place in Burma at which the population is urging the Government to support the proposal for a Pact of Peace between the five Great Powers. The rallies held in Rangoon, Moulmein and in more than 20 other towns brought together tens of thousands of people. The national peace committee addressed a message to the Government requesting it to satisfy the demand of the popular masses and to take action in support of the Peoples' Congress Appeal calling for a peaceful settlement of controversial international questions by means of negotiations between the governments of the Great Powers.

Appeal By New Zealand and Peace Council

Increasingly wider public circles in New Zealand are demanding a policy of peaceful solution of international questions; an immediate cease-fire in Korea and an end to the wars in Malaya and Indo-China. W. B. Richards, President of the National Tramways Union has announced that the members of his union are demanding from the Government that it pursue a real policy of peace because without ending the wars in Korea, Malaya and other countries, without ending the arms drive there can be no better life for the working people.

A recent two-day meeting of the New Zealand Peace Council, attended by delegates from all parts of the country, urged the Government to press for an immediate cease-fire in Korea, "We consider", says the appeal, "that the present military negotiators should be replaced by diplomats skilled in negotiations, to assist in a speedy settlement of the problem". The Council protested against attempts by the New Zealand Government and governments of other countries to meddle in the affairs of the Viet Nam people and urged instead that the Government should press for ending the hostilities there.

The Council supported the demands of the masses for a peaceful settlement of controversial international questions. The New Zealand Government, says the appeal, should make the basis of all its policy patient negotiations and a willingness to enter into such negotiations at all times. The Peace Council and the people of New Zealand will support all efforts of the Government aimed at achieving peaceful solutions of outstanding problems.

FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS!

French press Protests Against “Dirty War” in Viet Nam

The “dirty war” waged by the French colonisers against the peoples of Viet Nam, Pathet Lao and Khmer gives rise to growing indignation among public opinion in France. Today action is being taken against this war not only by the democratic circles. Under pressure of public opinion even some reactionary newspapers and politicians say that it is time to end this war which is costing France more than 700 billion francs a year.

The “Monde” wrote on May 14: “The Government should define its policy, the time has come for it to speak the truth. And the truth is that our country no longer wishes to follow it in this matter, not knowing whither it is being led. The truth is that there is a gap between the intentions of the nation and the aims of the Government... The country awaits a candid decision. And the first admission is recognition of the fact that this war is unpopular”.

On the same day, in an interview published in the “Express” ex-Finance Minister Mendes-France said: “The facts in Indo China have long since led us to recognise that military victory is unattainable. Consequently, negotiations are the sole way out.”

A few days earlier “Vie- Francaise” wrote:

“Accordingly as the war in Indo-China drags on and on... public opinion to an ever lesser degree sees the reason for the struggle we are waging”.

What then are the facts which compel “Monde”, “Express”, and “Vie Francaise” (we have cited but three of the more influential organs of the French bourgeoisie) to admit that

the war in Indo-China is unpopular and that public opinion “to an ever lesser degree sees the reason” for this war?

All the efforts of the colonisers army to smash the national liberation forces of Viet Nam, Pathet Lao and Khmer have proved fruitless. Long ago the initiative passed into the hands of the people’s forces who have won and are still winning splendid victories, inflicting heavy losses on the troops of the colonisers. In the past six years more than 260,000 men of the expeditionary forces have been put out of action.

The war expenditure (nearly 2 billion francs a day) is a heavy burden on the budget of the country. The ordinary people in France see a direct link between this monstrous expenditure and the deterioration in their living conditions. Two billion francs, for instance, would build 1,500 apartments.

Why is blood being shed and billions squandered? The answer is that it is being done solely for the purpose of swelling the profits of the big companies exploiting Indo-China. These companies admitted that In 1951 they got 18.6 times more net profits than in 1946. This sum, of course, is but a small part of the actual profits, to which must be added the huge sums pocketed by speculating in Indo-China currency.

The “dirty war” which means profits for the French colonisers, also corresponds to the designs of the U.S. monopolists. It helps them to strengthen their domination over France, to intensify their penetration of the French colonies in Africa (Morocco, Tunisia, Western and Equatorial Africa) and gradually, by means of “military aid”, to squeeze out the French colonisers from Indo-China itself. The continuation of the war in Indo-China leaves France practically disarmed in face of revanchist Western Germany now being rearmed. These facts, undoubtedly, strengthen the negative attitude taken by some bourgeois circles in France in relation to the war in Indo-China.

However, the decisive role in the struggle for ending the

war against the people of Viet Nam, Pathet Lao and Khmer belongs, undoubtedly, to the working people led by the Communist Party. In his report to the national conference of the Party last March Jacques Duclos said: "To the French Communist Party belongs the honour of being the first to point to the genuine interests of France, the interests of the cause of peace and acted boldly against the unjust war."

Ever bigger sections of public opinion in France are demanding an end to the "dirty war", "France Nouvelle", weekly journal of the Communist Party, wrote on May 16: "The vital interests of France demand immediate peace negotiations with Ho Chi Minh... To fight for such peaceful negotiations—such is the duty of every French man and woman, the patriotic duty of all who wish to get rid of the heavy financial burden, of the heavy price paid in blood, of the unjust war, who want their country again to march forward in the van of the countries which treasure freedom; democracy, progress, independence and peace".

GOVERNMENT CRISIS IN FRANCE

Working People Demand a Government of Peace and National Independence

The source of the latest government crisis in France lies in the growing resistance of the popular masses to the policy of poverty, reaction and war pursued by the Mayer Government. The working people answered Mayer's financial projects, aimed at placing additional burdens on the people, with intensified struggle for immediate demands and democratic freedoms.

The fall of the Mayer Government was preceded by a mounting strike movement which is characterised by the growing unity of the working people. Twenty-four hour strikes were held by the working people in the gas and power undertakings and by city transport workers in Paris; railway workers also came out on strike and there were brief strikes and numerous actions by state employees, by workers in municipal undertakings and in many private enterprises"

In the negotiations aimed at solving the crisis President Auriol, Socialist, ignoring the first party in the country—the Communist Party—at first Implored Guy Mallet, leader of the Socialist Party, to form a new government, then the fascist Diethelm and finally he called in Paul Reynaud, rabid enemy of the working people, known as the "grave-digger of France".

On May 27, alter Paul Reynaud, who undertook to form a government, requested a mandate from the National Assembly, hundreds of brief strikes, distinguished for their unity, took place on the railways, in public utility enterprises, in post offices, in the metal processing industry, etc. Deputations of the

working people—members of the different trade unions—visited the National Assembly. The mass movement was so powerful that “Reynaud failed to get the required number of votes in the National Assembly.

In order to prevent the creation of another government of national betrayal and reaction, and to pave the way for a government of peace, it is necessary, as pointed out by the French Communist Party in its statement, “to do everything to ensure united action by the working class, which is the guarantee of rallying all the patriotic and democratic forces in a powerful united national front of independence and peace”.

STRIKE MOVEMENT IN INDIA

The strike movement in India is growing steadily. On May 5 twenty thousand workers of the Kolar gold fields downed tools as a protest against the owners' threat to close down one of the mines and the consequent retrenchment of 3,600 workers.

A stubborn strike battle is being waged by the workers of the British-owned Indian Copper Corporation Ltd. at Moubhandar (Bihar). The workers, who are demanding higher wages and reinstatement of discharged workers, have been on strike since February 28.

A wave of strike struggles is rising in the south of the country. In Madura 16,000 workers are on strike, demanding compensation from the mill owners for enforced unemployment as a result of which they work only eight days a month. In Alleppey (Travancore-Cochin State), 7,000 workers are on strike and 1,400 workers of the British India Tobacco Corporation in Guntur also struck work on the same issue of payment of compensation.

The working people of many mills and factories are expressing solidarity with the strikers. Thus over 7,800 workers from 24 factories in Alleppey are on strike in sympathy with the workers of the Gangadhara Iyer Co., fighting for their vital interests.

GROWING MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNIST YOUTH ORGANISATION IN ITALY

On May 16 the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Youth Federation summed up the preliminary results of the Stalin recruitment.

The Stalin recruitment was announced at the XIII Congress of the Italian Communist Youth Federation held two months ago at which the delegates, representing 431,826 members of the Federation, solemnly pledged to win tens of thousands of new members.

A communique issued by the Secretariat says that 29,528 recruits were admitted to the Federation in the course of the two months. Commenting on this initial success the Secretariat calls on all local organisations to step up the work for broadening the Communist youth ranks, particularly during the election campaign.

CONCERNING PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

In recent months great interest is displayed in all countries in the steps that are being taken with the aim of settling controversial international issues. This is natural as things are at present.

No one can deny that a striving to ease the tension in international relations is growing among broad international circles. Any step forward along the pathway of solving controversial issues would lessen the war danger, would contribute to ending the arms drive which is ruinous to the peoples and would relieve the situation of many millions of people. And, conversely, preservation of the international tension signifies more intense war preparations, the further growth of military expenditure and a further rise in taxation the burden of which is borne above all by the popular masses.

In these conditions every new step taken by the government of any country on the international arena becomes the object of close study not only in government circles but also among the broadest circles.

The attention and sympathy accorded the recent statements by the leaders of the Soviet Government regarding the readiness of the U.S.S.R. to settle controversial or unsettled international issues on the basis of mutual agreement of the interested countries is generally known. These statements have strengthened the confidence of the peoples in the possibility of settling the burning international problems, for they know that the statements of the Soviet Government never differ from its actual intentions.

It is also known that the people interested in the

preservation of peace regard as a peaceful gesture the words of President Eisenhower in his speech of April 16 to the effect that not a single controversial question “great or small, is insoluble—given only the will to respect the rights of all nations” and that “the United States is ready to assume its just part” in solving controversial international questions, although the same speech contained other points reducing to nought the positive import of these words. Now it must be stated that in Eisenhower’s latest speech of May 20 not a trace remains of this peaceful gesture, to say nothing of backing it with deeds.

It is perfectly understandable that the recent speech made in the House of Commons by Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, in which he touched upon a number of burning questions of international life, and also the debate on this speech, attracted attention not only in Britain but also far beyond her borders.

The British Prime Minister supported in many respects the stand of the United States Government. However, his speech reflected also the difference between the stand of Great Britain and that of the United States on certain problems of prime significance.

Churchill devoted a considerable part of his speech to relations with the Soviet Union. Not everything he said on this score can be accepted by public opinion in the U.S.S.R. without criticism and serious objections. But now it is important first and foremost to single out not the points on which we differ with the Prime Minister of Great Britain. It is more important to stress the points which can facilitate a settlement of the controversial international issues in the interests of peace and the security of the nations.

Churchill’s speech contains points which reflect the strivings of the British people for peace and which testify to the realistic approach of the British Prime Minister in appraising certain essential elements in the present international situation.

These theses were received with approval by the broad public circles interested in the preservation of peace. At the same time these points have been attacked—especially in the United States of America—by those circles which manifest a special interest in maintaining the present tension in international relations.

Worthy of attention is the following statement of Churchill: “I do not believe that the immense problem of reconciling the security of Russia with the freedom and safety of Western Europe is insoluble”. This statement could not but meet with a sympathetic response on the part of those people really striving for a settlement of the burning international problems, who hate war which brings the peoples, especially in present conditions, untold suffering.

In our country the above-mentioned statement of Churchill has attracted attention as a timely step in the present international situation.

Speaking on the possibility of “reconciling the security” of the Soviet Union and the countries of Western Europe the Prime Minister was, of course, guided by the interests of his country. At the same time there can be no doubt that a policy aimed at combining Britain’s national interests with the interests of maintaining peace and strengthening international cooperation will meet with understanding and support on the part of the Soviet Union and other peace-loving nations.

The thesis advanced by Churchill about reconciling the security of the U.S.S.R. with the security of Western Europe is all the more significant in view of the fact that by raising this question the British Prime Minister thereby touches upon not only the relations between Great Britain and the Soviet Union but also the entire problem of maintaining and strengthening peace.

The present international situation is characterised by the great complexity of problems calling for settlement, and this

makes it necessary to accord due understanding to those who consider that an attempt to discuss and settle with one stroke all controversial and unsolved problems would be doomed to failure. Any progress made in the matter of settling such burning questions as the war in Korea or the question of Germany would contribute to easing the tension in the present international situation and pave the way for solving other problems as well. It was probably this approach to the settling of international problems that Churchill had in mind when he said: "It would, I think, be a mistake to assume that nothing can be settled with Soviet Russia unless or until everything is settled. A settlement of two or three of our difficulties would be an important gain to every peace-loving country".

The Korean question is one of the vital international questions in the peaceful settlement of which the peoples of all countries are interested.

It is common knowledge that the diplomatic initiative of the Chinese People's Republic and the Korean People's Democratic Republic, supported by the Soviet Union, has opened real possibilities for a truce and the ending of the war in Korea.

The exchange of the sick and wounded prisoners of war has already been effected in Korea on the basis of the agreement reached. Negotiations on the question of the repatriation of the war prisoners as a whole were resumed on April 26 in Panmunjom. The proposals submitted by the Chinese-Korean side, and, particularly, its latest proposal of May 7, provide, as is quite evident to all unbiased people, the necessary basis for a practical solution of this, the last question standing in the way of a truce and, consequently, of ending the war in Korea.

Churchill spoke in favour of a patient and sympathetic examination of the proposal made by the Korean-Chinese side. He said: "there is no reason known to me at present to assume

that it may not form the basis of an agreement”.

This statement by Churchill, and also the speeches by some member, of the House of Commons, who sharply criticised the representatives of the United Nations Command” hampering the Panmunjom negotiations, reflected the discontent which is growing among all sections of British public opinion with the dragging out of the settlement of the Korean question. The continued brutal bombing of Pyongyang and other Korean towns and villages and of the Chinese town of Antung and others, as well as the attitude of the U.S. General Harrison aimed at disrupting the Panmunjom negotiations, arouse legitimate indignation and protest both in Britain and in other countries.

The other day in his speech in the Indian House of the People Prime Minister Nehru showed that the stand taken by Harrison is in glaring contradiction also to the resolution on the question of the war prisoners in Korea adopted by Uno at the end of last year. Nehru openly said that the proposals made by the Korean-Chinese side “should serve as a basis for negotiations, and, we hope, for the solution of this problem”. Nevertheless, in view of the stand taken by Harrison, the negotiations in Panmunjom are again deadlocked.

In these circumstances the definite dissatisfaction over the course of the negotiations in Panmunjom expressed in the House of Commons by the well-known Labour leader Attlee is perfectly understandable.

The German problem occupied a special place in Churchill’s speech. He justly called it “the dominating problem” in Europe. But this being so it follows that the views expressed by Churchill acquire a special importance. However, the views expressed by Churchill on this question can in no way be accepted as reflecting a genuine desire for a settlement of the above-mentioned “dominating” international problem.

Above all what strikes one is the fact that Churchill did not

even deem it necessary to mention the Yalta Declaration and the Potsdam decisions, in the elaboration of which he himself participated, and in which there are formulated the vital principles of a real settlement of the German question on the basis of the re-establishment of a united Germany as a peaceful, democratic state.

The historic significance of the above-mentioned international documents is that they express the co-ordination of policy and the concrete agreement between the Western Powers and the U.S.S.R. on the German question reached during the war and confirmed immediately after the war. In this sense the above mentioned agreements, aimed at facilitating the re-unification of Germany as a peace-loving and democratic state, constitute a most important achievement in the matter of “reconciling the security of Russia with the freedom and safety of Western Europe”.

And now too we cannot but show interest in the matter of how far the steps taken by Great Britain in international relations after the Prime Ministers speech will conform with the main principles of the agreements which bear the signatures of the Great Powers and in what measure the new agreements reached between them contribute to the consolidation of peace and the security of the nations.

The experience of the recent years, however, shows that settlement of controversial and outstanding questions is hampered by the policy of unilateral abandonment by the Western Powers of the signed agreements. There can be no doubt that the present international situation in its entirety would be altogether different, would lack the present acuteness and tension if the agreements signed by the Great Powers on the vital international questions had been implemented.

In this connection one cannot but mention the fact that Churchill for some reason deemed it expedient to recall the notorious Locarno Treaty of 1925, which, as he said, was

founded “upon the simple provision” that if Germany attacks France Britain should stand with the French and that if France attacks Germany Britain should stand with the Germans. Churchill, however, did not say that in its day the Locarno system freed the hands of aggressive German militarism. Restricting the freedom of action of Germany in the West it gave her freedom of action in the East, spearheading German aggression in the direction of the U.S.S.R. As is known, the Locarno policy was one of the factors of no small importance which paved the way for the second world war.

The experience of history shows that so long as militarist and revanchist elements in Germany are given freedom of action, so long as no effective measures ensuring the development of Germany along peaceful lines are taken, German militarism revives fairly rapidly, and no formal guarantees or obligations can give an assurance of security to the neighbours of the German state that they will not be threatened with new German aggression.

It should be pointed out that even from the point of view of the interests of the security of Great Britain itself the plans concerning Locarno seem to be groundless, to say nothing of the interests of guaranteeing the security of other countries of Europe and above all the neighbours of German—France, Belgium, Holland, Poland, Czechoslovakia and others, since the attempts to return to the Locarno plan would open the wide way for unstable and changing international combinations and groupings of some countries against other countries which would inevitably lead not to the easing but to the aggravation of international relations.

And indeed how can the idea of Locarno be realised in relation to present-day Germany? Churchill, in speaking about the idea of Locarno, did not say a single word about restoration of the unity of Germany which is of decisive significance not only for Germany itself but also for ensuring security in Europe

and throughout the world.

Hinting at the separate actions now being taken for the signing of the Bonn and Paris treaties he orientates the policy of the British Government on consolidating the dismemberment of Germany. Moreover, it follows from Churchill's speech that he regards dismemberment of Germany not only as an accomplished fact but also as something which can and must be tolerated.

"The policy of her Majesty's Government", Churchill declared, "is to adhere most faithfully in the spirit as well as in the letter to our agreements with Western Germany". "We", the Prime Minister emphasised, "are resolved not in any way to fail in the obligations to which we have committed ourselves about Western Germany". Does it not follow from these statements that the spirit and letter of the agreements concluded between the Great Powers with the object of establishing a united, peace-loving democratic Germany, are being sacrificed to the spirit and letter of other agreements which were concluded separately and which sanction the dismemberment of Germany, the remilitarisation of Western Germany and the conversion of that part of Germany into a centre of militarism and aggressive revanchism.

We leave aside Churchill's completely incorrect assertion that Soviet policy has caused the aggravation of the German problem. The real reason for the situation in Germany has been explained time and again by authoritative representatives of the Soviet Union and there is no point in repeating them here. We also leave aside the rather strong language which Churchill chose for a negative characterisation of the state of affairs in Eastern Germany. We, of course, could find words no less trenchant but far more truthful to characterise the situation in Western Germany but now it is not a matter of mutual recrimination.

It should be clear to all that the dismemberment of

Germany means restoring a centre of danger of war in the heart of Europe. The German people will not become reconciled to the loss of their unity which they gained about a century ago at the cost of great effort and sacrifice. Therefore the main task in relation to Germany is to do away with the present division of the German state, to prepare and conclude a peace treaty with Germany which, in keeping with the basic principles of the Potsdam agreement between the Great Powers, will ensure the establishment of a united, democratic peace-loving Germany.

It should be the main concern of the countries which have suffered more than once from German aggression to prevent the resurgence of German militarism. Simultaneously, the German people should be ensured all the conditions for developing the peaceful industry of their country, for participating in the economic life of the world in accordance with Germany's industrial and technical level, and for the further development of their rich national culture.

In this respect the new peace treaty should avoid the mistakes of the Versailles system which was designed to enslave a great nation. It is no secret that the authors of the Versailles system were more concerned with preventing the economic revival of Germany as a competitor on the world market than with really preventing the remilitarisation of Germany.

By avoiding such vital issues as the unification of Germany and of concluding a peace treaty with her, and by underscoring the British Government's adherence to its latest separate commitments in relation to Western Germany, Churchill raised doubt even in the minds of those who would have liked to find in his speech a real inclination to settle the differences in the world today.

Attention is drawn to the fact that Churchill completely overlooked the existing British-Soviet mutual aid treaty signed in London in 1942 with the object of preventing new German

aggression. That treaty incidentally was signed with a view to strengthening the security of both the U.S.S.R. and Britain and fully corresponds to the main international documents on the German question, including also the Potsdam agreement.

In his speech Churchill touched on the Austrian question, pointing out that the conclusion of a state treaty with Austria would also help to ease the tension in the present international situation. It should be stressed in this connection that the direct responsibility for the delay in settling the question of the Austrian treaty rests with the governments of the U.S.A., Great Britain and France which permitted not only serious vacillation, but also direct departure from the position previously agreed upon by the Four Powers.

Things have gone so far that the three Western Powers have rejected the text of the state treaty with Austria which, after prolonged discussions, had been agreed upon almost in full by the Four Powers. They counterposed to this agreed text of the treaty their own so-called "abbreviated treaty", drafted without the participation of the U.S.S.R., which crudely tramples on the rights of the Soviet Union and also on the democratic rights of the Austrian people.

All this shows on whom really depends the possibility of eliminating the obstacles standing in the way of concluding a state treaty with Austria.

During the debate in the House of Commons a number of the members called attention to the fact that the entire speech of the British Prime Minister made no mention of China. And there were good grounds for these remarks.

The emergence of the Chinese people onto the high road of social progress signified an essential change in the entire international situation. Naturally, this could not have escaped the attention of the British Prime Minister. When on this occasion Churchill did not touch on the question of China, Attlee, the Labour leader in the House of Commons, recalled

that the lawful rights and interests of the great Chinese People's Republic cannot be ignored.

"China", said Attlee, "should take her rightful place on the Security Council. She seems to be evolving as a pretty effective power. She is entitled to be one of the Big Five".

This statement is based, of course, not on Attlee's sympathies for Communism, of which probably no one but McCarthy could suspect him, but on Britain's genuine economic interests which, as is known, constitute the basis of political interests. Attlee quite reasonably explained why Britain is interested in regulating its relations with China. He stressed that Britain's hopes of increasing her trade with the U.S.A. have been greatly lessened and that U.S. "aid" cannot compensate for the losses sustained from curtailment of trade. "Trade, not aid"—this is the position which Attlee defends and which cannot but be acknowledged as being sensible from the view point of Britain's vital interests, and not of Britain alone. Attlee rather bitterly reproached the transatlantic allies: "We are constantly pressed not to trade with China, even in goods which are very remotely connected with war effort. We have as vital an interest as anybody in the settlement of this China affair".

Another prominent Labour member—Bevan, who heads the opposition inside the Labour Party—in recent statements further underlined the urgency of settling the problem of mutual relations with China.

Churchill's anti-Communist sentiments are perhaps no less than those of other statesmen in the West, who see the "hand of Moscow" in all the national-liberation movements of the colonial and semi-colonial peoples. However, he, as is evident from his speech, did not give free rein to this feeling. This is testified by at least the following statement of his: "I ought to say that, in my opinion—I am venturing to offer my opinion—the sudden advance of elements of the Viet-Minh forces, or

their foraging parties, towards the Siamese frontier ought not to lead us to conclude that it is a Soviet-inspired move”.

The more the statesmen of the West take into account the actual facts in adducing the reasons for the intensification of the national and national-liberation movements in Asia or in any other part of the world the greater the chances will be for mutual understanding between “West” and “East” and the greater the possibility of avoiding needless complications and bloodshed.

It should be said that in contrast to certain other leaders of bourgeois states Churchill did not confine himself to a general statement about the desirability of a peaceful settlement of existing differences in international relations. He made constructive proposals on methods of discussing urgent problems pertaining to the international situation.

Churchill said that “a conference on the highest level should take place between the leading Powers without long delay” and that “the conference should be confined to the smallest number of Powers and persons possible. It should meet with a measure of informality and a still greater measure of privacy and seclusion”.

As is evident, Churchill, contrary to certain other statesmen in the West, does not link his proposal for convening a conference with any preliminary obligations for the one or the other side.

His long and rich experience in international affairs, apparently, guards Churchill against the elementary illusion that in conditions of peaceful relations one side can dictate to the other side—and what is more—to such a side as the Union of Soviet Republics, preliminary conditions for agreement on controversial international issues. Churchill could not fail to take into account the fact, generally known in international practice, that preliminary conditions for negotiations can be dictated either in time of war by the victorious side to the

vanquished side or else in the event of an unequal relation of forces, when the strong side wants to profit at the expense of the weak side and by threatening it with a war it cannot withstand force it to accept dictated "peace" terms.

The importance of Winston Churchill's proposer, based as it is, apparently, on the experience of direct contact with leading statesmen in recent times, cannot be overlooked. The widespread favourable comment on this proposal in many countries confirms its significance.

Hence, the call in Churchill's speech for settlement of at least some of the basic issues and in this way for easing the acuteness in the international situation is most timely in the present situation.

On May 13 there appeared a statement by the U.S. State Department on the British Prime Minister's speech, with President Eisenhower stating that he approved the text of this statement.

In its announcement the State Department does not deny the possibility of convening a restricted conference of state leaders as proposed by Churchill. But once again the well-known idea is advanced of preliminary conditions which for some reason are unilaterally addressed to the Soviet Union. It appears that the U.S.S.R. must do something more for the success of the Panmunjom negotiations and for settling the question of the Austrian treaty, even though it is perfectly clear after all that has occurred that in both cases it is a matter not for the Soviet Union, but for the United States and Britain which, as yet, have not contributed their "just share" in either case.

As is evident from the press comments and also from the announcement made by the U.S. State Department, Churchill's stand, supported by leading representatives of the political parties in Britain, met with a "restrained" or even with a "cold" reception in certain responsible circles in the United States. It is possible that certain differences in the views of the British

and U.S. statesmen are explained by the increasingly obvious economic contradictions between them, which in no small measure are linked with America's tough line of restricting the trade of the West European countries.

As for the U.S.S.R., together with the negative attitude of Soviet public opinion towards a number of concrete proposals made by Churchill, mentioned above, the public here has shown an interest in certain constructive points in the speech. The future will show to what extent these points express the real intentions of the British Government, headed by Churchill.

It must be admitted that symptoms have already appeared which cannot but evoke a certain feeling of guardedness in this respect among Soviet people and the international circles upholding the cause of peace. We refer to the projected meeting of the heads of the Governments of three Powers—the U.S.A., Britain and France—for the ostensible purpose of drafting a common line or even an agreed stand in the event of possible negotiations of the Great Powers. If this is so, it means that the Western Powers intend in the future too to proceed with the line of agreement among themselves at the expense of the U.S.S.R.

At the same time it signifies that Churchill is, in fact, already retreating if not from the letter, then at least from the spirit of his proposal about convening a "conference of the highest level", since such a conference insofar as it concerns the participation of the U.S.S.R. could take place only by the parties coming to the conference without any preliminary fixed demands. The projected meeting of the heads of the three Powers, however, evidently has for its aim the drafting of such demands to be submitted to the Soviet Union.

At the same time the planned preliminary meeting of the three powers signifies the continuation of the old line of aligning states according to ideologies and social-political systems, a line which has in no way justified itself.

It goes without saying that a new deal on the part of a group of Western Powers, far from helping to ease the international situation at present, may, on the contrary, lead to a further aggravation of the tension in international relations.

It is perfectly clear that, whatever the difference between the social systems of individual states, there are quite a few vitally important points on which the interests of the peoples of these states coincide. These vitally important points are, in the first instance, peace and the development of trade, economic and cultural co-operation between the peoples.

The Soviet Union is always ready, in all seriousness and sincerity, to examine any suggestions directed towards ensuring peace and the broadest possible economic and cultural relations between states.

(“Pravda”; May 24.)

FROM EXPERIENCE OF PARTY GROUPS IN KLEMENT GOTTWALD PLANT

Guided by the directives of the Political Bureau of the Hungarian Working People's Party the Party groups in our plant are constantly striving for greater activity by each member. From 70 to 75 per cent of our members have permanent Party assignments. Once a fortnight the groups hold meetings at which the members report about the carrying out of their assignments.

The improvement that has taken place in the work of the groups in our plant has been helped by the classes for group organisers organised in February by the Party Bureau in the plant. At these classes the group organisers discussed in detail questions relating to the role of the Party groups, their methods of work and their tasks.

At present we can state that our groups take an active part in production. The group organisers are, as a rule, leading workers and stakhanovites. The groups make a practice of linking their Party-political work with the work of the leaders of the production teams, fight for better labour discipline and higher productivity of labour. Not infrequently group organisers assign leading worker—Party members—” the task of sharing their experience with those workers not fulfilling the plan.

Recently our transformer shop received an important order: to repair in the course of 25 days three transformers for the biggest aluminium blast furnace in the country. On the

initiative of the leadership of the shop organisation of the Party, the groups thoroughly discussed the order. Party members, followed by non-party workers, took production pledges. A patriotic emulation developed for fulfilling the order in 17 days instead of the stipulated twenty-five. The Party groups in the shop gave their attention to the emulation; they regularly verified the carrying out of the pledges. The order was fulfilled in 15 days.

It should be noted, however, that our groups must pay greater attention to the ideological-political education of the members. Not everywhere and not always are the Party members who fail to fulfil production norms or who violate labour discipline subjected to severe and principled criticism.

Generalising the experience of the best Party groups the Party Bureau in the plant strives daily to enhance the role of the groups in production and to educate the members.

GYULA VIDA
Secretary, Party Bureau
Klement Gottwald Electric Plant
(Hungary)

PARTY EDUCATION OF PRAGUE COMMUNISTS

Further success in the Marxist-Leninist training of Party members and probationers and in raising their ideological-political level has registered this year in the Prague City organisation.

The study was based on the materials of the XIX Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In addition, materials of the national conference of our Party were studied. The Party members and non-party people displayed keen interest in these materials and studied them deeply.

Carrying out the directives of the leadership of our Party the functionaries of the regional, city and city district committees are paying much closer attention to raising the ideological theoretical level of the study striving to combine our propaganda with the practical tasks facing our organisations. More and more frequently they take part in the meetings held for lecturers and for briefing the tutors. Major shortcomings have not yet been eliminated from some of the lower organisations where to this day the Party Committees do not give guidance to the tutors and do not effectively verify the study.

This year most of the first secretaries of the district committees took an active part in the educational work. In some of the districts the first secretaries functioned as leaders of the lecturers' groups and, together with other leading comrades from the district committees lectured in the evening schools and in the Marxism-Leninism consultation centres in

the districts.

The quality of the lectures given in these centres, which are gradually embracing more and more factories and offices, has improved.

Altogether 2,540 members are studying in the district evening schools. The winding up of the academic year will enrich the district committees with a considerable number of well-trained Party functionaries, tutors and lecturers.

In the basic courses and in the different classes the majority of the Party members and some 13 thousand non-members are studying Marxism-Leninism. It should be pointed out, however, that there are still many shortcomings in this work. For example, not all the tutors possess the necessary knowledge and experience. Closer attention must be devoted to the tutors in these links of the study and also to raising the level of seminars for tutors in the basic courses and in the classes.

KAREL IRACEK

**Secretary, Prague City Committee,
Communist Party of Czechoslovakia**

COMMUNIST PARTY ORGANISATIONS IN BULGARIA PREPARE FOR HARVESTING

Preparing for the harvest season the Communist Party organisations in Bulgaria are taking measures with the aim of improving political work among the population and for ensuring that this important agricultural campaign is conducted in an organised manner.

Plenary meetings of a number of regional and district Party committees discussed questions relating to the harvest preparations and drew lessons from last year's campaign.

The plenum of the Stara Zagora regional committees resolved to convene a number of regional and district conferences for a mutual exchange of experience between rural Party organisations, and, in particular, for acquainting district committees and rural branches with the good work of the Party organisation in the producer co-operative in the village of Svoboda (Tchirpanski district).

At a conference convened by the Plevna regional Party committee, it was pointed out that special attention must be devoted to giving members definite Party assignments. The conference recommended that two-day seminars be held for agitators, and called upon them to organise group talks in the fields, everywhere to organise mobile agitation centres, and, to utilise all possible forms of agitation in the course of the harvesting.

A district conference of the best agitators held in Peschera,

was attended by more than 130 agitators. It was pointed that before the harvesting each agitator should be allotted to a definite sector and that there should be regular meetings and briefing of agitators.

The plenary meetings and conferences held so far devoted close attention to the speediest possible completion of repairs in the machine and tractor depots and to ensuring better mass-political work among the tractor and combine drivers.

Vigorous activity by the Party organisations, better organisational and mass-political work,—this is the guarantee that harvesting will be completed in the shortest possible time and without loss.

D. KALEV
“Rabotnichesko Delo”

**PROBLEMS OF SOCIALIST
RECONSTRUCTION OF
AGRICULTURE IN RUMANIAN
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC*. Gheorge
Gheorghiu-Dej, General
Secretary, Central Committee,
Rumanian Workers' Party**

**Voluntary Principle—Guarantee of
Stability and Flowering of Collective
Farms**

Four years have passed since March 3-5, 1949, when the meeting of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party advanced the historic task of switching to socialist reconstruction of agriculture. In these four years the Party, the people's democratic state and the people of Rumania have achieved big success in effecting the socialist reconstruction of

* From speech delivered by Comrade Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej on May 23 at Congress of leading collective farm workers in Rumanian People's Republic.

agriculture. More than 280 thousand working peasant families are now united in 1,966 collective farms and nearly 2,000 joint cultivation associations.

The state and collective farms and the joint cultivation associations account for nearly one-fourth of the total arable land. The average crop yield per hectare on many collective farms and in joint cultivation associations is 25-50 per cent higher than the yields gathered by the individual peasants—a fact which has fully demonstrated the superiority of collective farming, conducted on large areas, with mechanised means and using the achievements of science, over farming on small plots with its primitive means and methods.

Many of the collective farms, having become consolidated economically and organisationally, employ the most up-to-date methods of cultivation, utilise in ever greater measure natural resources for irrigation and melioration and are developing animal husbandry and other branches of agriculture and building the necessary farm premises. In this way the ever increasing number of collective farms is becoming the centre of attraction for the working peasants, a living example of what large scale socialist farming means.

What is the explanation for the successes achieved by the collective farms? They are the outcome of the correct organisation of labour by introducing the system of permanent work-teams, of timely fulfilment of work and observance of the agro-technical minimum and of the fruitful political work of the Party branches.

Our collective farmers received significant help in the matter of correct organisation of labour on the collective farms from Soviet delegations of collective farmers, technicians and agricultural scientists who visited our country and gave our young collective farms valuable counsel based on the vast experience of the rich Soviet collective farms.

The results achieved by the collective farms exert a

powerful influence on the individual working peasants; over 44,000 working peasants, on an absolutely voluntary basis, joined the collective farms in the past twelve months, while another 42,000 from more than 3,000 villages submitted applications saying that they wanted to form collective farms.

In those areas where the Party and state organs devoted due attention to the joint cultivation associations their number, compared with the previous year, grew 5-8 times. More than 21,000 applications from a total of 1,404 villages were received, asking permission to form associations. The fact that, at the request of their members, 218 joint cultivation associations have been reorganised into collective farms confirms once again the correctness of the Party line.

It follows from what has been said that a significant number of small and middle peasants has taken the path of collective farming and joint cultivation in which relations of co-operation and mutual aid are developing and advanced technique used—all leading to the building of a better life. The greater part of the working peasants still practising individual farming has, relatively, raised its standard of living; but, unable to break out of the blind alley created by petty commodity economy, it is incapable of ensuring extended reproduction in agriculture, and in bad harvest seasons of ensuring even simple reproduction.

The middle peasants too, whose numbers have grown as a result of the liberation of the working peasantry from landlord yoke and as a result of the restriction of kulak exploitation, are becoming conscious of this fact. Thus, middle peasants comprise the majority (57.8 per cent) of the families who formed collective farms in the period from June 1, 1952, to the present day, the landless peasants account for 7 per cent, poor peasants—35.2 per cent. The experience of building collective farms in the U.S.S.R. reveals the vital significance of the fact of the middle peasant taking to collective farming.

Of particular significance is the fact that the poor and

middle peasants are becoming conscious of their position in relation to the kulaks, the rural bourgeoisie. They realised that the working peasantry is the ally of the working class—the leading class in the people's-democratic state.

During the past few years, despite the shortcomings and the mistakes committed by some Party and state workers, the dividing line between the middle peasants, that is, the working peasants, on the one hand, and the kulaks, that is the exploiters of the peasants, on other hand, has taken a more definite shape thanks to the consistent realisation of the Party line aimed at restricting kulak exploitation.

The class struggle in our countryside is becoming more and more acute, taking on varied forms and unfolding in new conditions.

Collective farms are a socialist form of organisation of production. But most important is the content incorporated in this form, that which matters above all is, who heads the collective farms, who leads them.

We must see to it that the collective farms and the joint cultivation associations in our Republic are headed by honest people, by working people devoted body and soul to the people's-democratic system, to the cause of Socialism.

Consolidation of the collective farms and of the joint cultivation associations and the strengthening of their bonds with the individual working peasants lead to the isolation of the kulaks from the broad masses of the peasants, to intensified struggle by the working peasants against the kulaks.

In the socialist transformation of agriculture a vital organising role is played by the machine and tractor depots. They have contributed to the formation of the joint cultivation associations and collective farms and have helped them to raise higher crops. Many of the machine and tractor depots have developed into genuine organisers of production on the collective farms and in the joint associations.

Capital investments in the machine and tractor depots have risen considerably this year compared with 1952. There are now 218 of these depots with 9,650 tractors and over 25,000 tractor-drawn auxiliaries, not counting the 4,400 tractors belonging to the state farms.

Despite the successes achieved in socialist construction in the countryside we still have serious shortcomings.

The most important shortcomings disclosed in this sphere were due to the counter-revolutionary activity of the Right-wing deviators who pursued a policy of fostering the capitalist elements in the countryside to the detriment of the small and middle peasants. The group of Right-wing deviators allowed kulak elements to worm their way in to the collective farms in order to break them up from within and to discredit them in the eyes of the working peasantry. At the same time, the deviators, seeking to retard the working-peasants from taking the road to Socialism, encouraged violation of the voluntary principle. They also caused damage to the amount of billions, in terms of old lei, to the machine and tractor depots and state farms.

During the twelve months which have passed since the smashing of the Right deviation the machine and tractor depots have taken the path of consolidation; 602 new collective farms have been organised and the number of joint cultivation associations has increased by 1,121. More than 3,000 kulaks who had wormed their way into the collective farms were exposed and expelled.

Today, one year after the exposure and smashing of the Right deviation, there stands out even more strikingly the significance of the struggle waged by our Party against those who sought to divert it from the Lenin-Stalin path. There can be no doubt that had we failed to do this in good time our entire onward march to Socialism would have been seriously retarded.

The voluntary principle, the voluntary entry of the working peasants into the collective farms and the joint cultivation associations is the basic Lenin-Stalin principle in the matter of socialist transformation of agriculture.

Only the profound conviction on the part of the working peasantry of the tremendous superiority of collective farming can serve as the basis for building: really solid collective farms.

Violation of the Party line simply plays into the hand of the kulak and the other class enemies seeking to discredit the idea of the socialist transformation of agriculture and to injure the alliance of the working class and the working peasantry—the basis of people's power.

What kind of collective farm is it that is made up of people brought together by chance, people who lack conviction of the superiority of the collective farms and who all the time are looking backward at their tiny plot of land? Such collective farms, right from the outset are doomed to failure since in these circumstances it is easy for the kulaks to carry on their undermining activity.

The transition from the old capitalist system to the new socialist system signifies a profound revolution in the life of the peasantry. People lived in the old way, for a long time they followed the old capitalist path which, even though it meant a miserable life, a life full of privations and poverty on their small plots of land but nonetheless a life which followed the beaten track, and then, all of a sudden these same people are shown a new path, the path of collective farming. To make such a step in life is not an easy matter.

This explains why it is necessary to unfold patient explanatory work, why it is necessary to study the concrete conditions in each village, the class relationship, the manoeuvres of the kulaks, to combat and patiently explain all unclarity and eliminate hostile influences, to make use of

convincing examples and arguments, Unfortunately this method is not to the liking of some functionaries who prefer “firm methods”.

The peasant needs time in order to become convinced, to see for himself the superiority of collective farming. Where is the working peasant who does not want a better, more prosperous and more cultured life for himself and for his family? The peasant is not satisfied with words, no matter how nice, he wants evidence! And we have the evidence, plenty of it, which must be made widely known to all working peasants.

A considerable number of collective farms and joint cultivation associations have become so strong in recent years that they serve of for each individual working peasant visiting them a most powerful stimulus, encouraging him to join the collective farm or the joint cultivation association.

The nearly one thousand working peasants who visited the Soviet Union in the years between 1949-53 have played a tremendous role in forming and stabilising the collective farms in our country, because they saw the splendid Soviet collective farms and became convinced that the path of collective farming alone can lead to a well-to-do and happy life.

It is necessary to draw attention to the incorrect attitude taken recently in a number of places by collective farmers, namely, not to accept new members on the pretext that they should have joined the collective farm at the very beginning. This isolates the collective farmers from the other working peasants, cuts them off instead of uniting them with those peasants. Such an attitude is advantageous only to the kulaks who, with their usual cunning, seek to influence the working peasants with the aim of forcing them out of the collective farms.

The fact that working peasants did not join the collective farms at the outset does not mean that we must ignore them; on the contrary, we must intensify our political work among them,

convince them with the aid of new arguments.

In organising collective farms special attention must be paid to the women—to the wives of the working peasants who play an important part in the farm work, in agricultural production and in the family.

In connection with organising joint cultivation associations an utterly groundless underestimation of them is displayed in many regions by some Party and administrative functionaries.

It is obvious that there is insufficient understanding of the importance of the association as a form of the producer co-operative accessible to broad masses of the peasants who are not yet ready to take the decisive step in the direction of collective farming, but who see the superiority of farming on big areas with the help of machines and want to be convinced of this from their own experience.

It is essential also to devote special attention to recent and widely spread manifestations in practically all regions of the country of a tendency towards spontaneity in forming collective farms and joint associations, a tendency which can become dangerous if it is not disclosed, combated and most resolutely eliminated.

This tendency towards spontaneity is an immobilising and opportunist tendency. It stems above all from shortcomings in our political and organisational work in strengthening the collective farms and associations and from the delay in organising new collective farms and joint cultivation associations.

There have been many instances of Party and state organs achieving good results in forming collective farms and associations, and, having done so, considered that they had already fulfilled their tasks and were no longer responsible for the good functioning and strengthening of the collective farms and associations.

Instead of giving more help and strengthening the

leadership of these collective farms and associations, these Party organs and executive committees of people's councils leave them to the mercy of fate.

Were this to continue our best collective farms and associations would deteriorate and break up.

Wherein lies the source of this tendency?

Its source is found in the fact that some Party and state organs, as a result of definite successes won in building Socialism in the countryside, displayed conceit and complacency.

Some Party and state organs forget that the transition of the working peasants to collective farming does not lessen but, on the contrary, calls for greater care by the Party, adds to the responsibility and the leading role of the Communists, forget that this transition requires their leadership and help daily and hourly. Every step forward, every success won must be consolidated and the conditions prepared for achieving further success.

Some machine and tractor stations do not act as organisers of production on the collective farms, do not give the necessary help to the collective farms in assimilating and applying Soviet agro-technique and advanced experience.

Another vital matter is the question of full utilisation of the capacity of the machine and tractor stations.

The Party and the Government attach great importance to the machine and tractor stations as centres of Socialism in the countryside. Machine and tractor stations must honourably carry out their responsible tasks.

Public Property—Source of Strength of Collective Farm

Exceptional attention must be paid to application of the

new Rules as the basic law governing the life of the collective farm.

Since these Rules were widely discussed and adopted by the Congress it is only necessary to stress some of the basic principles of the new model Rules for collective farming.

Along with consistent application of the Rules in the collective farms we must work harder to explain and popularise among the working peasants the content and significance of the new Rules.

What is the source of the strength and stability of the collective farm? it is, undoubtedly, its public property.

The creation and consolidation of public property—this is the main thing in the collective farm.

The Rules say that in the collective farm the personal interests of the members are harmoniously combined with the common interests of the collective farm. This signifies that the income of each collective farmer, derived from the work-day units performed by him, is in accordance with the growth in the common income of the collective farm. Work on the collective farm is the main and decisive responsibility of each collective farmer, while his personal plot is but an auxiliary element, supplementing the income he receives from the collective farm.

Collective farming, embracing hundreds of households, can be conducted only in a planned manner. On those collective farms where plans are elaborated by the boards with the help of agronomists from the people's councils and the technical personnel of the machine and tractor stations in the light of the perspective of the development of the collective farm, where plans are discussed and approved by the general-meeting—on such collective farms things go well. However, there are still cases when the collective farmers are not consulted when plans are prepared, when the real possibilities of a farm are not taken into account and utilisation of local resources is not envisaged or when the plans are elaborated in a

district committee of the Party or in a district people's council without the participation of the collective farmers.

The vital thing for ensuring strengthening and development of the collective farm is the steady growth of its indivisible fund. The indivisible fund is a mirror clearly reflecting the entire development of the collective farm. The fact that the indivisible funds of the collective farms all over the country amount to 230,000,000 lei, a 60 per cent increase in the course of one year, is striking testimony to the growth and development of the collective farms in our country.

In the majority of the collective farms the indivisible funds show a year by year increase. It should be pointed out, however, that on some collective farms there is a tendency to distribute the entire income without putting aside the necessary sum for the indivisible funds. This practice, naturally, cannot produce good results.

An important principle, which must be introduced into the collective farm from the bottom up, is the principle of personal responsibility. The work on the collective farms must be such that at any moment it is possible to say who works well and who works badly, who had good results and who did harm or displayed negligence.

The Rules adopted by the Congress stress that the permanent work-team is the basic link in organising work on the collective farm. But there are collective farms where work-teams are formed and dissolved every year, where every season the work-teams are "reorganised", thereby violating the basic organisational principle of the collective farm, namely, that the work-team is a permanent unit and is responsible for the land assigned to it for the whole period of crop rotation.

Socialist emulation has proved that in the collective farm too it is a great mobilising and organising force.

Having developed only recently, it has embraced thousands of collective farmers who are enthusiastically working for

strengthening the collective farms for higher labour productivity, for the introduction of advanced methods of labour and especially of the methods of Soviet agro-technique. The socialist emulation has advanced to the fore leading collective farmers in the struggle for bumper crops, for more productive animal husbandry, collective farmers who are distinguished for their initiative, organising abilities and wise business-like approach; it has brought to the fore such people as the collective farm chairmen Dragoescu Petre and Aron Alexandru; the team leaders Aur Baicu and Ludovic Varga; exemplary stock-breeder Ardeleanu Gheorghe ; Stefan Simion, leading worker in crop cultivation, and others.

Despite these successes it should be pointed out that the Party, state and agricultural organs and the collective farm boards are not fulfilling in a satisfactory manner their honourable duty of developing to the utmost the creative initiative of the agronomists and experienced workers, of multiplying the ranks of the advanced workers who obtain bumper yields and highly productive livestock of supporting all that is advanced, everything progressive and of introducing without delay the achievements of science and advanced experience in all branches of agriculture.

Democracy inside the collective is the basic organisational principle in the management and work of the collective farm, the basic means for developing the creative initiative of the masses and for all-round consolidation of the collective farm.

In most collective farms democratic methods of management have been introduced as a result of the correct leadership and work of the Party organisations. However, there are still collective farms where general meetings are not convened, reports are not delivered regularly, questions relating to the work of the farm are not decided collectively and where all matters are handled by the board or its chairman. Such violations of the Rules are inadmissible and must be resolutely

rooted out.

Further Rise of' Agricultural Production—Vital Condition for Advance to Socialism

In the present stage of economic development of our country industrial production is experiencing a powerful upsurge, having risen threefold in the past four years, while agriculture has lagged seriously owing to the low productivity of the individual farmsteads.

Small and medium farmsteads constitute the bulk of the peasant households in our country, though a considerable part of the individual farmsteads has entered the associations for joint cultivation and the collective farms. From 70 to 75 per cent of all the market grain is still grown by the individual working peasants.

The path to Socialism for the small and medium households lies not through ruin and disintegration; enjoying the support of the people's-democratic state, raising their standard of living and deepening their consciousness, working peasants are taking the path of large-scale socialist farming.

In the small and medium households there are still considerable possibilities, which, if utilised, and taking into account the encouragement of the individual peasants and the and rendered them by the people's-democratic state, can seriously contribute to raising crop yields. Individual working peasants can and must, in their own interests and in the interests of the country, engage in better cultivation and reap richer harvests.

The question of making agriculture more productive and of getting ever greater quantities of market grain is at the moment

a vital question for our forward advance towards Socialism; it is the main link in the entire system of agricultural production since upon its solution depends the success of providing supplies for the urban population, the development of animal husbandry, cultivation of technical and special crops providing raw materials for industry.

If we take into account the 1948 census which shows that the population now numbers 16 million, and also the rate of growth of the population on the basis of the data in the period since the liberation of the country, we can assume that by 1960 the population will be approximately 18-18.5 million.

Simultaneously, socialist industrialisation has resulted in a steady growth of population in towns, industrial centres and around the big building sites. It has grown from 3,800,000 in 1948 to 5,500,000 at the beginning of 1953 and it may be assumed that by the end of 1960 the urban population will exceed seven million.

The development of our socialist industry, the general growth of the population, the growth of the working population in the towns and industrial centres, as a result of the socialist industrialisation, place before our state the task of developing agricultural production in the years ahead on a scale that will meet the requirements of industry for raw materials and the steadily growing requirements of the people for consumer goods.

The question of growth of agricultural production and of growing grain for the market has become a state question, a national question. We must resolutely work in order to solve the grain problem. The socialist sector of agriculture (state farms, collective farms and joint cultivation associations) must be extended and the yields must grow gradually and steadily year by year.

The state sector in agriculture, which now occupies over 1,200,000 hectares of arable land, can be consolidated and

extended in the coming years to 1,500,000 hectares by assimilating new areas, by cultivating virgin soil, meliorative work, etc.

We believe that by assimilating new areas at present unproductive our country will have over 10 million hectares of arable land, including nearly 6,850,000 hectares for grain crops.

By developing the socialist sector of agriculture, by raising yields also in the sector of small-scale production, and by better soil cultivation and by giving state aid to individual working peasants it will be possible to obtain 10,000,000 tons of grain in the coming years as against the present 6-7 million tons.

It will be possible to grow more grain even in excess of the aforementioned level by commissioning irrigation systems in the area of the Danube, the Seret, Prut and by developing existing systems in the area of the Kris, Mures, Olt and other rivers.

Solution of the grain problem on the basis of the socialist reconstruction of agriculture will facilitate growing of industrial crops in regions most favourable for their cultivation.

The further development of animal husbandry is closely linked also with the solution of the grain problem and with development of the joint cultivation associations and the collective farms. The question of securing fodder for livestock and also of specialised animal husbandry, particularly in the mountain and hilly regions, is also linked with the solution of the grain problem.

We consider it possible to increase the head of horned cattle to 5,500,000, sheep to 15-16 million and pigs to 4,600,000 in the course of the second Five-Year Plan.

Special attention must be devoted to establishing and consolidating state livestock farms with a view to making them the biggest producers of meat, hides, wool, milk and dairy

products.

The realisation of these future tasks in the sphere of animal husbandry will result in a considerable improvement in supplying the working people with meat, meat products, milk and dairy products.

The grand achievements realised along the path of socialist construction vividly testify that our people possess the strength, energy and ability for successfully solving these great tasks also.

Solution of the grain problem, the problem of technical crops and animal husbandry is possible on the basis of the further socialist transformation of agriculture by means of equipping it with technique corresponding to the level of advanced agro-technique.

Taking into account the favourable condition created for the socialist transformation of agriculture on the basis of the results achieved in building collective farms and joint cultivation associations, taking into account the rate of development of socialist industry and its ability to equip agriculture with technique, taking into account the intensified training of agronomists, zoo technicians, tractor-drivers and the growth of consciousness of the working peasantry,—it is possible to count on further accelerated advance of the working peasantry toward the joint cultivation associations and collective farms.

For this it is necessary:

1. To consolidate and extend the technical base of agriculture, further strengthen the functioning machine and tractor stations and open new one.

In order to raise yields and productivity of livestock work on the collective farms must be gradually mechanised. With this aim in view the machine and tractor stations will be supplied with new tractors and aggregates. Measures will be taken to increase by autumn 1954, the number of machine and

tractor stations to 250 and to equip them with more than 12,500 tractors and tractor-drawn aggregates.

In the course of the second Five-Year Plan the number of machine and tractor stations must be raised to 500 which, together with the state farms, will have a park of nearly 35-40 thousand tractors and a corresponding number of other agricultural machine.

2. To step up the training of cadres for socialist agriculture.

3. To ensure steady improvement of scientific work in the sphere of agriculture.

Agricultural scientists achieved significant success in scientific-research; they are co-ordinating still more closely their work with the requirements of life. In this respect much remains to be done by scientific workers so that their help becomes more pronounced and more effective in solving all the serious problems of the development of socialist agriculture. The Party and the Government display constant solicitude for scientists and for scientific-research devoted to socialist construction. In the future this solicitude will be more pronounced. It is necessary to study the question of founding an Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

4. To ensure organisational and economic consolidation and further development of the collective farms and joint cultivation associations.

Strict observance of the model Rules both by the members of the collective farms and by each Party and state worker is an essential condition for consolidating the collective farms.

The collective farms should become centres for disseminating culture among the masses of working peasantry.

Our Party organs, executive committees of the people's councils and members of collective farms should know and should never forget that the collective farms now functioning are the most powerful and the most direct means for convincing the working peasantry of the superiority of socialist

agriculture.

The Party regional and district committees and the executive committees of the people's councils must give all-round organisational and political help to the preparatory committees of the working peasants anxious to form collective farms and joint cultivation associations, must conduct wide explanatory work among the working peasants and convince them of the need to form more preparatory committees.

Explanatory work among the working peasants and convincing them of the superiority of collective farming are not a campaign matter; this is work that must be carried out regularly, every day, every hour.

One of the basic methods of convincing the working peasants is individual talks with the small and middle peasants, individual work with each working peasant, patient and skilful work with each person.

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The socialist reconstruction of agriculture within the framework of building Socialism requires strenuous, patient and persevering effort, without undue haste.

To carry out this task it is necessary to strain every effort calling on all working people of town and countryside to work collectively under the leadership of the Rumanian Workers' Party.

We rely on the fraternal alliance of the working class and the working peasantry, the social force which overthrew the power of the landlords and capitalists and which will victoriously build Socialism in town and countryside.

A great cause such as the building of Socialism gives birth to great energy.

Our diligent people, full of the joy of free life, masters of their destiny, and becoming more and more conscious of their

responsibility, will work with still greater enthusiasm on the construction of the new social system, free from exploitation and oppression. Their peaceful, creative labour is closely connected with the cause of peace; the policy of peace fully corresponds to the vital interests of the people. The people's-democratic system is a social system which embodies the strivings of our people for peace. Consequently, the working people of town and countryside, now more than ever before, are fully determined to uphold their gains, to fight resolutely of peace and for co-operation among the peoples.

ON EVE OF WOMEN'S WORLD CONGRESS (Marie-Claude Vaillant-Couturier, Secretary- General, Women's International Democratic Federation

The Women's World Congress, sponsored by the Women's International Democratic Federation (W.I.D.F.), opens on June 5 in Copenhagen. Judging by the enthusiasm with which the preparations are being conducted it can be said even now that the Congress will be an event of great international significance.

The Congress slogan, "Women of the world, united we represent an invincible force in the struggle for our rights, in defence of our children and our homes, for peace!", has evoked a response far beyond the bounds of the usual influence exercised by the organisations of the W.I.D.F.

Delegations are expected from more than 80 countries, including delegations from countries in which not only are there no national branches of the W.I.D.F. but from countries in which until now there was not a single woman's organisation of any kind, and particularly from the countries of the African continent.

The question of the rights of women, the first item on the Congress agenda, evokes great interest everywhere. The political consciousness of women is awakening in those countries where they have no rights whatever or where they have practically no rights. More and more actively and heroically they are taking part in the struggle of their peoples

for peace and national independence. Women are becoming more and more aware that there are no grounds whatever for regarding them as inferiors. For example, in the countries of the Near and Middle East women are becoming increasingly conscious of their role in the national liberation struggle and that this role could be much greater if they had equal rights; they know that their demand for equality also serves the national interests.

With the enemies of peace continuing their preparations for war the discrimination in relation to women is being intensified in those capitalist countries where, as a result of their stubborn struggle, they had won certain rights. These rights were always extremely restricted due to the fact that economic and civic equality of the women is not observed even where it is inscribed in the Constitution, as is the case, for instance, in France and Italy. The crusade of reaction against the democratic freedoms spells further enslavement for women. Consequently they are becoming more and more conscious that the fight for their rights is indissolubly linked with the struggle for national independence, democracy and peace.

In the Soviet Union, where women enjoy equal rights in all the spheres of life, in the Chinese People's Republic, the countries of people's democracy and in the German Democratic Republic where equality of women is ensured by law, they are well aware of the boundless opportunities afforded them by the people's power. Being in the front ranks of the fighters for peace, women in these countries, by their example, are supporting the women of the capitalist and colonial countries fighting for their vital demands, for their rights.

The Congress will have great significance not only because women in a large number of countries are taking part in its preparation but also because the women's organisations have unfolded large-scale activity aimed at drawing new sections of

women into the fight for peace, for their rights. National congresses, national conferences or conferences in defence of the rights of women have been held or are scheduled to be held this month in Iran, Austria, Costa Rica, India and Western Germany.

The women's congress held in Italy was preceded by a big preparatory campaign. The Union of Italian Women, for example, circulated a questionnaire devoted to the main problems agitating women. The questionnaire was the subject of wide discussion and two and a half million women addressed it, in post-card form, to the congress expressing thereby their support. The congress adopted a "Charter for Italian Women", drawn up by the leadership of the Union of Italian Women jointly with prominent figures and representatives of other women's organisations.

In France, in the course of a great nation-wide campaign, the question of the rights of women, their needs and aspirations is being discussed and backed by collecting signatures to the draft of a "Charter of Rights for French Women". The French delegation will tell the Congress about the results of this campaign.

In Finland every woman can write in the "book of women's rights", which will be brought to the Congress, the results of her activity in, defence of women's fights, on defence of children, national culture and for raising the standard of living of the working people.

In a number of countries Congress preparatory committees have been formed. Such committees are functioning, in particular, in the U.S., Great Britain, Japan, India, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Austria, Lebanon, Syria, Finland and Denmark. They include representatives from women's organisations and from trade unions, as well as women well-known in public life, writers, artists, lawyers, people of varying political views and social status who have decided to discuss together the vital

problems agitating women and to define joint activity for solving these problems.

In South Africa, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and in other countries the preparations for the World Congress contributed to the building of national democratic women's organisations. In India 120 distinguished women, including a number of members of Parliament—from the different political parties—expressed the desire to link up with the Congress delegation.

In many countries conferences and meetings were held of women of different professions in defence of their specific demands. In Iran such conferences led to the setting up of "mothers' councils" consisting of women medical workers, teachers, housewives, etc. In Belgium, Holland and France conferences of miners' wives, wives of metal workers of unemployed workers and conferences of unemployed women have been held. In France national conferences of wives of dockers, railway workers and miners are taking place. A conference of women sharecroppers was held in Italy.

In the past the women's organisations paid scant attention to the questions affecting peasant women, although in many countries peasant women comprise the majority of the female population. In the course of the Congress preparations efforts were made in this direction; conferences of peasant women are in the stage of preparation in Mexico, Cuba and Ecuador.

Successful work is under way for winning for the Congress women employed in industry and housewives. In a number of countries co-operation has been established with trade union organisations; in Austria there is co-operation with the trade unions fighting against unemployment; in Iran and Japan with the teachers' trade unions, and in Japan and Brazil with state employees and textile workers. In Brazil the 80,000 women textile workers who were on strike decided to send delegates to the Congress. Much work has been conducted among women textile workers in Holland and France. In Finland a conference

of working women, attended by 600 delegates elected in industrial enterprises in the country, was held on March 8.

Women trade unionists and non-unionists Social Democrats, Communists, members of other parties and non-party, are uniting in defence of their rights.

In Chile the Amalgamated trade unions adopted a resolution voicing support for the Congress. A similar resolution was adopted by the Congress of Working People's of Latin America.

The World Women's Congress will demonstrate the increasingly active role of women in the struggle for national independence, for world peace, in defence of children and the family. It Will discuss the possibility of establishing the greatest possible unity on the basis of struggle for the peaceful settlement of all controversial questions by means of negotiation.

The preparation for the Congress has shown that it is possible to find a basis for uniting women both in the movement in defence of their rights, in defence or children and in the struggle for ending the wars now in progress, for an immediate truce in Korea, for banning weapons of mass slaughter, for disarmament, against the Bonn and Paris treaties, for the peaceful settlement of the German and Japanese problems, for a meeting of the heads of the five Great Powers, for a Pact of Peace.

Sometimes agreement is possible on a number of issues inasmuch as all are closely linked, but sometimes, and this must not be an obstacle to joint action, only on one question. Some delegates are going to the Congress only with one question in mind, which will be discussed. But even in this case the jointly traversed path helps not only to solve the given problem but enables the women to become better acquainted with one another, to overcome the obstacles artificially created by those interested in a split.

The participation of tens of millions of women in the preparation for the Congress, the broad composition of the committees formed in various countries, the fact that the national delegations include women from the different political parties, women who do not belong to the Women's International Democratic Federation—all this is an important phase in the history of the development of the women's movement. The greetings and expressions of solidarity from the most varied organisations, the news that the Congress will be attended by delegations from the International Women's Guild—members of co-operatives—and the International League of Women for Peace and freedom testify that the co-operation of all women is possible in the struggle in defence of and for winning their rights, in defence of the children, in the struggle for preserving peace. The preparation for the World Women's Congress is proof that it is possible to rally the tens of millions of women and that the mighty force which the united women represent is becoming an extremely important factor in the right for saving peace.

PLIGHT OF WOMEN IN U.S. INDUSTRY

The American employers ruthlessly exploit women workers. Women workers, as a rule, are paid less than men even though their working conditions are often worse.

Their plight was described by the delegates to the recent national conference of working women held by the United Electrical Workers' Union.

For instance, the delegate Miss Kochert told the conference that women's rates in the plant where she works are much lower than men's rates—the disparity amounting to 216,300 dollars in extra profits for the employers.

Labour safety measures are not observed. A woman worker in a lamp shop in Cleveland told the delegates how her co-workers in this shop faint from exhaustion and heat. One woman, driven to despair, committed suicide.

Worse still is the plight of the Negro women workers; very often their applications for jobs are rejected while those who have jobs get half the wage of other women workers.

The New York "Worker" writes that according to an estimate made by the United Electrical Workers' Union, American monopolies, by brutally exploiting women and underpaying them, squeeze out an extra 5.5 billion dollars in profits.

ANTI-FASCIST ACTIVITY IN SPAIN

Responding to the calls issued by the Communist Party urging them to intensify the struggle against the fascist regime, the people of Spain, by numerous actions, are demonstrating their hatred for the Franco regime, which is responsible for poverty and suffering of the working people.

The weekly journal "Espana Democratica", published in Uruguay, reports that bank clerks in Madrid staged a mass demonstration on the Alcala,—the main thoroughfare in the city, demanding higher wages."

In outskirts of Barcelona hundreds of families are being thrown onto the street from the hovels and shacks in which they are forced to live due to the housing shortage. The victims of these Francoite outrages held a protest demonstration in Hospitalet (suburb of Barcelona) which was supported by many citizens.

Not long ago a miner was killed in one of the Sotondrio pits (Asturias). Next day the miners struck work in protest against the barbarous exploitation and the extremely arduous working conditions.

IN DEFENCE OF GREEK PATRIOTS

The Papagos fascist government recently carried out further repressive measures against fighters for the freedom and national independence of Greece. Political prisoners, including a large number seriously ill, are being transferred to prisons on remote islands and confined in medieval dungeons such as Fort Idjeddine on Crete. In this way a monstrous plan for doing away with thousands of the Greek patriots is being carried out. Simultaneously all over the country—in Athens, Piraeus, on the island of Crete and in Kavalla—more arrests are being made and more framed up trials staged.

In a message addressed to the international democratic organisations, to Uno and to world public opinion, democratic organisations in Greece say:

“Informing you of the repressive measures of the Papagos Government which directly endanger the lives of tens of thousands of people’s fighters we appeal to your humanity and implore you to take action in their defence in order to frustrate realisation of these repressive measures to secure the return of the political prisoners to the prisons in their respective regions and the transfer of sick prisoners to the hospitals, restoration of democratic freedoms and a general amnesty in Greece”.

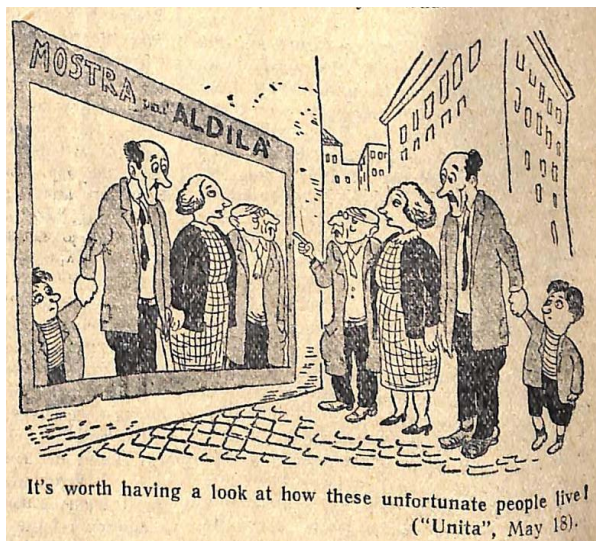
FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH TROOPS FROM EGYPT

The National Peace Committee in Egypt in two recent statements notes the heroic struggle of the Egyptian people for the withdrawal of British troops, for national liberation and against the aggressive military pacts. The Committee urges the Government of Egypt “to insist on immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the foreign troops and never to allow these or other foreign troops again into our country”.

The Peace Committee warns against possible imperialist provocations, similar to that organised in Cairo in January 1952 aimed at strangling the national-liberation movement. “In order to safeguard our national-liberation struggle”, the Committee points out, “it is necessary, first and foremost, fully to guarantee the popular freedoms, to remove the ban on newspapers fighting against the Middle East Command and, in particular, the ban on ‘Al-Kateb’, organ of the peace supporters, to release all political prisoners whatever their views and to launch a resolute struggle against traitors, spies and saboteurs”.

FEUILLETON

Slander Fair



**It's worth having a look at how these unfortunate people live!
 ("Unita", May 18).**

In front of the leader of the Christian Democratic Party with downcast eyes stood the editors of newspapers, radio commentators and other big guns of the government propaganda designed to confuse, stupefy and strike fear into as many Italian voters as possible and get them to vote for the bloc of reactionary parties.

— You're not lying well enough, gentlemen, said the leader reproachfully. Is that the way to lie in view of our situation?

— We're trying hard, your excellency.

— But it's very difficult since few believe us.

— This means that the lie is petty, unconvincing. The bigger the lie the sooner it will be believed, I know... Why not portray life over there in the Communist world as we want it... Do it convincingly, with documents and photos!

— Will you give the order, your excellency, for someone to go and collect material?

— Why send anyone? Look around; must we import these materials from abroad?

— Yes, yes, nodded his companions knowingly..."

It can be assumed that this, approximately, was the scene which preceded one of the election "undertakings" of the Christian Democratic Party. Thereafter events developed quickly, noisily and in a big way. Spare no money, was the order. Architects, decorators and technicians labored tirelessly in the underground halls of the central station in Rome. They worked under the instructions of the recognised "experts" of "Catholic Action" who, in turn, received consultations from the U.S. master swindlers. Everything was thought out and foreseen, including such details as light effects and mysterious voices from "over there".

This cooked-up spectacle was given a noisy and pretentious name: Exhibition "On the other side" ("Mostra dell'aldilà"). The opening ceremony was performed in person by the propaganda sub-secretary Giorgio Tupini, subordinated to the Chairman of the Council of Ministers thus showing that the Italian Government had a hand in the undertaking.

The reactionary newspapers "Il Messaggero", "Voce Repubblicana" and "Il Popolo", having waited impatiently for this moment, began in one voice, to laud the exhibition and with gusto described the exhibits. "Il Momento", official organ of the Christian Democratic Party, even reported "in detail" how the materials were obtained. It appears that they "were collected and carefully verified in the course of two years". It appears that "someone", "at great personal risk", had mistaken

these shots while motoring “through the streets of Sofia, Budapest, Prague, Bucharest and Moscow” in a car “with drawn curtains”.

The “Il Momento” hacks were not at all embarrassed by the fact that only in April ten American journalists visiting the Soviet Union had the opportunity without any “risk to themselves” to see and take photos of anything they liked, as reported by the same “Il Messaggero” on April 11. The Christian Democratic falsifiers had to resort to a mythical “car with drawn curtains” in order to slander the countries of the socialist camp, to divert the attention of the Italian people from their tragic plight—impoverishment, unemployment and economic ruin—in which they now find themselves as a result of five years of Christian Democratic rule.

From the very outset the visitors and the democratic public resolutely protested against the “exhibition”, indicating its tendentiousness and that it had nothing in common with reality, that its sponsors were crudely distorting and falsifying the facts, like swindlers cheating at every step. In reply Tupini, unaware of the turn events would take, declared that the “exhibition was founded on documents and when people assert that the document is a forgery, they must prove it”.

And the very next day this proof was available in quantity.

According to the plans of the organisers of this slander fair, the large photos depicting different sections of the population, “the slaves of Communism” living behind barbed wire would make a powerful impression. “At least photos will convince them”, such was the reasoning of the professional falsifiers from the Christian Democratic Party. “What can be more objective than the camera lens!”, they thought.

And indeed not only did they attract attention, they gave rise to a scandal of big dimensions. The point is that one man depicted in the photo as an alleged “Polish Socialist” turned out to be a certain Alfredo Mordecchia, resident of Rome and

employee of the Italian photo agency (87, Due Macelli street). In another photo of a “slave” one of the visitors recognised... none other than himself, and even though the caption said that the man in the photo was either a Bulgarian or a Hungarian —“a representative of the middle strata of the population languishing under the yoke of the Communists”—he turned out to be Dionigi Judicone who lives at 25 Germano Somciller street. Rome.

The curtain of lies fell to pieces. No sooner had the organisers of the exhibition removed the discredited “Polish Socialist” and the “representative of the middle strata” than it turned out that the “bricklayer” depicted in another of the exhibits was none other than the Italian radio announcer, Giovanni Battista Arista, who was specially attired for the occasion. Moreover, it was established in order to take the picture of a “persecuted clergyman” the cameraman did not go very far... simply to the dei Lucchesi street, in the centre of Rome. It was also disclosed that a photo, distributed elsewhere, of “hungry Soviet children”, had been taken in the village of Acilia, a few kilometres from Rome...

And lastly, “Unita” published a letter by photographer Meldolesi who described in detail how he was requested to take the photos which later were falsified.

Such was the end of one of the foul election stunts of the Christian Democratic Party. Even the reactionary press could not conceal its complete failure.

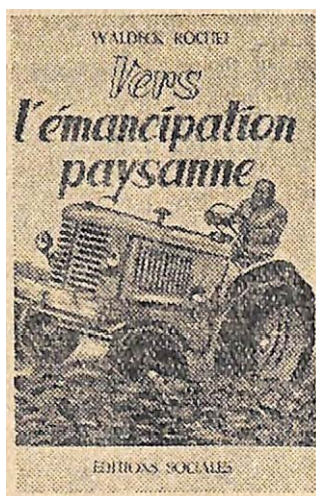
And one can imagine the final scene in the Premier’s office: with eyes fixed on the floor, facing de Gasperi, stand the discredited propagandists of the Christian Democratic Party with Tupini, the sub-secretary, hiding them and the infuriated Prime Minister bawling.

— Gentlemen, you are bad liars!...

Luigi BIANCHI

BOOK REVIEW

Plight and Struggle of Working Peasants in France (Book by Waldeck Rochet “For Emancipation of Peasants”)



The book “For Emancipation of Peasants”*), by Waldeck Rochet, member of the Political. Bureau of the French Communist Party, published in France, describes the processes now taking place in the French countryside. It shows the significance of the peasant movement in France and the role of the Communist Party in the struggle of the peasant masses for their immediate demands, for peace and for social liberation.

*) Waldeck Rocket. “Vers l’émancipation paysanne”. Paris, 1952, 300 pages

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The book opens with a description of the plight of the working peasantry under conditions of modern monopoly capitalism. On the basis of a Marxist analysis of facts taken from life the author vividly describes the intensified process of class differentiation now taking place in the French countryside. A rapid process of ruination and proletarianization of the small peasants is taking place. The author writes that in the course of the past fifty-four years 3,611,438 small and medium farmsteads “disappeared” due to the concentration of land and capital in the hands of a tiny group of big landowners. In some regions small peasant farms have practically disappeared. For instance, four-fifths of the small agricultural producers who 50-60 years ago owned land in the Departments of Aisne, Seine-et-Marne and Somme have joined the ranks of the proletariat. In these Departments the farms ranging from 200 to 600 hectares account for more than nine-tenths of the cultivable land.

Many peasants live in dreadful conditions. “The majority of the peasant dwellings in Brittany, in the heart of France, and in the mountain regions, are in the same state as they were a century ago. Forty-five per cent of the peasant dwellings in Brittany have earthen floors.” Hundreds of thousands of agricultural workers live in barns, threshing sheds, garrets, etc. Working peasants have practically no protection from the consequences of natural calamities and do not get any aid in case of sickness. According to official data the small farms are not only deprived of the possibility of using machines, they are using less and less fertiliser. The steady lowering of incomes and complete lack of any prospect for the marrow force ever-increasing numbers of peasants, especially young peasants, to abandon their plots and to swell the army of unemployed in the towns.

Waldeck Rochet indignantly exposes the utterly false statements of the bourgeois economists and sociologists about the so-called “freedom” of the small peasant. In point of fact this “freedom” is freedom for big landowners and monopolies to exploit him with the aim of extracting maximum profits.

The author discloses the modern technique of exploiting the small peasants by the capitalist state and the monopolies. The purchase price for products, such as wheat, sugar beet, vegetable oil, milk and tobacco is fixed by the capitalist state. The big manufacturers and rings of traders fix extremely low purchasing prices for agricultural products and high monopoly prices for the manufactured goods bought by the peasants. The big food processing firms extract from the working peasants fabulous and ever growing profits, For instance, the “Olida” canned meat firm admitted that it amassed 48 million francs in 1947 and 336 million francs—in 1951.

Waldeck Rochet pillories the defenders of the capitalist system who assert that competition makes it possible to regulate prices for manufactured goods and agricultural products and to secure a level which ensures correct distribution of income between small landowners and manufacturers. “Nothing could be more false than this allegation”, the author writes, “since the isolated small agricultural producers are completely disarmed before the big capitalist trusts”.

The author, on the basis of facts, shows that the “Marshall Plan” and the policy of so-called American “aid” considerably added to the disparity in prices for agricultural products and manufactured goods and intensified the process of impoverishment and ruin of the peasants. For instance, in 1952, five years after this ruinous policy had been imposed on France, prices for manufactured goods rose 4.5-fold with the prices for agricultural products rising only 2.5-fold. Currying favour with the U.S. monopolists the present rulers of France

make the working peasantry together with the urban working people bear the monstrous burden of the constantly growing direct and indirect taxes.

Waldeck Rochet devotes a considerable part of his book to a different path for the toiling peasantry, a path which life itself indicates. This is the path of struggle on the side of the working class, under the leadership of the French Communist Party, for national independence, in defence of freedom and for preserving peace.

In the first phase of this struggle the peasants, relying on the support of the Communist Party, seek to achieve: restoration of the equilibrium between purchase prices for agricultural products and for manufactured goods; defence of individual peasant households by adoption of special measures; benefits for peasant families similar to those enjoyed by other families in accordance with the existing social laws; aid for young peasants who want to set up their own farmsteads and for small and middle peasants for equipment and modernisation of their farmsteads; defence of the fights of tenants and sharecroppers by improving the “status on tenure and sharecropping”; extending to agricultural workers the rights enjoyed by working people in other trades; guarantee of adequate pensions for aged working peasants; introduction of an insurance system against natural disasters and cattle-plague; development of agricultural education by reforming it and making it available to the mass of young peasants; carrying out the plan for improving and developing the countryside.

The staunch struggle of the toiling peasants for these demands, in defence of democratic freedoms, against the occupation of land by the Americans and against the revival of a revanchist “Wehrmacht” in Western Germany shows that they have already taken this path. This is evident, in particular, in the fact that after the national peasant conference in defence of peace, held in November 1952, numerous peasant peace

committees were formed in the countryside.

In the chapter “What the Communists will do on assuming power” Waldeck Rochet exposes the assertion of the enemies that the Communists threaten the property of the toiling peasantry. He explains that wherever the people have put the Communists in power the latter did not take away, but, on the contrary, gave land to those who till it. It was precisely this slogan which constituted the feature of the agrarian programme adopted by the French Communist Party in 1921, later considerably developed and clarified under the leadership of Maurice Thorez and particularly at the XII Party Congress in 1950.

Answering the question as to how agriculture in France will be switched to the socialist road Waldeck Rochet refers to the rich experience of the Soviet Union and the People’s Democracies where the working peasantry, on a completely voluntary basis, chose the pathway of first consumer and later producer co-operation. The author illustrates, by means of clear and concrete examples, that peasants in the Soviet Union are enjoying a better life, are more cultured and happier and that collectivisation has ensured prosperity not simply for individuals but for millions and that the building of Communism now under way opens up before them new and boundless vistas.

Waldeck Rochet contrasts the peace policy of the Soviet Union and the other countries of the peace camp, which ensures maximum satisfaction of the material and cultural requirements of the working people, with the policy of national betrayal, militarisation and arms drive pursued by the French Government which sacrifices the interests of the toiling peasants to the interests of the big landowners and capitalists.

The militant alliance of the worker and peasants under the leadership of the working class—this is the main requisite which will permit realisation of the policy of national

independence and peace and open up before the toiling and all working people in France the bright prospect a happy life. The task of the Communists lies precisely in strengthening this alliance in every way. To achieve this, points out Waldeck Rochet, the Communists must head the peasant movement, join all organisations uniting working peasants in order stubbornly and resolutely to uphold their immediate demands and organise their struggle. "Refusal to work in agricultural organisations," stresses Waldeck Rochet, "means giving freedom of action to the big reactionary landowners, signifies, in fact deserting from the field of battle".

The French Communist Party is sparing no effort to overcome the shortcoming of mass work in the peasant movement, to improve the political work of its rural branches among agricultural workers, small tenants, sharecroppers and smallholders. Hundreds of thousands of toiling peasants support the Party; additional hundreds of thousands, seeking their own path, will tomorrow be won to the side of the path, will tomorrow be won to the side of the great cause for which the Party is battling.

Waldeck Rochet has succeeded in giving a living, truthful picture of French agriculture. From the first to the last page the book is permeated with the idea of the great community of interests linking the working class and the toiling peasantry against their exploiters.

The book "For Emancipation of Peasants", based on the teachings of Marxism-Leninism on the peasant question, is a valuable contribution to the cause of strengthening the alliance of the workers and peasants.

Rene LOUIS

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