

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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BIG VICTORY FOR DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN ITALY

The Italian general election, held on June 7-8, marked a vital phase in the stubborn struggle of the people of Italy for peace, for democracy, for economic and social progress.

The election was a brilliant victory for the democratic forces of the country. At the same time it struck a heavy blow at the reactionary designs and calculations of the ruling clerical clique and at its Right-wing Socialist and other allies.

Nearly 10 million voters, 1,720,000 more than in the general election of April 18, 1948, voted for the candidates of

the democratic parties. The Communist Party polled 6,122,038 votes; the Socialist Party—3,440,222. Between them the Communist and Socialist Parties polled over 35 per cent of the votes and have 218 seats in the Chamber of Deputies, i.e. 35 more than in the previous Parliament. At the same time the Government bloc lost close on 3 million votes and 67 seats, with the Christian Democratic Party forfeiting nearly 2 million votes. Thus, the clericals did not get the overwhelming majority in the Chamber of Deputies they hoped for, and polled less than half the votes.

The system of blackmail, bribery and falsifications, based on the administrative apparatus which is wholly and completely in the hands of the Christian Democratic Party, the religious pressure brought to bear on the electorate, the direct interference by the Vatican, the machinations of the “activists” from the “Catholic Action” and the police outrages—all were powerless before the will of the people. The clearly-expressed will of the people smashed all the obstacles and upset the anti-popular designs of reaction.

What has the election demonstrated?

It has proved first and foremost that the Italian voter is moving away from the parties and the Government which turn a deaf ear to the peace-loving, democratic aspirations of the people and which, with the obstinacy of maniacs, are bursting to aggravate the international tension. The people of Italy insist on an independent Italian policy, a peaceful policy, not in words but in deeds. They demand establishment of friendly relations and co-operation with all the nations of the world. This expression of the popular will has proved that only a government of peace and national independence can count on the broad support of the popular masses in Italy.

The election further proved that the majority of Italian voter scornfully rejected the fraudulent law with the aid of which the Christian Democratic Party calculated on seizing,

without a majority of the votes, the vast majority of the seats in Parliament. The people voted against the dictatorial arbitrary rule of this Party, against the corruption fostered by this Party in all spheres of public life in the country; they voted for democratic freedoms, for respect for the Constitution of the Republic.

Finally, the election proved that in the course of the five years rule of the Christian Democratic Party—the Party of clerical reaction, the Party of the capitalists and landlords—the working people got to know quite well who it is that is responsible for the economic decline, for the growing unemployment and privation suffered by wide masses of people. The worker, peasant, office employee, craftsman and intellectual in voting for the Communist and Socialist Parties voted against poverty, for his right to work, to bread and a decent life, for his inalienable right to take part in the political life of the country.

The attempts of the clericals and their Right-wing Socialist allies to isolate the Left Parties from the popular masses failed ignominiously. Neither the unbridled anti-Communist propaganda, the unrestrained lies, slander and lawlessness on the part of the Christian Democratic Party, nor the pressure of the Vatican and of its widespread apparatus on the masses of the population failed to isolate the communist Party from the people, or halt its onward march. The vicious attacks of the chieftains of the Christian Democratic Party and its political satellites against the Italian Communist Party boomeranged. The voters, who in their millions refused to vote for the government bloc. Gave an instructive lesson to the champions of the “Atlantic policy” and of the anti-Communist hysteria.

In this election the glorious, fighting Communist Party of Italy—flesh and blood of the Italian people—showed once again that its bond with the broad masses of the population are unbreakable, that in the past years these bonds have become

closer and stronger. The election demonstrated with striking force the profound confidence which the working masses of Italy repose in their beloved Communist Party. The Communists have won this profound confidence by years of selfless struggle for the most cherished strivings and aspirations of the people of Italy, for their national independence and freedom.

The Communist Party has won a splendid victory. The millions who voted for it constitute a powerful force. They represent the vast majority of the Italian working class, the politically active working peasantry and the progressive intelligentsia. The Communist Party has won its victory in close co-operation with the Socialist Party, in their joint struggle in defence of the vital demands of the people. The most progressive, healthiest and honest section of the Italian people have rallied around the Communist Party, replenishing it with fresh forces for further struggle for strengthening and extending the unity of the working class and, on this basis, for achieving national unity, for adding to the influence of the Party, for the realisation of its historic tasks of serving the highest interests of the people of Italy.

Through its General Secretary, Palmiro Togliatti, the Italian Communist Party expressed its profound gratitude to the citizens who voted for it:

“All thanks to the workers, to the working people of all categories, to the intelligentsia, to men and women, young and old, who, by their votes, made this big success of ours possible. Our victory is a victory for peace, far democracy, Socialism. Consequently, all honest Italians can congratulate themselves over this victory”.

The Italian Communist Party has registered a big success in its steady march forward, in the struggle for a happy future for the people of Italy. Ahead of it there is a difficult but glorious path along which, in alliance with the growing

Socialist Party and in the van of the working class, it is leading the working people, all the progressive forces of the country towards the triumph of the cause of peace, democracy and Socialism.

Today the banners of the democratic parties in Italy rally millions of Italians; tomorrow their numbers will be much greater, since the interests of the Communist Party are inalienable from the interests of the people, because for it there is nothing higher than service in the interests of the people, because it is the genuine organising, directing and inspiring force of the Italian working class and the working population of Italy.

The Communist and Democratic Parties and the progressive forces of the world wholeheartedly welcome the brilliant victory won by the democratic forces of Italy, the victory of the fraternal Italian Communist Party and wish the militant vanguard of the working- class of Italy further success in the struggle for peace, for independence and a happy future for their homeland.

ITALIAN GENERAL ELECTION

On June 10, under the pressure of public opinion, the Italian Ministry of the Interior, finally announced that none of the parties or bloc of parties had succeeded in getting fifty per cent of the votes in the election for the Chamber of Deputies on June 7-8. Consequently, the fraudulent electoral law which the Christian Democrats manipulated through Parliament has been rejected by the Italian people.

According to official data the votes received by the different parties in the election for the Chamber of Deputies are distributed as follows: the Communist Party polled 6,122,038 (143 Deputies), the Socialist Party—3,440,222 (75 Deputies),

other Left groups—295,095. The Christian Democratic Party polled 10,859,554 votes (262 Deputies), the other parties of the government bloc—2,627,484 (41 Deputies). The Monarchists polled 1,856,661 votes (40 Deputies), the “Italian Social Movement”—1,580,395 (29 Deputies).

Compared with the general election of April 18, 1948 the number of votes polled by the Left parties increased by 1,720,000; the vote of the government parties declined by 2,883,000, the Christian Democrats losing 1,848,000.

In the Senate the seats are distributed as follows: Communist Party—54, Socialist Party—28. Another four senators were ejected on the joint Communist-Socialist list. The Christian Democrats have 116 seats in the Senate, the other parties of the government bloc—9, Monarchists—16 and the “Italian Social Movement”—9.

All honest people in Italy welcome with great joy and enthusiasm the magnificent victory won by the democratic forces. Popular manifestations and festivities were held all over the country.

On June 10 “Unita” featured a leading article by Palmiro Togliatti under the headline: “First Evaluation”. The article reads in part:

“The Italian Communist Party has won a new, tremendous victory, surpassing all expectations.

“The advanced, the healthy and honest section of the Italian people have rallied around us in their majority, casting their votes for our Party.

“Let the reactionary circles, those who lead the Clerical Party and its satellites draw the necessary lessons from this great fact.

“Let the country know that the great might of our Party will, as heretofore, be wholly devoted to the highest interests of our people”.

CONGRESS OF WORKING- CLASS REPRESENTATIVES IN FRANCE

The 29th Congress of the General Confederation of Labour, held in Paris on June 7, was attended by 2,500 delegates from all over the country and from the French colonies. The honorary Presidium of the Congress included Alain Le Leap, General Secretary of the Confederation who is now in prison; Benoit Frachon, General Secretary of the Confederation who is sheltering from police persecution, and other leaders of the democratic organisations.

Amid great enthusiasm the delegates heard a recorded speech by Benoit Frachon. The anti-working class policy of the enemies of the working class, said the General Secretary of the

Confederation, creates for them insurmountable difficulties. They experience one government crisis after another. And during each of these crises their inner contradictions become still sharper. The hatred of these people for the working class and their fear of the working class (the sole thing that unites them) will not save them from the bankruptcy insistently knocking on their doors. To rule contrary to the interests of the people and of the working class with impunity is impossible, concluded Benoit Frachon.

The report on the work of the bureau of the Confederation, read by Gaston Monmousseau, Confederation Secretary, summed up the grave consequences for the working class of the policy of the big bourgeoisie of France. The report also outlined the programme of struggle of the General Confederation of Labour against unemployment and poverty.

Turning to the participation of the trade unions in the struggle for peace, the speaker said: We must approach the organisations of the Confederation of Christian Working People, "Force ouvriere" and of the autonomous trade unions with suggestions for joint action.

The concluding part of the report was devoted to the building up of unity of the working class—a matter to which all activists of the General Confederation of Labour must give all their attention.

On June 8 the delegates heard the text of a report by Alain Le Leap, General Secretary of the Confederation, devoted to defence of peace and the activity of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The Congress also heard a report by Pierre Le Brun, Secretary of the General Confederation of Labour, on economic matters and many speeches by delegates on organisational questions and questions of united struggle by the working people.

CALL OF PEACE SUPPORTERS IN FINLAND TO GOVERNMENT

The “Peace supporters in Finland” organisation addressed a letter to Prime Minister Kekkonen requesting him to back the Appeal of the commission of the Peoples’ Congress for Peace calling for negotiations between the five Great Powers for a Peace Pact. The letter points out that many countries have already responded to the Appeal. The Foreign Ministers of the Northern countries have declared themselves in favour of negotiations between the five Great Powers.

The letter adds that the people of Finland have already expressed their opinion on this question—nearly 850 thousand citizens having affixed their signatures to the Appeal for a Pact of Peace among the five Great Powers.

“PEACE WEEK” IN AUSTRIA

The “Peace Week” now underway in Austria aims at explaining to the broad masses the need for a Pact of Peace between the five Great Powers.

During the “Peace Week” meetings and rallies devoted to the struggle for peace, film shows dealing with the peace movement, mass sports events, peace relays, etc., are being arranged in all districts of Vienna and in many towns and communes throughout the country.

The peace council in Upper Austria addressed a call to the people of the province calling on them actively to take part in the movement for a Five-Power Peace Pact.

STRIKE MOVEMENT IN GREECE

The strike movement in Greece is gaining momentum. Factory and office workers are waging persistent struggle for their rights.

On June 4 the bank clerks declared a 24-hour protest strike against the dismissal of 600 of their fellows. Despite threats and police terror the strike was 100 per cent solid, with 10,000 taking part in it. Trade union officials arrested in connection with the strike were released under pressure of public opinion.

The following day, June 5, saw a successful 24-hour token strike by workers and office employees of the utility enterprise and city transport in Athens and Piraeus for their immediate demands. All the workers and office staff took part in the strike.

On June 9, a 24-hour token general strike took place in Athens and Piraeus.

The trade unions demanded that the Government should throw out the bill nullifying the rights of bank clerks, raise wages for workers and office employees from July 1 and that in future it should effect a monthly wage rise depending on the rise of prices. They also demanded restoration of the law restricting the right of employers to dismiss workers and office employees.

More than 180,000 workers and office employees, that is, 90 per cent of the working people of Athens and Piraeus, took part in the strike. According to the data published by the trade unions the strike brought out 100 per cent of the telephone workers, 99 per cent of the public utility workers and 100 per cent of the tobacco workers. The workers are preparing for a prolonged general strike throughout Greece.

“WAY OPEN TO SOLUTION OF KOREAN QUESTION”

Agreement Signed for Repatriation of Prisoners of War

An agreement for repatriation of prisoners of war was signed in Panmunjom on June 8. Thus the question of repatriation of prisoners of war, which for more than a year constituted the sole obstacle in the way of a Korean armistice, has now been settled.

Both sides agreed to revise the provisions of Paragraph 51 of the draft of the armistice agreement concerning the prisoners

of war to be directly repatriated and to transfer the question of all the remaining war prisoners, not due for direct repatriation, to a repatriation commission of neutral nations.

The agreement says: "In order to ensure that all prisoners of war have the opportunity to exercise their right to be repatriated following all armistice, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and India shall each be requested by both sides to appoint a member to a neutral nation repatriation commission which shall be established to take custody of those prisoners of war who, while in the custody of the detaining powers, have not exercised their right to be repatriated". The agreement stipulates that after those prisoners of war who have not exercised their right to repatriation have been turned over to the custody of the neutral commission, the nations to which the prisoners of war belong, shall, within 90 days, have freedom and facilities to send representatives to the locations where the prisoners are detained for the purpose of acquainting them with their rights and of informing them of any matter relating to their return to their homelands and, particularly, of their full freedom to return home to a peaceful life. Upon expiry of the 90 days the question of the future fate of the prisoners who have not exercised their right to repatriation shall be submitted for a solution to a political conference.

The signing of the agreement for the repatriation of the prisoners of war evoked a widespread response and wholehearted support all over the world. Progressive public opinion evaluated this agreement as a success for the cause of peace, as a vital step along the pathway of a peaceful settlement of international questions. The signing of this agreement was made possible by the sincere striving of the Korean People's Democratic Republic and the Chinese People's Republic to end the war in Korea and for a settlement of the problem by means of negotiations; it was the result also of the consistent peaceloving policy of the Soviet Union; it is a

victory for the entire international camp of peace, the camp which steadfastly and consistently demands an end to the bloodshed in Korea and an early settlement of the Korean question. Now that the question of the repatriation of the prisoners of war has been decided world public opinion awaits the completion of the negotiations and the establishment of peace in Korea.

The Polish newspaper "Glos Pracy" writes: "The negotiations begun nearly two years ago on the initiative of the Soviet Government must end now in what is the fervent desire of all mankind, i.e., in peace.

"The outcome of these negotiations is a big victory which confirms the truth propounded by the land of Soviets that there is not a single controversial question which cannot be solved by peaceful means".

In the pronouncements made by various statesmen and organs of the press it is stressed that now that agreement has been reached for repatriation of prisoners of war there is no reason why the war in Korea should not be ended. Churchill, British Prime Minister, stated in the House of Commons that nothing must now stand in the way of signing an armistice agreement except the necessary administrative agreements which he hoped would be concluded shortly. Nehru, Prime Minister of India, said at a press-conference in London: We can firmly hope for the signing of an armistice in Korea following the signing of the agreement for repatriation of the prisoners of war.

At the same time the prospects of an early truce in Korea are giving rise to confusion among some reactionary circles and above all among those in the United States who regard the war in Korea as a means for amassing huge profits. The New York Stock Exchange reacted to the signing of the prisoner of war repatriation agreement with a big drop in shares. On June 9 shares slumped 2.4 billion dollars, while the average price hit

the lowest since last October. Stock of many companies dropped more than two-three dollar a share.

Many democratic press organs, while wholeheartedly approving and welcoming the signing of the prisoner of war repatriation agreement, urge all peace fighters to be vigilant, not to slacken their efforts to complete settlement of the Korean question by means of negotiations, for peaceful settlement of international problems.

“Jenminjihpao”, newspaper of the Chinese People’s Republic, featured a leading article headed: “Way open to peaceful solution of Korean question”. “The signing of this agreement”, the article says, “has brought nearer the end of the war in Korea and has opened the way for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. Consequently, the signing of this agreement is, undoubtedly, in present international life, an event of paramount significance”. The newspaper points out that the agreement “correspond to the basis initially advanced by the Korean-Chinese side for negotiations”.

Drawing attention to the fact that the Syngman Rhee clique is on record as opposing this agreement, the newspaper points out: it should be clear to all that the main thing in regard to the repatriation of the prisoners of war is whether the American side will, in earnest, observe the terms of the agreement and whether it removes the threat of forcible detention of the prisoners of war... All who ardently desire a peaceful solution of the Korean question must be vigilant.

THE WOMEN'S WORLD CONGRESS

The Women's World Congress, held in Copenhagen on June 5-11, was attended by 800-odd delegates and more than 1,000 guests.

The Congress approved the following agenda: 1. Tasks of the women in the fight to win and maintain the rights of women as mothers, workers and citizens; 2. The results and prospects for women's action in defence of peace and the interests of women and children; 3. Election of leadership of the Women's International Democratic Federation.

The report on the first item of the agenda was delivered by Mme Andrea Andreen (Sweden).

"We, women", Mme Andrea Andreen said, "represent one half of mankind and we know from our experience that we are worthy of equal rights".

Citing numerous facts the speaker described the situation in the capitalist countries where millions and millions of women have no rights whatever. She told the Congress of the discrimination against women in the capitalist countries in relation to the right to work, to remuneration for labour, to education and civic rights, and spoke about the repressions to which the rulers of these countries resort against women who are defending their rights.

The preparation for war and arising from this the soaring cost of living, taxes, rent and unemployment—all are a heavy burden on working women .

The speaker contrasted the conditions of women in the capitalist and colonial countries with the conditions enjoyed by women in the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy engaged in peaceful creative labour.

The task of our Congress, said Andrea Andreen in

conclusion, is to work out, on the basis of a free exchange of views, a common solution to the question as to what should be done in order to secure equality for women in all countries.

Together with all peace-loving women and men striving for progress we must intensify the struggle against encroachments on democracy, against the bans imposed on women's and other organisations championing the right to a better life, against all the repressions and arrests of people active in the women's movement.

Delegates from a number of countries spoke in the discussion which followed the report. Those from the U.S.S.R., China and the People's Democracies told the Congress of the happy life of women in their countries where they are equal members of society in all spheres of life: economic, political and cultural, while representatives from the capitalist and colonial countries spoke about the arduous conditions of women in their countries, their lack of rights and described their stubborn struggle for their rights, democracy and peace.

The report on the second item: "The results and prospects for women's action in defence of peace and the interests of women and children" was delivered by Mme Eugenie Cotton.

Eugenie Cotton pointed out that in addition to the struggle for their rights the women of the world are faced with other extremely important tasks: the struggle for the preservation of peace and in defence of children, for better conditions and for bringing up the children in the spirit of democracy.

Eugenie Cotton, on the basis of facts, drew a vivid picture of the struggle waged by women in different countries for the cause of peace, against the wars now in progress and, in particular, against the war in Korea and for the signing of a Peace Pact between the five Great Powers. In their fight for national independence and peace the women of the world are inspired by the example and friendship of the Soviet women who are making a great contribution to the defence of peace.

Eugenie Cotton stressed that unity is a vital prerequisite in the struggle for the rights of women, for the security of the children and for establishing peace. Never before, she said, have the possibilities for establishing peace been so great as today.

Turning to the tasks of the international women's movement Eugenie Cotton said: We must strive for the signing, on a just basis, of a truce and for ending the war in Korea. We must take resolute action for a peaceful settlement of the German problem by means of negotiations between the four Great Powers, conducted in the spirit of respect for the Potsdam agreement. The idea of signing a Pact of Peace between the five Great Powers, which would consolidate peace and open up broad, vistas for co-operation among the nations, is near and dear to the hearts of millions of men and women. The duty of all women is to fight for a Pact of Peace, for the banning of atomic and bacteriological weapons and other weapons of mass annihilation. One of the main tasks of women is the fight for the national independence of their countries.

Peace can be consolidated by means of establishing friendly co-operation in the economic and cultural spheres among the peoples. We, women, must strive for co-operation and friendship among all nations irrespective of the system under which they live. By strengthening our unity we shall achieve further success.

Eugenie Cotton's report was followed by lively discussion in which representatives of many countries took part.

In her speech N. Popova, on behalf of Soviet women, said: The peoples of all countries are more and more resolutely taking action against the war danger and are demanding a peaceful settlement of the unsolved international problems. The Soviet Government recently demonstrated once more its peaceful aspirations aimed at easing the tension in international relations. Expressing the will of all our people the Government

of the U.S.S.R. responding to the Peoples' Peace Congress Appeal, declared its readiness to co-operate with the governments of other states in the matter of realising the noble aims of consolidating world peace and international security. The Soviet people have always adhered and adhere now to the view that every nation has the right to a free and independent existence.

The Soviet delegation, N. Popova went on, supports the proposal to address the women of the world with a call to intensify their struggle for a higher standard of living for working women, for settlement of all controversial and outstanding international problems by means of negotiations, for an end to the arms drive, for close economic and cultural co-operation and friendship among the nations.

Chiang Yung, delegate from the Chinese People's Republic, told the Congress of the achievements of the Chinese people in economic, political and cultural life and of the tremendous role now being played by the women of free China. The Chinese people and Chinese women, treasure peace, Chian Yung said. The most fervent desire of our people is to work in peace, to build up our own flowering, beautiful country and to contribute to the cause of improving the well-being of all mankind... Together with all peace-laying women in the world we demand negotiations, and not force. This is the main principle for the preservation of world peace.

ON PATHWAY OF SOCIALIST RECONSTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURE IN POLAND. E. Pszczolkowski, Secretary, Central Committee, Polish United Workers' Party

The development of the agricultural producer co-operatives in Poland has been gaining in scale ever since the VII Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party held in June 1952. At this Plenum Comrade Bierut, analysing the development of the producer co-operatives, stressed the need for intensified political work among the working peasants, for still more resolute struggle against the hostile actions of the kulaks and their accomplices and emphasised that, on the one hand, the Central Committee is not in agreement with applying administrative pressure and, on the other hand, does not want to await spontaneous processes, does not and will not tolerate spontaneity in any sphere of Party tasks.

While carrying out the directives of the VII Plenum the Party organisations unfolded mass political work on a broad scale in the countryside, enriched the forms of propaganda and agitation and got rid of the opportunist underestimation observed in some spheres of the work in relation to the producer co-operatives.

The struggle for the development of the producer co-operatives, in the course of which the class contradictions in the countryside manifest themselves most clearly, is indissolubly linked with the entire front of political work in the

countryside. The wide-scale political work accompanying the struggle for strengthening the economic bonds between town and country, for stabilising the system of obligatory deliveries of agricultural products to the state, for carrying out the decision adopted by the Government in January 1953 providing for price regulation, raising wages, abolition of rationing and free sale of surplus agricultural products after fulfilment by the peasants or their obligatory deliveries—all contributed in a big way to bridling the speculator elements in the country and to isolating the kulaks.

The Sejm election campaign in the autumn of 1952, in the course of which millions discussed at tens of thousands of election meetings the Programme of the National Front and the prospects for the economic and cultural flowering of our country, and openly criticised the shortcomings, led to a tremendous growth in the political consciousness of the broad masses of the working people and strengthened the prestige and leading role of the working class and the Polish United Workers Party, strengthened the bonds between the Party and the non-party masses.

All this, in the aggregate, ensured favourable conditions for political work and for the further development and consolidation of the producer co-operatives.

I.

A tremendous role in the development of the producer co-operatives was played by the striking example of the prospering agricultural co-operatives and by the popularisation of the tremendous achievements of the collective farms in the U.S.S.R.

The vast majority of producer co-operatives in Poland gives daily proof of the superiority of collective farming over individual farming, shows that collective farming is more

advantageous than individual farming, that it ensures a rapid growth in the well-being of the members of the co-operatives.

The average yield of the four main crops in 1952 in the producer co-operatives of Poland was 8 per cent higher than in the previous year and 19 per cent higher than the yield of the individual peasants. Hundreds of producer co-operatives had yields 30-50 per cent higher than individual peasants.

Big headway has been made in animal husbandry. For instance, the head of publicly-owned cattle per 100 hectares grew in 1952 by 40 per cent; the head of hogs, 53 per cent in the co-operatives of the second type; the head of cattle in the co-operatives of the third type by 72 per cent while the number of sows rose 2.5 times.

During the past two years the co-operatives built or repaired a total of 7,000 farm buildings establishing a base for the further development of their farms and animal husbandry in particular. The share of the co-operatives in capital investments rose more than twofold compared with 1951. The growth of investments for capital construction was due not only to the higher incomes but also to the more correct distribution of incomes, with a higher percentage earmarked for capital investment.

The increased crop yields and the growth in the co-operatives' share in supplying the State with technical crops and the development of animal husbandry—all led to a further substantial growth in the incomes of the co-operative members.

A big role in the development of many of the leading producer co-operative was played by the visits to the U.S.S.R. of chairmen and members of the boards of the producer co-operatives. The rich experience of the Soviet collective farms is used for improving organisation of labour and introducing advanced agro-technical methods. The tremendous achievements of the Soviet collective farmers inspire our peasants and encourage them to follow their splendid example.

Speaking at the First National Congress of the members of the producer co-operatives Josef Kopec, chairman of 3 producer co-operative in the village of Wionczemin (Warsaw Region), concluded by describing his visit to the Soviet collective farms: "After returning from the Soviet Union", he said, "I talked in detail with my neighbours about the well-to-do and cultured life of the people in the Soviet countryside. I brought back with me the answers to the questions raised by the villagers before my departure. A co-operative was formed in our village shortly after my return from the Soviet Union. And if today, after three years of collective farming, our co-operative has grown tremendously, has gained in strength and can be proud of quite considerable achievements, this is because we are following the splendid, inspiring example of our Soviet brothers—the collective farmers. We shall do all in our power to ensure that our entire countryside rapidly reaches the level of the countryside of the most advanced country in the world—the Soviet Union".

The people's councils, the Party and public organisations have carried out much political and organising work among the peasant masses, popularising the achievements of the producer co-operatives. Last summer mass excursions were arranged which enabled 10 thousand individual peasants to see the producer co-operatives. The excursionists also visited big industrial enterprises and construction sites of the Six-Year Plan. These excursions enabled many individual peasants to see for themselves what the life in the producer co-operatives really looks like, to see how yields are increased and animal husbandry developed and how all this leads to a higher standard of life for the members of the producer co-operatives. They helped many hesitant peasants to see through the falsehoods, through the absurdity and foulness of the kulak slanders in relation to the producer co-operatives.

The practice of inviting individual peasants to the meetings

at which the members of the producer co-operatives discuss distribution of the income is now widespread. It has enabled the individual peasants to see deeply into the life of the co-operatives, to see for themselves that the biggest incomes go to those who work better, while loafers and idlers get only what they really deserve.

Acquainting the individual peasants directly with life in the producer co-operatives helps in overcoming their hesitancy and leads many of them to the co-operatives. The period of the annual meetings of the co-operatives, when the members sum up the results of the year's work, has become a period of mass entry into the co-operatives by new members on an entirely voluntary basis.

II.

Carrying out the directives of the VII Plenum of the Central Committee, the Party organisations are using varied forms of propaganda and mass-political work. Among the more widespread forms note should be taken of the district and regional congresses of youth and women activists from among the individual peasantry and co-operative members; the county conferences of rural activists; conferences of village teachers; meetings of people's councils at which the further development of the producer co-operative is discussed; discussion in the rural Party organisations of the co-operative Rules; the inclusion in the curriculum of Party study of subjects ensuring a better understanding of matters affecting the co-operatives, etc.

The Party organisations are becoming more and more conscious of the need to intensify political work among those factory workers who have small plots in the countryside, so that they take a more active part in the political, public and economic life in their villages. For this purpose many factory

organisations of the Party hold special meetings for those worker living in the countryside in order to discuss with them and to raise with them matters affecting the development of the producer co-operatives. The Party committees in the big enterprises in the Koletsk region organise visits by their activists to the countryside where they take part in these meetings. Thanks to this work the first producer co-operatives were formed in 1952, often by the wives of the workers residing in the countryside.

In propagating collectivist ideas an ever bigger role is played by the growing number of activists in the producer co-operatives. Thousands of co-operators—men and women—have become good agitators for producer' co-operation. They popularise the achievements of their co-operatives among the peasants in the neighbouring villages, explain to individual peasants the Rules of the producer co-operatives and speak at peasants' meetings.

The growing consciousness and activity of the working peasants, the higher level of the mass-explanatory and educational work in the countryside, the better political leadership of the producer co-operatives by the Party organisations, the enormous and constantly growing influence exerted on the individual peasants by the achievements of the producer co-operatives—all have contributed to the fact that the development of co-operation, in conditions of sharp struggle against the kulaks, is steadily gaining momentum.

In the space of the second half of 1952, for example, the number of producer co-operatives grew from 3,300 to 4,900; during the first four months of this year their number rose by another 2,400 and by May the total number of producer co-operatives was 7,300. Thus, the number of producer co-operatives in Poland more than doubled in less than one year. They unite 146,500 peasant households and have a total of 1,280,000 hectares.

A distinguishing feature of the development of producer co-operatives in the recent period is the fact that their numbers are increasing also in those counties in which there had been a big lag in this respect. For example, the number of cooperatives in the Lublin county grew during the past four months from 193 to 550 and in the Cracow county from 103 to 230. Gratifying too is the fact that the campaign methods have been largely eliminated, and that new co-operatives were formed in the first few months of the present year.

III.

Producer co-operative development in Poland has a powerful base—the steadily growing number of state machine and tractor stations equipped with an ever increasing number of tractors and other agricultural machines. The number of state machine and tractor stations grew from 297, in the middle of 1952, to 375 at the present moment. They have 15 thousand tractors (in terms of 15 h. p.) and over 50 thousand machines and implements.

During the spring sowing the state machine and tractor stations worked much better than they did last year—a development which enabled the producer co-operatives considerably to cut the time needed for field work. By May 10 the state machine and tractor stations had performed twice as much work in the producer co-operatives compared with the corresponding period for the previous year.

The political role of the state machine and tractor stations has grown significantly. The narrow economic approach hitherto displayed in realising their production plans has been overcome to a considerable degree. The co-operation between the tractor teams and producer co-operative work-teams “has become closer. The role of the state machine and tractor stations in developing the socialist emulation has become more

pronounced. The leadership of the stations and their personnel are becoming more and more conscious that the results of their labour should be measured not only by the fulfilment of their own plans but in equal degree by the economic achievements of the producer co-operatives served by them.

The development of the producer co-operatives in Poland is taking place on the basis of the industrialisation of the country, on the basis of a steady growth in output of tractors, trucks, modern agricultural machines and implements which were not produced in Poland before the war.

The educational establishments in people's Poland are training more and more agronomists, zoo-technicians, mechanics, tractor-drivers and other specialists required for the socialist reconstruction of the country.

The formation of new producer co-operatives must not lead to the weakening of those already functioning. The principle "not a single bad co-operative" is being taken up more and more by the Party organisations and people's councils.

Some of the producer co-operatives, especially those which have been functioning for the past two or three years, have achieved considerable success—high yields of 30 and more centners to the hectare, a substantial advance in animal husbandry and in introducing technical crops, all of which have resulted in a high level of well-being for their members. However, in some of the leading co-operatives there is a tendency to rest satisfied with the results achieved, to rest on their laurels. Sometimes they display a tendency to shut themselves up in their own shells, and a reluctance to admit new members. The Party organisations and people's councils must explain the incorrectness of these tendencies, must help the co-operatives to establish plans for the future, point out to them the splendid perspectives for development and mobilise them for realisation of new and greater tasks, so that they maintain their steady progress, serve as examples demonstrating

the superiority of collective farming and help the co-operatives that are lagging.

The growth of the producer co-operatives confronts the Party committees and the people's councils with new, more responsible tasks, demands from them improved style of work, correct distribution of functions between Party committees and people's councils and skilful leadership of the state machine and tractor stations.

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The first National Congress of the producer co-operatives, which took place in February, this year, was convened for the purpose of discussing the growing problems arising from the development of the producer co-operatives, of defining the next tasks in the sphere of consolidating the existing co-operatives and forming new ones, and also for the purpose of comparing results and exchanging experience.

Some 2,400 co-operative members were present at the Congress together with several hundred guests—activists from the machine and tractor stations and people's councils, scientific personnel from the higher educational establishments catering for agriculture, from research institutes and public and state figures and individual working peasants.

The Congress demonstrated the enormous achievements, the strength and vitality of the producer co-operatives in Poland. It met with a wide response not only among the co-operative members but also among the broad masses of individual working peasants and revealed the profound change in the attitude of the working peasants towards the producer co-operative.

The Congress was not only a striking demonstration of economic achievements, it was, in addition, splendid testimony to the great changes now taking place among the people

building the new life in the countryside, to the rapid growth of their political consciousness and activity.

The speeches made at the Congress were permeated with the firm conviction that the cause of developing the producer co-operatives, the cause of building the new bright, and happy life, is indivisibly linked with the fight for peace, with the need for ever sharper vigilance in relation to the enemy, who does not scruple at any means so long as it injures our socialist construction and hinders our advance.

The resolutions adopted by the Congress, which enhance the significance of the Rules of the co-operatives, indicate the main tasks in the matter of organisational and economic strengthening of the co-operatives, in cultural-educational work, and also the request of the Congress to the Government urging the formation of a producer co-operative council, will, undoubtedly, lead to the further strengthening and advance of producer co-operation in Poland.

IN COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES

V. I. Lenin's "Materialism And Empirio-Criticism" In Greek Translation

The Publishing House of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece has put out Volume XIV of V. I. Lenin's Works containing his brilliant philosophical work "Materialism and Empirio-Criticism". It appears in Greek translation for the first time.

Volume IX OF J. V. Stalin's Works In German Translation

The "Dietz", Publishing House of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, has put out Volume IX of J. V. Stalin's Works in the German translation. The translation from the Russian edition was prepared by the Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin Institute of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

Without Good Knowledge Of Cadres There Can Be No Correct Selection

“Mundo Obrero” on Need to Know Cadres in Communist Party of Spain

The leadership of the Communist Party of Spain have stressed more than once the enormous significance of the directives of the classics of Marxism-Leninism for the Spanish Communists that correct selection of cadres is one of the basic principles of the organisational work of the Party.

Nevertheless incorrect selection and allocation of cadres still persists in some organisations of the Party which, as pointed out by the underground “Mundo Obrero”, organ of the Central Committee of the Party is one of the main shortcomings reacting negatively on the entire life and work of the Party.

The main reason for this is that not everywhere do the leading functionaries make a thorough study of the cadres. “Mundo Obrero” stresses: When certain leading comrades are asked as to the time when one or another comrade joined the Party, where he was and what he did at such and such a time, or about his capabilities or experience, etc., they are unable to give a clear and definite answer. In order to know the cadres and be able to appraise them according to their merits, and to employ them in a way that they may be of maximum use to the Party, it is necessary to study them directly at work, to know their past and their present, their merits and demerits, to take into account their abilities and to determine what can be

expected of them in the future.

Correct selection and correct utilisation of cadres are necessary in order to broaden and activate the entire work of the Party.

New Zealand Communists Criticise Their Shortcomings

In recent years the Communist Party of New Zealand has made much headway in extending its contact with the masses and in leading the struggle of the working people for their vital interests, for peace. However in some of its organisations there is a tendency to isolate themselves from the factories, not to come out openly before the masses with the Party's position. This incorrect tendency is now being widely criticised both in the leadership of the Party and at the district conferences. In a statement to the recent meeting of the Political Committee Bruce Skilton, Organising Secretary, characterised this tendency as a form of Right opportunism.

The danger of this tendency, he said, is that it "leads to a weakening of the united front and of the people's movement". "The direct and open leadership of mass work by the Party", stressed Skilton, "is of great importance for the development of the broader mass movement itself".

The Political Committee called upon all Party members fully to realise the importance of consistently acquainting the working people with the stand of the Party on all issues. The Committee drew particular attention to the need for intensified work in the factories. A number of concrete measures were taken to ensure better mass work by the Party organisations and correct allocation of cadres to ensure leadership to this work.

For High Level Of Party Propaganda

Decision Of Political Secretariat, Central Committee, Communist Party Of Czechoslovakia, Concerning Party Study In 1953-54 Academic Year

The Political Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia has adopted the text of a decision concerning study in the Party educational network during the 1953-54 academic year.

The decision points to the great significance for building Socialism in the country of the materials of the XIX Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, J. V. Stalin's "Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R." and also the materials of the National Conference and the new Rule of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, which were studied during the academic year now drawing to a close. As a result of the study of these materials the political activity of the Party members and the Party organisations grew, the ideological, organisational and political unity of the Party was further strengthened.

However, the decision points out, serious shortcomings were observed in the 1952-53 study year. Some Party organisations have not yet grasped the significance and importance of Party education, underestimate the significance of ideological work, of training members and non-members. The decision points out that the agitation department of the Central Committee and the regional and district committees

displayed insufficient care for raising the ideological level, for a live and militant spirit in the propaganda. “Rude Pravo” and “Pravda”, central organs of the Party, featured more articles on ideological subjects but they did not help the Party organisations and tutors to exchange experience of work.

The most serious shortcomings are manifested in the study of the new Party Rules.

The main thing arising from study of the Rules, says the decision, is the need to translate them into life. But not all Party members understood their tasks in this way. Some comrades mastered the separate articles but they do not use them as a guide in their work. A big failing of the Party propaganda is that so far it has not sufficiently acquainted the working people with the rich experience of the C.P.S.U. and the Soviet State in all spheres of Party-political and economic activity. Also the serious gaps in the the knowledge of Party members in the sphere of political economy must be eliminated.

The decision of the Political Secretariat outlines ways and means for raising the level of the Marxist-Leninist training of the Party membership; it shows how tutors should be selected for the system of Party education, stressing that the activists and leading workers must be drawn into the Party propaganda work.

The new academic year in the Party educational network begins on October 15 and will be as follows: basic courses for political study, classes for the history of the C.P.S.U., classes for studying political economy and problems of the national economy, district evening schools of Marxism-Leninism and independent study by Party members of the theory of Marxism-Leninism. Together with the Party members and probationers non-party people will also study in the basic courses, in the two type of classes and also in the evening universities of Marxism-Leninism, which will function in four cities.

Preparation Determined Success Of Party Meeting

Experience Of Holding Party Meeting In Bucharest December 21st Works

The district committees of the Rumanian Workers' Party are focusing attention on correctly preparing and holding branch meetings. Recently this was the subject of a seminar for secretaries of the factory branches, held under the auspices of the district committee in the August 23rd district in Bucharest. As a result, the branch meetings in the enterprises in this district and particularly in the December 21st metal processing works, are now conducted at a higher level.

Getting ready to discuss the question of fulfilling the state plan in the factory the bureau of the Party organisation in the December 21st plant asked the manager to give a report on the fulfilment of the plan for the month of April and on the output goals for May. Having studied the report the Party bureau supplemented it with suggestions for more political and organising work by the Party members, aimed at ensuring uninterrupted fulfilment of production targets.

The agenda was announced a few days before the date set for meeting. In addition, members of the bureau personally discussed the main points of the report with the Party members. The bureau also invited to the meeting non-party engineers, technicians and stakhanovites whose thorough knowledge of production matters are invaluable for the Party organisation.

In his report the manager, in addition to stressing the positive experience, dwelt on a number of shortcomings

encountered during the work for fulfilling the plan. He drew attention, in particular, to the insufficient care given to quality, to the hours wasted when machines are idle, poor registering of the socialist emulation results, etc. He also outlined concrete measures for eliminating these shortcomings.

Eleven Party members and four non-Party workers took part in the discussion. They criticised the bureau and the manager for lack of initiative and for not being sufficiently operative in tackling a number of production questions; they also put forward questions of their own.

The resolution adopted by the meeting took these suggestions into account and particularly the suggestion that three excellent quality youth teams should be formed.

The carrying out of this decision resulted in the May plan being fulfilled 102 per cent, despite the fact that in this same month the plant began production of new items.

Nicolae RIZEA

**Deputy Head of Party, Trade Union and youth Organs
Department, Bucharest City Committee, Rumanian
Workers' Party**

Work Of Mexican Communists in Trade Unions

Recently the Political Commission of the Mexican Communist Party thoroughly and critically analysed the work of the Party members in the trade unions. The Commission came to the conclusion that the political line of the Party was not being carried out by Party members in trade union work. Responsibility for this rests with the Central Committee of the Party and in the first place with the Political Commission itself.

The Political Commission, said Comrade J. Encarnacion

Valdez, Organising Secretary of the Party did not help the Party to link up with the broad working masses of the country, did not ensure the carrying out of the main tasks of Party policy in the trade unions: the establishment of unity of action and organisational unity of the Mexican proletariat in the struggle for its class interests. Due to isolation of many of its organisations from the working class the Party failed to overcome its organisational weakness.

It was decided to effect a radical change in the work of the communists in the trade unions so that the Party will be able better to play its role of leader of the working class, so that the Communists have a clear idea about carrying out the political line of the Party, of doing away with the sectarianism which cuts off the Party from the working masses. The Political Commission called on all Communists to strive for unity of action of the working class.

“Volksstimme” Activists

Experiences Of District Committee Of Communist Party Of Austria In Building Circulation For Party Press

This is not the first year that we have been waging struggle for ousting the pres—hostile to the proletariat—from workers’ homes in Stadlau, one of the biggest working-class districts in Vienna, and to get the biggest possible circulation for “Volksstimme”, the central organ of our Party.

Experience has convinced us that this task can be solved only by mobilising volunteer activists, sufficiently mature politically, who can discuss the different political issues with the people to whom they offer the paper, and enlighten and convince these people. Our “Volksstimme” activists include a

considerable number of leading Party functionaries and branch activists. Every Sunday for the past few years many of them have been making door-to-door visits in working class districts, winning an increasing number of readers for our paper.

Once a month (and also on special occasions) we practice Sunday circulation days for which we try to rally all our leading functionaries and activists. On these Sundays our aim is to cover every single apartment by a “Volksstimme” activist. In some of the regional organisations of the Party this aim has already been achieved.

There are approximately 20,000 families in our district of which 2,000 are permanent subscribers to “Volksstimme”. With the help of our activists we sell on some Sundays an extra 4,000 copies. In this way nearly every third family gets the paper.

It goes without saying that our regular Sunday press drives are a source of worry to the Right-wing Socialists. They admit in their newspapers that they cannot organise anything of the kind since they are short of people. What they do is this: Frequently leading functionaries of the Socialist Party call on members of their organisations and people who in one way or another are dependent on them (for jobs, houses, etc.) and insist that they refuse to open their doors to “Volksstimme” activists. In some places the Right-wing Socialists have actually installed an “alert system” which gives warning of the arrival of the “Volksstimme” activists, and, by hook or by crook, try to prevent them from delivering the paper to the working people.

Our perseverance and patience have been rewarded with definite success. In Neu-Srassäcker, a Vienna suburb, where the influence of the Socialist Party prevailed, “Volksstimme” activists worked hard and perseveringly. For instance, they collected all the copies read by subscribers and circulated them among non-readers. Later they again called on these people,

asked for their views about the paper, listened to their criticisms, etc. In the course of these discussions serious agitation and political work was carried out, the number of subscribers in the district grew and many who were opponents of the paper are new friends.

Similar methods are practised by the Party branches in the factories. In those factories where there are no Party organisation we endeavour to circulate the paper through the medium of the branch activists in other enterprises and by the corresponding territorial branches.

A number of shortcomings persist in our press circulation work which must be overcome. The number of activists is inadequate. In some places press canvassing is carried out without corresponding political work. Our activists do not always display the necessary perseverance in their activity among Socialist workers. As a result, the contact which we succeed in establishing with them in some places eventually tapers off.

Our biggest weakness is that the work of building circulation is frequently carried out in the form of "campaigns". Having won marked success we later often lose numbers of the newly won readers. We are making every effort to overcome this shortcoming and to carry on the work persistently and perseveringly.

Josef HAUSNER

**Leader of the Stadlau (Vienna) Organisation,
Communist Party of Austria**

IN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Care For Development Of National Minorities

During the two years that have passed since the liberation of Tibet, the residents of this part of the Chinese People's Republic have received considerable help in land reclamation and in the matter of developing crop cultivation and animal husbandry. Classes have been organised to acquaint farmers and stockbreeders with the advanced methods of cultivation and cattle raising. The state banks have allocated big credits for developing local industry and trade. A large number of primary schools has been opened in which children are taught in their own language. In all the major towns and settlements, which in the past lacked skilled medical help, there are now hospitals and clinics. Another large team of medical workers recently left Chungking for Tibet.

Other nationalities and peoples are also accorded considerable help. Eighty-two permanent and mobile primary schools are functioning for the children of nomads in Northwest China who prior to the liberation had no schools whatever.

The Communist Party and the People's Government are taking care to ensure that all the nationalities inhabiting the country develop their statehood. Autonomous regional people's governments are now being formed in Northern China for the Hui nationality numbering 5,000,000. This nationality now has every opportunity for getting an education in their own language. One hundred and four national schools are functioning in Ningsia province compared with the 14 at the

time of the Kuomintang. In Hopei and Shantung provinces secondary schools have been opened for children of the Hui people.

The more than 60,000 people belonging to the Chuang, Miao, Yao and other nationalities dwelling in Kwangsi province have enjoyed the benefits of the free medical treatment since January 1952. Medical personnel is now being trained from among the minority peoples. Thanks to the development of public health services many diseases previously widespread have been eliminated. In the Miao area the incidence of malaria has dropped from 28 to 1.3 per cent.

This summer thousands of young specialists will graduate the special national minority institutes.

Considerable work is underway in the sphere of translating books devoted to belles lettres and other subjects into the languages of the different nationalities and peoples: Over 120,000 copies of books translated into the Uighur, Kazakh and other languages were sold in Tihua (Sinkiang province) during the first three months of this year. They included the biography of Comrade Stalin, selected works of Comrade Mao Tse-tung, and many more books by Chinese and Soviet writers, etc.

Catering For Cultural Needs Of Construction Workers

Films, theatre shows and special radio programmes are provided for the building workers on all the major construction sites in Northeast China.

In Mukden, a newly-formed committee of artists, writers, librarians and radio broadcasters directs the work of catering for the cultural requirements of the building workers in the North-East. Together with organising performances by artists and readings by writers the committee helps the workers in

forming clubs and dramatic groups. Many artists and writers direct the amateur art activities.

Construction sites have their own libraries. The local libraries in Mukden and in other towns in the North-East have collected for the building sites 21,000 books devoted to belles lettres and technical subjects. The Harbin municipal library has sent 5,000 books to the sites.

Summer Vacation For Working People

Hundreds of thousands of working people in China are spending summer holidays in sanatoria and rest homes situated in the most picturesque parts of the country. Especially popular during the summer vacation are the seaside sanatoria. Some 50,000 factory and office workers and students will spend their vacation in Peitaiho, the well-known resort in Pohai Bay (Northeastern part of Hopei province). The working people have at their disposal there over forty first-class sanatoria. The first groups of leading workers from Peking and Tientsin are already holidaying at Peitaiho. A sum 20 times greater than the amount spent last year is earmarked for the further development of this resort.

Construction is underway of the first sanatorium for the workers of Sinkiang province. The Trade Union Council in Sinkiang is spending nearly 5,000 million yuan on this project. The sanatorium will have its own club, library and sports grounds.



The People's Government of China takes great interest in holiday facilities for the working people. Photo: Group of workers from East China on holiday in sanatorium on one of the islands in Lake Tai.

The People's Government of China takes great interest in holiday facilities for the working people. Photo: Group of workers from East China on holiday in sanatorium on one of the islands in Lake Tai

FOR FURTHER SUCCESS IN WORK OF FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY IN COUNTRYSIDE. Waldeck Rocket, Member, Political Bureau, French Communist Party

The results of the recent municipal elections in France showed that on the whole, taking into account the uneven results, our Party maintained and strengthened its positions among the peasantry. This signifies a big success, considering the tremendous efforts of the enemy to weaken the Party's positions in the countryside.

The Communist Party has consolidated its positions and has won over to its side new electors in those places where, long before the elections, on a broad scale and systematically, the Party organisations explained our policy to the peasant masses.

On the other hand a weakening of the Party positions was observed in the places where Party work was slack. If, in spite of the favourable conditions, we did not win a bigger vote for the Party and if here and there the Party positions were weakened, the reason will be found in two main shortcomings: firstly, we have not rooted out the disregard entertained by some Party leaders and at times scorn for work among peasants; secondly, Party organisations do not always and everywhere carry out the correct class policy of the Party.

The first shortcoming usually finds expression in the fact that in many Party Federations questions of work among the peasants are not studied at all, or, are studied only to a very

slight degree. In these Federations practically no one is made responsible for political work among the peasants and in cases when responsible functionaries are assigned to the job, the appointment very often is a mere formality, since the federal leadership as a whole does not engage in earnest in work among the rural population. In order to achieve further success in the countryside we must put an end to the disregard for work among peasants observed in a number of Federations.

The second shortcoming, closely linked with the first, is that while working in the countryside the Communists do not always focus attention on the more exploited peasant sections. In addition, some Party activists manifest opportunist tendencies expressed in retreating in face of enemy slander campaigns, in passivity and in keeping silent about the Party programme.

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Speaking of the XII Congress of the French Communist Party Maurice Thorez pointed out: "We must rely on the farm labourers, who are particularly numerous in the districts where big farming is carried on, and on the small tillers irrespective of whether they are tenants, sharecroppers or owners of land. We must support the tolling peasants in their struggle against the big landlords and the big capitalist farmers...".

These different social categories are very unequally distributed in the regions of the country, a matter calling for serious study of the specific conditions in every Department. That is why Maurice Thorez underlined that in order to draft a plan of work, taking into account specific conditions, each Communist must, in the first place, carefully study the surroundings, define the existing social strata.

Can we say that in all our Federations the Communists working in the countryside have always been guided by this

counsel? Of course, not.

In many Departments with a large number of farm labourers the Party organisations do not give sufficient attention to upholding the interests of this category of working people or to political work among them. However, it is obvious that in many Departments the farm labourers constitute the mainstay of our Party in the countryside. There are over a million farm labourers in France. The majority of them are not organised, a fact which enables the landlords and big capitalist farmers to exploit them mercilessly. Our Party alone can defend the farm labourers. The basic social laws protecting this category of the working people were adopted precisely in the period after the liberation, when Communist Ministers were in the Government. This explains why many farm labourers have confidence in our Party.

But if we want these workers to win success in the struggle for their rights and a better life we must not leave them to face the exploiters unaided. They must be supported, shown how to struggle, always mindful of Lenin's counsel that the town workers who have greater experience, means and resources, must give part of these resources to help the agricultural workers regain their feet.

This signifies that the Communists working in the trade unions and especially those in the leadership of the Department trade union amalgamations cannot but take an interest in the farm labourers; more than that, they must help to organise their trade unions. In addition, the Party organisations in the countryside—our sections and branches—must devote more attention to the farm labourers, acquaint them with the decisions and programme of the Party and draw them into the political struggle.

The seven hundred thousand small tenants and sharecroppers are the second category of working peasants to whom we must devote special attention. Among these sections

the Communist Party has a more or less solid support in a number of Departments, for example, in Lot-et-Garonne, Allier, Haute-Vienne and Dordogne. But the influence of the Party is still inadequate in the Western Departments, where the small tenants comprise 50-70 per cent of the total and where they are ruthlessly exploited.

Our Party is the only Party in France capable of showing the small tenants a way out of their dire plight. It is battling against the big landowners for reduction of land rent and sets the task of achieving, in the future, land grants for the small tenants. In the majority of the Western Departments the masses of small tenants are still in the main under the political influence of their exploiters. One reason for this is that Party organisations have not so far taken fully into their hands the defence of the vital interests of these toiling peasants, have not adequately exposed the class enemy, have not posed in full the question of granting land to the peasants and the problem of defending peace. In order to reinforce the positions of the Party in these regions we must give our work in the countryside a class content, resolutely turn to the mass of small tenants and sharecroppers.

Finally there is the huge mass of small landholders who not infrequently comprise the majority of the peasants in the Departments south of Loire and, who, more and more, suffer from the discrepancy between the price received for agricultural products and the price paid for manufactured goods, and also as a consequence of the shrinkage of trade in agricultural produce.

If we want to expand and strengthen our influence among this section of the peasantry we must explain our class position, constantly point out to the small and middle peasants and vine-growers that their interests have nothing in common with the interests of the big landowners capitalists, with the government policy of war.

The big agrarian-capitalists who head the agricultural organisations, ignore the demands of the toiling peasants, reject them on the pretext of preventing dissension between the “small” and “big” peasants and of “preserving” what they call peasant “unity”. There are also Communists occupying leading posts in the agricultural trade unions who yield to the agrarians, refuse to uphold the class demands of the toiling peasants, fearing to evoke discontent among the landlords and seeking to preserve “harmony” inside the trade union.

This is an opportunist and capitulatory stand against which we must wage resolute struggle. The theory of “peasant unity”, preached by the big agrarians, must be cast aside since we do not stand for unity between exploited and exploiters. Farm labourers, small and middle working peasants are one thing and rural capitalists and landlords who exploit the peasants, another. At the present moment there is only one peasant trade union organisation (General Confederation of Agriculture) for the small, middle and rich peasants. Hence the Communists must be active in the trade unions affiliated to this body, not simply for the purpose of realising “unity” with the big capitalist farmers but in order to defend the interests of the working peasants and to achieve unity of action in the struggle against the enemies of the working peasants—the capitalists and their Government—irrespective of views and religious beliefs.

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However, an analysis of the results of the recent municipal elections shows that the success of the Communist Party in the countryside depends not only on good work by its members in the trade unions but, above all, on the political work carried on by the Party organisations among the peasant masses. For instance, we won many new electors and more seats in the

municipalities of the Dordogne Department. This is due above all to the fact that there, as well as in the Haute-Vienne and Lot-et-Garonne Departments, we have a large number of rural branches and that the Party carries on wide-scale political work among the peasant masses. The rural branches of the Party help in arranging numerous meetings and in distributing propaganda materials. Last winter the Party Federation in the Dordogne Department, which holds first place among all the Federations for its number of readers and subscribers to the newspaper "La Terre", won another 700 readers for this newspaper. Peace committees carry on active work in the villages of this Department. Thanks to the political work carried out by the Party organisations the peasants in the Dordogne Department have become conscious of the connection between their material difficulties and the policy of war pursued by the bourgeois rulers, they have confidence in the Party which is fighting for peace and for the national independence of the country.

And on the contrary, in those places where there are practically no rural branches of the Party or in the places where they do not work among the peasants, where the Communists do not popularise the programme of the Party, do not rebuff the enemy—in such places the Party influence is either declining or remains static. The recent municipal elections demonstrated that such an opportunist tendency persists among some rural Communists. It has been proved that the Party achieves success only if it does not conceal its programme but, on the contrary, widely popularises it among the peasant masses, resolutely exposing each and every politician or the bourgeois parties. Those Party members who think otherwise and wrongly, do not, in fact, see that the overwhelming majority of the working peasants, dissatisfied and alarmed, long for profound political changes, and, that consequently, they can be rallied around our Party provided we go among them and conduct explanatory

work.

In connection with the by-election in the Loir-et-Cher Department, the de Gaulle new paper in this Department, commenting on the success won by our Party in the countryside, wrote: "The oral propaganda and particularly the distribution of 'La Terre' contribute in no small measure to the attractiveness of the programme which is summed up in the catchy phrase: 'Land to those who till it' ". Thus, even our enemies are compelled to admit the wide response in the countryside to our main slogan: "Land to those who till it", and also the vital political role played by our newspaper "La Terre".

In the above-mentioned article the editor of the de Gaulle newspaper complains that the agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, tenants and peasants with small plots, under the influence of the Communist Party, are beginning "in the final analysis to believe that the Communist advent to power in France will mean the disappearance of big landed property in the interests of those who either have no land or only small plots".

This forced admission testifies that we achieved our biggest success when we, in our work, devoted major attention to the exploited sections of the working peasantry, that is, when we pursued a class policy in the countryside.

An analysis of the overall results of the elections shows that the Party consolidate and strengthens its positions wherever the rural branches organise the struggle in defence of the interests of the peasants, wherever they daily rebuff the enemy slanders, expose the various political groups of the bourgeoisie, more widely popularise our programme, the achievements of the Soviet Union and of the People's Democracies, help in forming numerous peasant peace committees, that is, wherever they carry on everyday political work, conduct individual propaganda and engage in house-to-house distribution of Party propaganda, hold numerous small village meetings and in

particular systematically sell the Party press, and especially the peasant weekly "La Terre".

In many of the rural branches there is only a very small number of peasants. The Party branch in the rural commune, even though led by a school-teacher or worker, must carry out its main work among the masses of the working peasants and agricultural labourers. In addition, wherever there are Communists among the peasants and agricultural labourers we must ensure that they take a more active part in directing the work of the rural branches and sections. In those places where there are no Communists among the peasants and agricultural labourers we must do all in our power to recruit peasants and the youth in particular into the Party. This can be done only when our branches strengthen their contact with the working peasant in the given village, when they explain to them the policy of our Party and win them for our Programme.

Never before have we had such splendid opportunities for carrying on work in the countryside, since the working peasants, clearly, are turning to our Party, seeing in it the sole Party which upholds their rights, the cause of peace and national independence. By eliminating the shortcomings which still obtain in our work in the countryside, by resolutely carrying out our correct policy and by ensuring that the rural branches live a full-blooded life, the French Communist Party will prove capable of realising the firm alliance of the workers and peasants under the leadership of the working class which is the main prerequisite for victory.

ALBANIAN PARTY OF LABOUR IN STRUGGLE FOR FULFILMENT OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN. K. Theodhosi, **Member, Central Committee, Albanian Party Of Labour**

A little more than a year ago the IInd Congress of the Albanian Party of Labour approved the first Five-Year Plan (1951-55) for the development of the economy of our country and its culture. The- main economic task or the first Five-Year Plan is the continuation, at a more rapid rate, of the laying of the economic foundations of Socialism so that by the end of the Five-Year Plan Albania will have been transformed from a backward agrarian country into an agrarian-industrial country.

With the aim of reaching this goal the Five-Year Plan envisages a rapid rate of industrial development. The average annual increase in industrial output is fixed at 27.7 per cent against the 10.5 per cent achieved in 1949-50. By the end of the Five-Year Plan output of means of production will be 386 per cent and output of consumer goods 324 per cent compared with 1950. Gross agricultural output will be 171 per cent compared with 1950. Agriculture has been set the task of supplying the country with grain and industry with raw materials. For ensuring the further advance of agriculture large-scale melioration work is underway—marshes are being drained and irrigation canals dug; the number of tractors and other machines in the machine and tractor depots is growing. The development of industry and agriculture is accompanied by a further rise of culture.

The Five-Year Plan signifies a new phase in the entire

economic life of the country; its fulfilment will result in a considerable rise in the material and cultural standards of the people.

The year 1952 was marked by a number big successes. The annual plan for gross industrial output was fulfilled 105.6 per cent, being eight times the prewar output and double the 1950 figure. Our industry (including handicraft co-operatives) turned out 46.4 per cent more goods than in 1951. Oil output compared with 1951 rose 27.4 per cent; bitumen, 16.4 per cent; coal, 48.6 per cent; copper, 62.4 per cent; electric energy, 63.9 per cent; timber, 21.8 per cent; olive oil, 289 per cent; sugar, 187.2 per cent; cotton, 150.8 per cent and cotton fabrics. 425.9 per cent. A number of new branches of industry began production during 1951-52.

Other branches of economy also registered substantial successes. The plan for the autumn and spring sowing in 1951-52 was fulfilled 100.6 per cent with a 3.6 per cent increase in the area sown to crops. Investments in the national economy increased 28.4 per cent, compared with the previous year. A number of industrial enterprises, irrigation canals and new highways were commissioned. Construction of the “New Albania” film studios and a broadcasting centre was completed. The working people received nearly 60,000 square metres of new dwelling space. These results testify that our economy is steadily expanding and that the Five-Year Plan will change the face of our country.

The decisions of the IIInd Congress of the Albanian Party of Labour rallied the Party organisations and all the working people in struggle for successful fulfilment of the Plan. The consciousness of the masses and their labour enthusiasm are growing day by day, thanks to the everyday political-mass work of the Party.

This finds clear expression in the active participation by ever increasing masses of the working class in fulfilling

production tasks and in the socialist emulation. The entire country lauds the personnel of the Patos oil-fields, of the Mborja-Drenova coal mines, of the cement plant in Shkodra, the Enver Hodja plant; the builders of the hydro-electric station on the River Mali, the working people of the "Red Star" agricultural enterprise in Kamza, the machine and tractor depots in Korca and the many other enterprises setting examples of model work.

Shock-work and the stakhanovite movement are gaining momentum. By the end of 1952 there were 4,000 stakhanovites in the enterprises of the country. The development of shock-work and of the stakhanovite movement, the assimilation and introduction of Soviet methods in industry, agriculture and building, and the growth of the creative initiative of the working people—all acted as a powerful lever for successful fulfilment of the state plan and ensured a steady rise in labour productivity in all the branches of the economy. Thousands of working men and women who but yesterday were unskilled have acquired trades and are operating complicated modern machines.

The successes achieved in all branches of the economy and culture were determined first and foremost by the all-round aid from the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy. Soviet people—engineers and other specialists—are giving fraternal aid to the people of Albania in the cause of the economic and cultural upbuilding of our country. For this boundless and generous aid our people will be forever grateful to the Soviet Union, their great liberator and defender.

Thanks to the aid of the Soviet Union the Albanian People's Republic is building such projects as the Stalin Textile Combinat and the hydro-electric station on the River Mati—the biggest construction of our five-Year Plan. Without the aid of the Soviet Union it would have been impossible to erect such enterprises, without the aid of the Soviet Union the People's

Democracies could not have developed their socialist economy. Economic co-operation with the U.S.S.R. is the decisive factor for the success of socialist construction in all countries of people's democracy. "The experience of this cooperation", pointed out J. V. Stalin, "shows that not a single capitalist country could have rendered such effective and technically competent assistance to the People's Democracies as the Soviet Union is rendering them. The point is not only that this assistance is the cheapest possible and technically superb. The chief point is that at the bottom of this co-operation lies a sincere desire to help one another and to promote the economic progress of all."

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The Fifth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labour, reviewing the results of the 1952 plan, pointed out that some branches of industry did not quite reach the targets. Some enterprises ended the year 1952 with a deficit. There were also shortcomings in labour organisation in the enterprises. Due to a slackening of revolutionary vigilance in relation to encroachments by the class enemy, the latter caused damage in some places to state property. Serious shortcomings were manifested in the matter of training cadres and in organising socialist emulation. Not by a long way was everything done for better utilisation of machinery; there was no verification of how decisions were carried out.

Defining the tasks for 1953 the Fifth Plenum of the Albanian Party of Labour called on the Party, on the state organs and on all working people to bend every effort for overfulfilment of the plan for the current year. "1953", reads the resolution of the Fifth Plenum, "is the decisive year of the Five-Year Plan and calls for tireless effort on our part, bold and unswerving resolve in face of difficulties, persevering struggle

against bureaucrats, louts and idlers, revolutionary vigilance and an irreconcilable struggle against hostile elements”.

1952 revealed that the training of cadres lags behind the construction tempo of our new industry, We are short of people who could set in motion all the modern technique with which our country is equipped, who could effectively utilise this technique.

The experience of the past year showed that there were serious lapses in the places where Party organisations and state organs failed to give due attention to training cadres, failed to organise vocational-technical training in the right way. In the woodworking industry, for instance, where the workers were not taught the technique of production, the production plan was not fulfilled.

The Party and the Government have created all the necessary conditions for training cadres. The training of cadres, capable of harnessing the technique, is our vital task.

The Party devotes special attention to agriculture, The VI Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party analysed in detail the problems of agriculture, disclosed the reason which prevented greater successes in this vital branch of the national economy. The Plenum particularly stressed the extremely dispersed nature of the peasant households and that they are characterised by old capitalist relations of production. The Plenum also disclosed the weaknesses and shortcomings in the work of the Party and state organs and indicated ways and means for developing agriculture with a view to fulfilling the tasks of the Five-Year Plan.

Party organisations, state organs and the entire working peasantry must give all their attention to the struggle for the new countryside, for popularising and applying the advanced agro-technique; they must always remember the need to combat the class enemy—the kulak, who is exerting every effort to retard the switch over of the countryside to the road of

Socialism.

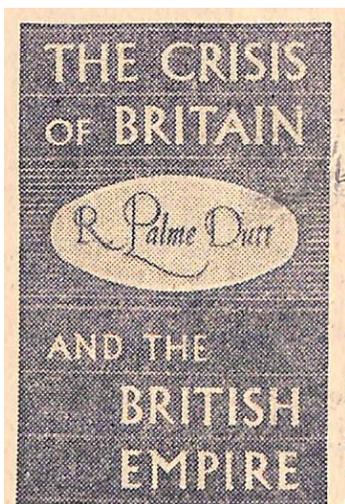
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The third year of the Five-Year Plan sets new tasks before the Party organisations and all working people in Albania. Further growth of industrial production is envisaged this year, a new step forward will be made in developing agriculture and culture. Work will be widely developed on the big construction sites, including the hydroelectric station on the River Mati, on the oil refining plant in Cerryk, on the cement works in Vlora and on many other undertakings.

There is not the slightest doubt that these tasks can be accomplished since we are led by the Albanian Party of Labour, since we enjoy the many-sided fraternal aid of the Soviet Union. At the moment creative peaceful labour is in full swing in all parts of the country. The people of Albania, filled with enthusiasm, are building their industry and agriculture, schools and hospitals; they are strengthening the defence capacity of the country and steadily raising the standard of living.

BOOK REVIEW

Valuable Study of Colonial Question (R. Palme Dutt's Book "The Crisis of Britain and the British Empire"*). Ajoy Ghosh, General Secretary, Communist Party of India



It is a common practice on the part of the votaries of "Western civilisation" to ascribe all the difficulties that face them to the machinations of "Russian Communists". This is

* **The Crisis of Britain and the Colonial Empire**, by R. Palme Dutt, 512 p., Lawrence and Wishart Ltd. London, 1953.

especially the case in relation to colonies. Whenever there is “trouble” in any of the colonial and dependent countries, that is, whenever the colonial people rise in struggle for the most elementary human rights, the reason is always sought in “outside instigation”, but for which, it is alleged, everything, would be alright. In support of this thesis, it is pointed out that whatever might have been the case in the past, today there is no such thing as imperialist exploitation, that the colonies have now attained or are fast attaining “equality” and have become a part of the “democratic world” to which the sole threat comes from “Communism”. Day in and day out these “theories” are put forward not merely by the imperialist rulers but also by their agents, the Right-wing Socialists.

The recent “appeal” of President Eisenhower to the U.S.S.R. “to use its decisive influence in the Communist world” in order to check the liberation movement of the colonial peoples proceeds from the same theory.

What, however, are the facts? To what extent has imperialism “liberalised” itself? What is it that is being “defended” by the colonial powers in Malaya and Viet Nam, in Kenya and South Africa, in Iran and Egypt? Why do the colonial peoples betray such ingratitude towards their “benefactors”? Further, what lies behind the colonisers’ talk about defence of “Christian civilisation”, “freedom” and “democracy”?

Few books answer these questions so convincingly and with such a wealth of facts as Comrade R. P. Dutt’s “The Crisis of Britain and the British Empire”, published simultaneously in Britain and India. While discussing the situation primarily in Britain and her colonies and dependencies, Comrade Dutt lays bare the roots of the crisis of the entire imperialist system and arms the working class and democratic movements with a powerful weapon.

Dealing with the various forms which colonial rule has

assumed in recent periods in countries like India—forms which are supposed, according to the colonisers, to have established a new kind of relation between the imperialists and their colonies—the author points out that the “essence of the imperialist colonial system lies **first** in the economic exploitation of the colonial country, its resources and manpower, in the interest of the big monopolies of the imperialist power; **second**, in the strategic domination of the country and its absorption in the imperialist bloc on the world scale; and **third** in the maintenance of a political system capable of fulfilling these aims in the interests of the imperialist power. The particular political form is subordinate to these essential purposes”.

The author blows up the myth that the crisis of imperialism and its weakening have led to a lightening of the burden on the colonial peoples, and proves that it is precisely in the period of decay and crisis of the imperialist system that the colonial powers have **intensified** the exploitation of the colonies to an extent unprecedented in history.

“The intensified exploitation of the colonial peoples”, the author points out, “was the main pivot of the policy of British imperialism, operated by the Labour Government, during the years succeeding the war endeavour to meet the deepening crisis, dollar deficit and deficit on the balance of payments. This was the reality behind all the talk of ‘development’ and a ‘new angle of vision’ ”.

In 1949, the British Labour Party lyrically declared: “Britain and the colonies have gone into partnership to liquidate ignorance, poverty and disease”.

The real character of this “partnership” is exposed in the pages of this book where, on the basis of official publications and testimonies of “respectable” witnesses, the author shows the colossal profits wrung out from the emaciated bodies of colonial workers, the plundering of wealth in the name of trade and the stupendous growth of colonial sterling balances which

is a measure of the loot.

In six years no less than 1,500 million dollars were netted by British monopolists out of rubber plantation in the colonies (chiefly Malaya)—a sum equal to the total value of British manufactured exports in the same period. Behind this unprecedented robbery there is appalling misery of the exploited masses, cultural backwardness and almost complete absence of public health services in colonies. In Nigeria, for example, “there is only 1 doctor for 133,000 persons as against 1 for 1,200 in the United Kingdom”. As a result of the ruthless exploitation the soil of the colonial countries is rapidly becoming exhausted, productivity is declining and already, according to a report published in the London Times, “East Africa is barely able to support itself with food”.

With their military expenditure soaring higher and higher, and confronted with American competition in the rapidly shrinking capitalist world market, the imperialist powers of Western Europe, who directly own most of the colonies, have increased exploitation to such an extent that the colonial peoples must either fight back or starve and die. Who can wonder that they have chosen to fight?

And the methods that the “Christian civilisers” have adopted to suppress the struggle of the rebellious slaves once again reveal the real face of these “civilisers”. These methods—indescribable destruction of life and property, herding of tens of thousands into concentration camps, the employment of head-hunters as in Malaya—are vividly described in the book.

All these methods, the author shows, do not solve the crisis but further deepen it. And while the monopolists in whose interest the empire is run make millions and billions, the people of Britain pay a heavy price in taxes, in a lower standard of life in increasing encroachment on their rights and national sovereignty. The American monopolists in return for “aid” to Britain to hold down the colonial empire reduce Britain herself

to the position of a satellite, tie her to their war chariot, use her for their plan to secure world domination. **“The former owners became bailiffs”**, says Dutt.

The Atlantic Pact military alliance, the book points out, is, in reality, a bloc of imperialism. It is a “combination of the great colony-owning powers and their immediate satellites.” Their metropolitan areas have a total population of less than one-seventh of the world population, yet they control directly or indirectly nearly two-thirds of the world population. It is the defence of this system that is presented as “defence of Western spiritual values”.

Comrade Dutt shows the contrast between the powerful development of the once-backward Central Asian Republics of the Soviet Union on the one hand and the “development” of the British colonies on the other, where the motto, as proclaimed officially, is: “In general, capital should be applied where it brings the greatest return”—in terms of maximum profit for the monopolists.

“The essence of the truth of Britain’s crisis”, the author states, “is that it is the **crisis of the parasitic metropolis of a world empire**, that the whole economic and social structure of Britain has been built on the basis of the assumption of the empire; that this basis of empire is now beginning to crack; ...that the desperate efforts to maintain the basis of empire domination and exploitation are only worsening Britain’s home economic situation; and that only a drastic change of policy, recognising the new conditions, can open a new and prosperous future for Britain”.

Dutt’s book confirm the basic theses of the British Communist Party’s Programme “The British Road to Socialism”, which states: “The colonial policy of the Tory and Labour leaders is not only a crime against the colonial peoples, it is draining away our manpower in endless colonial wars, and has cost, and will continue to cost, hundreds of millions of

pounds. It has disrupted the production of food and raw materials. It can only weaken Britain still further. The colonial peoples struggling for national liberation can never be subdued.

“The Communist Party would put an end to the present abnormal relations of colonial war and repression between the British people and the peoples of the Empire by establishing durable friendship with them on the basis of equal rights. This act of historical justice would help to wipe out the bitterness of the past, and would enormously strengthen Britain on a new democratic basis”.

Comrade Dutt shows in his book why the establishment of a new relation between Britain and the countries which at present are British colonies, a relation based on sovereignty and independence of all nations, alone can serve the interest not merely of the colonial peoples but of the British people themselves.

FEUI LLETON

Miracles in Bangkok



The recent municipal elections in Thailand's capital Bangkok and in another town—Tongburi—did not get due attention either in the "New York Times", in "Life" magazine or in other expounders of the "noble mission of the U.S. in under-developed countries". The more's the pity. A glorious opportunity was missed for showing how things have been going with a swing and how "democracy" triumphs ever since

the time Thailand was proclaimed a sphere of “vital interest” to the United States and a multitude of transoceanic military and civil advisers, instructors and consultants established themselves there. The ruling circles of Thailand, who formerly used to barter the country to the Japanese occupationists, are now not simply trading it to the American monopolies, they are taking over from the latter all the ways and means for maintaining their rule.

Let us, although using for the purpose the reports in the Thailand press, piece together the picture of the elections in Bangkok and Tongburi.

As these reports show, the “superiority” of the pro-government candidates over the opposition candidates became clear already in the course of the campaign. The arguments of the candidates supporting the government policy were highly “convincing”. One supporter of the opposition candidates was assassinated and several others wounded.

The newspapers differ about the number of voters who went to the polls. Some say that only 22 per cent of those with the right to vote participated. The “Bangkok Post”, however, asserts that this is too optimistic a figure. The newspaper “Kaopan” states frankly: “No more than 10 per cent of the electorate voted”. Many electors, says the newspaper “Siamnikon”, were not even registered. According to the “Daily Mail” only 26 citizens voted in the Praya Surindsevi (Bangkok) ward and of the several thousand voters in the Vat Pichayat (Tongburi) constituency only 92 exercised their right of suffrage.

But this did not in any way discourage the government and its nominees. What is more they saw in this state of affairs their salvation. Indeed, how can anyone base his calculation on such a shaky foundation as the sympathies of the electors when he has in his hands a far stronger weapon for ensuring a majority. And this doughty weapon was brought into action.

Good care was taken to ensure that minor officials of the Bangkok police force should not have to cudgel their brains about whom to vote for: they were given instructions which clearly stated the facts. Columns of soldiers marched to the voting precincts. They were too modest to give their names. Besides, it would have been futile to look for their names on the voters' register. Having fulfilled with army precision the necessary procedure they made an about turn and set out for the next precinct.

Moreover, some ballot papers mysteriously found their way into the boxes prior to voting time.

And the results, as they say, exceeded all expectations.

Take, for instance, the election precinct described in the newspaper "Pimtai". Counting the voters was no difficulty since there were not too many of them—90 all told. At the hour appointed the ballot boxes were duly opened and—a miracle!—890 ballots were discovered. After this the officials could do nothing more than declare their belief that God really does exist and that he is wholly on the side of the pro-government candidates.

Such miracles, it can be said, were performed in a big way. Khun Lert Damrican, former Mayor of Bangkok, contested the No. 2 constituency. He visited the ward of Khlong Toyet. His impressions were summed up in "Bangkok Post". According to him only just over 20 citizens voted in this ward. And only a miracle can explain why the count showed 671 ballot papers.

And so, thanks to Providence, all the seats in the municipal council were won by the supporters of government policy.

Who can say after this that the American advisers and instructors in Thailand are not working for their bread in Thailand.

J. SMITH

SAVE THE LIFE OF ALVARO CUNHAL!

Democratic organisations throughout the world are intensifying their struggle for the release of Alvaro Cunhal, Secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party, who is gravely ill in prison. Without immediate hospital treatment it is feared that Cunhal may die.

The Portuguese Communist leader was arrested in 1949 together with his Comrade Militao Ribeiro who died in prison after being subjected to brutal torture. Originally sentenced to two years imprisonment Cunhal's sentence was arbitrarily extended to ten years by the Portuguese Supreme Court.

PEASANTS PARTY OF MAHARASHTRA JOINS COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

On May 14-16 a conference of the Kamgar Kisan Party (Peasants Party of Maharashtra*) held at Ranwad, a village near Nasik, unanimously approved the decision of the Executive of the Party to join the Communist Party of India. All the district units of the Party and over half a million peasants at over 20 meetings had supported this decision.

* Maharashtra—"Country of Marathas", embraces the central regions of Bombay State, the south-western regions of Madhya Pradesh State and the north-western regions of Hyderabad State. Capital—Poona.

The Conference in Ranwad was attended by over 120 delegates from Berar, Poona, Nasik and other districts of Maharashtra. Over a hundred leading members of the Communist Party of India attended the Conference as guests.

Nana Patil, the President of the Conference, said in his speech:

“Today the Communist Party and the Communist Party alone can really liberate the peasantry.

“Once,” he said, “people like us abused the Communist Party-the Congress leaders taught us to do so. Today when the Congress leaders have become champions of the interests of imperialists and landlords, we can see the reason for this. Our only regret is that we stayed out so long”.

Continuing Nana Patil said: “All over India various revolutionary and patriotic forces like the Left Socialist Group and the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Uttar Pradesh have joined the Communist Party. Today a fighting section of the Maharashtra peasantry, represented by the delegates here, is joining the Party. This is a matter for rejoicing, it is a further triumph in India of the great ideas of Lenin and Stalin. At the same time it is a matter of pride for us that today we become part of the great world Communist movement”.

STRUGGLE OF PEOPLE OF ALGERIA

The French colonisers are intensifying their repressions against the popular masses of Algeria who are fighting for peace, national independence and for better conditions. Many patriots have been thrown into prison, including the secretaries

of the Communist Party of Algeria Larbi Bouhali and Ahmed Akkache. But these repressions are powerless to hold back the struggle of the popular masses which has been growing in scale in recent weeks.

Continuing their noble struggle of many years duration the dockers of Oran and Algiers again refused in May to load ships bound for Indo-China.

Tens of thousands of working people took part in different actions during May aimed at securing the satisfaction of their immediate demands and against the repression. On May 20 five thousand workers in the gas and electricity undertakings declared a 24-hour strike. This was followed, on May 27, by a 24-hour strike of railwaymen. Token strikes were declared by tramway workers in Algiers, Oran and Constantine and also by the staffs of hospitals. On June 3, for the sixth time in the past three months, the working people employed in state enterprises held "A day of struggle". A feature of all these actions is the striving for unity of action.

Taking into account the desire of the people for unity, the Communist Party approached the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Freedoms and the Democratic Union of the Algerian Manifesto with a proposal for a democratic National Front open to all patriots and progressive Algerians irrespective of social origin. The main task of this front would be struggle for the liberation of Algeria from the colonial system of oppression and plunder, for ensuring freedoms and democracy for the people. As an immediate goal for the front the Communist Party suggests: an amnesty for all victims of the repressions, the observance of democratic freedoms, satisfaction of the economic and social demands of the working people of town and countryside, school education for Moslem children and proclamation of the Arab language as the official language of the country, withdrawal of Algeria from the Atlantic bloc, withdrawal of Algerians from Viet Nam sent

there to fight in a French colonial war against the people of Viet Nam, and support for the proposals advanced by the Peoples' Peace Congress.

FACTS EXPOSE

46 Suicides a Day

In Japan the year 1952 was marked by a further increase in the number of suicides. According to the "New York Herald Tribune", the number of suicides recorded last year in Japan amounted to 16,685, that is, 46 suicides a day.

The reason—misery, poverty and unemployment.

POLITICAL NOTES

1. An Unusual Mission

Recently the U.S. State Secretary Dulles accompanied by the Mutual Security Director Stassen made a lightning tour of the capitals of twelve Near and Middle East countries and South Asia.

"One of the main reasons, if not the chief reason, for the Dulles' mission", wrote the French newspaper "La tribune des Nations", "was to pave the way for the formation of a strategic bloc in this region". The thing in question was the so-called "Middle East Command", the draft for which had been

advanced way back in the autumn of 1951. According to this draft the armed forces of the countries of the Near and Middle East should be placed under control of a so-called “allied command” with American Generals playing the leading role. At the same time, the countries of the Near and Middle East should agree to the quartering of foreign troops on their soil, to extended foreign occupation, to a more burdensome colonial yoke.

In these circumstances it was difficult naturally, for the U.S. State Secretary to anticipate a particularly hearty welcome. As he put it himself, far from pleasant “surprises” awaited him at every step. Hardly had he alighted from the plane in Egypt than he made the acquaintance of an open letter by Mahmoud Aboul Fath, former Egyptian Senator and owner of a number of newspapers. The letter, which was featured in the leading Egyptian newspapers said: “You must know, Mr. Dulles, that all our peoples hate you... We will not let ourselves be harnessed either to the British or to the American chariot”.

In Lebanon 19 political parties and organisations made a joint statement resolutely condemning the draft of the Middle East bloc which runs counter to the vital interests of the Arab peoples. Mass demonstrations and strikes continued there for several days.

In Syria 76 prominent public figures of widely different political views and social status issued a statement in connection with the Dull s visit which said: “The Arab peoples, and in particular, the people of Syria are determined not to permit realisation of the plan aimed at setting up a Middle East Command”. Leaflets calling for struggle against the colonising schemes of the U.S. ruling circles were widely circulated in Syria.

In Transjordan a statement condemning the Middle East bloc was issued by a group of workers, peasants, lawyers, doctors, teachers, municipal councillors and Parliamentary

deputies. The walls in Amman and Naplouse were chalked with slogans which unequivocally suggested that the American “visitor” should get out.

Equally resolute was the reaction of the broad popular masses in Greece, Israel and other countries.

As for Iran, Dulles refrained from visiting this country since, as admitted by U.S. officials, “Strong anti-American sentiments make the visit undesirable just now”.

Naturally, the serious contradictions between the would be parties to the Middle East bloc—the contradictions between Britain and Egypt, between the Arab countries and Israel, between India and Pakistan and particularly British-U.S. antagonisms—did not help to make the Dulles visit a success.

It is also known that the American monopolies in the Near East have of late brought heavy pressure to bear on their British “friends” and have virtually subordinated to themselves the rulers of Turkey, Israel and Syria. The London correspondent of the Pakistan newspaper “Dawn” reported that the British ruling circles could not regard “without anxiety” Dulles’ visit to countries where until now Britain regarded itself as the dominating influence. Dulles, it continued, acting not at all as an ‘ally’, recommended the governments of Iraq and Transjordan to annul their treaties with Britain since the formation of a Middle East Command would make them “ineffective” and “useless”.

The great interest displayed by Dulles in the matter of the British troops withdrawing from the Suez Canal is easily explained: the U.S. has been trying for a long time to usurp Britain’s position there too, using the Middle East Command as a cloak. “To drive Britain from Suez and Gibraltar—such was the comment made by “La tribune des Nations” on the policy of the U.S. ruling circles in the Mediterranean. The same newspaper wrote: “The question can be put thus: are not the military bodies now being formed simultaneously by the

U.S.A. and Britain in the Middle East designed... rather for a future test of strength between the British and the Americans?”.

Thus the first of the U.S. State Secretaries who wanted personally to acquaint himself with the state of affairs in the Middle and Near East discovered that the peoples of the Near East and South Asia want but one thing—no interference whatever by foreign powers in their affairs, a lasting peace and national independence. In the final analysis Dulles had to admit this by obvious fact. He said, as reported by the newspaper “Combat”, that the majority of nations of the Near East and in South Asia mistrust the Western Powers and that the Middle East Command is a possibility of the future rather than of the present.

Such are the “surprises” encountered by the U.S. State Secretary in his latest tour, such are the results of his obviously un successful mission.

2. Greek-Turkish Wrangle

Last year U.S. and British diplomats had to make over 150 journeys by sea, train and air to the capitals of Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia in order to prepare and string together the so-called “Balkan alliance” which is a continuation of the aggressive North-Atlantic bloc. And finally when the treaty of “alliance and friendship” was signed the “Wall Street Journal” commented with a sigh of relief that five years ago it would have been fantastic to suppose that the Balkans—this boiling pot of Europe—would contribute anything to the stabilisation and defence of Europe. And strange to say the Balkans have become a potential source of strength of the West, the paper comments.

But the “honeymoon” of the Balkan friends ended before it had actually begun. The secret disagreement and the old strife

began to come into the open.

The old Greek-Turkish wrangling broke out with renewed force due, in the first place, to territorial claims. Located in the Eastern Mediterranean is Cyprus. This island, a military-strategic base on the approaches to Western Asia, has been under British rule for more than three quarters of a century. Greece has insisted on its right to this island, mainly populated by Greeks, for years. Turkey, however, insists on getting Cyprus on the grounds that it is adjacent to her shores and that it belonged to Turkey at one time.

“Greece has no claim to Cyprus which we entrusted to Britain, obliging her to protect our rear,” howls the Turkish newspaper “Vatan”. “Nothing can be more natural than that the island should be returned to its former owners”.

And when the question of Cyprus joining Greece was raised at the recent Labour Congress in Athens the Turkish representative was so indignant that he not only withdrew from the Congress but also left the country. The Executive Committee of the Turkish trade unions addressed a letter in this connection to the leaders of the Greek trade unions in which, without mincing words, they wrote: “There can be no question of friendly or any other relations between Turkish and Greek trade unions so long as you insist on having Cyprus, which is an indivisible part of our country, and so long as you make it a subject of polemics at your meetings.”

Recently, in connection with the 500th anniversary of the fall of Constantinople (Istanbul) another old stumbling-block appeared—Greek rulers’ claims to this city.

The Turkish rulers decided on a big celebration of the anniversary as marking the “beginning of a new era and a new world civilisation”. And while in Turkey there was beating of drums and fireworks the order went out in Greece for... a requiem in all towns and villages “in honour of the last emperor of the Byzantine Empire and of the defenders of

Constantinople”.

The Turkish newspaper “Huriet” wrote in this connection sarcastically: “This small nation dreams of doing things which are beyond its reach. Greece, a former Turkish province, looks down and wants to become Turkey’s equal. This reminds one of the mewling of a cat against the roar of the lion”. The Greek press, in its turn, retaliated, saying: “Turkey treats Greece with snarling of a neurotic. The abolition of the fez has brought no change whatever in Turkish thinking”, wrote the newspaper “Elefteria”.

But it is not only Cyprus and Istanbul that are the apple of discord between the rulers of Turkey and Greece. Turkey has an eye on a number of other Greek islands which the Turkish rulers hope to “incorporate”. “These islands, which are an integral part of our country, shall not be left in alien hands”, is the categorical declaration of the newspaper “Huriet”.

Things have gone as far as acts of piracy. In the months of February and March alone, Turkish naval craft detained 16 Greek fishing vessels in the Mediterranean and placed many of their crews behind iron bars. The Greek press, in its turn, launched a campaign, demanding that fishing vessels should put to sea only... under naval support.

Nor are the Turkish rulers satisfied with the present Greek-Turkish border in Thrace: Turkish reactionary circles are already raising ever louder voices demanding its revision.

While until now the wrangling between Greece and Turkey bore, so to say, a historical character, showing that none of the old differences between the new friends had been forgotten, it cannot be said that there have not arisen more vital problems affecting both the Turkish and Greek capitalists.

The recent devaluation of the Greek drachma and the lower price for Greek tobacco exports struck heavily at the Turkish tobacco trade. This led to an open quarrel even between the diplomats who only two months ago had signed a document

which goes by the name of a pact “of friendship and mutual aid”. Kuprulu, the Turkish Foreign Minister, demonstratively refused to fly to Paris for the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the North-Atlantic bloc in the same plane as his Greek colleagues. And this is what they call friendship and mutual aid!

The discord between Greece and Turkey has been aggravated of late by Yugoslavia. The Turkish newspaper “İeni İstanbul”, for example, complained in its issue of June 1 that export of livestock from Turkey to Greece has almost stopped as a result of strong Yugoslav competition. It follows that the third “friend” in this alliance is taking advantage of the situation with the obvious purpose of lining its pocket.

Such, in practice, is the friendship that prevails between the partners in the Balkan alliance. All that remains for the U.S. rulers, who inspired and organised this “alliance”, is to make the best of a bad thing and close their eyes to the growing rift among their stooges.

Jan MAREK

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