

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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NEW MIGHT UPSURGE OF PEACE ECONOMY IN COUNTRIES OF SOCIALIST CAMP

The successes in building Communism and the steady upsurge of the economy in the Soviet Union exert decisive influence on the entire course of world history. The all-conquering Marxist-Leninist teaching, which is being put into effect by the Soviet people under the guidance of the Communist Party, of Comrade Stalin, the leader and teacher, illumines for all mankind the highway to the new life which, if not today, tomorrow will inevitably be taken by the peoples of

the whole world.

Way back in 1921, in the period when the young Soviet Republic was delivering the finishing blows to the interventionists and switching to the pathway of peaceful economic construction, the great Lenin said:

“At the present lime we are exercising our main influence on the international revolution by our economic policy. All eyes are turned towards the Soviet Russian Republic, the eyes of all working people in all countries of the world, without exception and without exaggeration. This has been achieved... The struggle on this field is now being waged on a world scale. With this problem solved, we will have won on an international scale certainly and finally. That is why the questions of economic construction assume absolutely exceptional significance for us.”

Since then the Soviet socialist state has advanced far along the road of economic and cultural flowering. The Stalin Five-Year Plans have changed the Soviet Union beyond recognition. At the present time large-scale industry in the U.S.S.R. produces every nine days the equivalent of the total annual production of all industry in Russia on the eve of the Great October Socialist Revolution. As much electrical energy is now produced in one month as was produced in five years in pre-revolutionary Russia.

The results of fulfilment of the state plan for the development of the national economy of the U.S.S.R. in 1952 – the second year of the fifth Five-Year Plan – testify to a new powerful upsurge in the peace economy and culture of the Soviet country, to a further rise in the standard of living of the Soviet People.

The 1952 state plan for gross output of industry as a whole was fulfilled in the U.S.S.R. 101 per cent. Gross industrial output in 1952 was 11 per cent higher than in 1951. Uninterrupted growth and perfecting of production took place

on the basis of the introduction of the achievements of the advanced Soviet science and technique, complex mechanisation and automatising of production which ensured continued technical progress throughout the national economy, the raising of labour productivity and easing of man's labour. In 1952 Soviet engineers produced almost 600 highly important new types and designs of machines and mechanisms. Nearly 800,000 innovations technical improvements and rationalisation suggestions were introduced into industry.

Agriculture in the U.S.S.R. also registered substantial success last year. The gross grain harvest in 1952 totalled 8,000 million poods – 600 million poods more than in 1951. The U.S.S.R. holds a firm first place among the countries growing the most important food crop wheat, having surpassed such big wheat growers as the U.S., Argentina and Canada. Thus, the grain problem, formerly regarded as the most acute and gravest problem, has been solved once and for all. The head of livestock also increased considerably and productivity of animal husbandry likewise increased.

The grand Stalin plan for remaking nature is being successfully carried out and construction of the world's biggest hydro-technical projects on the Volga, Don, Dnieper and Amu-Darya is in full swing. Last year saw the commissioning of the first, of the great constructions of Communism – the V. I. Lenin Volga-Don Navigation Canal.

The material and cultural level of the working people in the U.S.S.R. is steadily rising. Whereas in the capitalist countries more than half the national income is taken by the exploiters, in the Soviet Union the entire national income belongs to the working people themselves. In 1952 the national income in the U.S.S.R. rose 11 per cent compared with 1951, exceeding the pre-war 1940 level more than twofold.

The 1952 economic results confirm once more and with particular force the brilliant theses and conclusions of J. V.

Stalin in his classical work “Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R.”

The directives of the fifth Five-Year Plan for the development of the U.S.S.R. for 1951-55, adopted by the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U., are being carried out with success. The mighty force of the Soviet plans for economic and cultural development lies precisely in the fact that they are based on the requirements of the objective economic law of planned, proportionate development of the national economy and fully conform to the requirements of the basic economic law of Socialism.

Comrade Stalin teaches:

“... Maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole of society is the aim of socialist production; continuous expansion and perfection of socialist production on the basis of higher techniques is the means for the achievement of the aim.

“Such is the basic economic law of Socialism”.

The steady improvement in the material wellbeing of the working people of the U.S.S.R. gives rise to a constant growth in their requirements and serves as a powerful stimulus for the further expansion of production. The new, socialist production relations, which are in complete harmony with the character of the productive forces, are the main and decisive force ensuring the powerful economic development of the Soviet Union.

All the countries which have cast off the chains of imperialism, which have won freedom and independence and which on the example of the U.S.S.R., have begun construction of a new life achieved remarkable success last year in all spheres of the national economy and culture.

The great Chinese people guided by the Communist Party of China and their tried leader Comrade Mao Tse-tung, have practically completed the agrarian reform throughout that vast country and have abolished feudalism. In the main China has

completed the period of restoration; the national economy as a whole has reached and in many important branches considerably exceeded, the highest pre-war level. The new China has entered the period of national reconstruction and has embarked on its first Five-Year Plan for the development of the national economy.

Nineteen fifty-two saw grand achievements in the European countries of people's democracy – Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Albania and in the German Democratic Republic. The general industrial output of the European countries of people's democracy at the beginning of the current year was nearly three times the level of the pre-war 1937, whereas the rise in industrial output in the six European capitalist countries – France, Austria, Belgium, Holland, Greece and Luxemburg, taken together – was less than one-third. On the whole, industrial output in the European countries of people's democracy increased last year by 20 per cent, whereas in the above-mentioned capitalist countries it rose by a mere 0.8 per cent. The increase in industrial output in the capitalist countries accrued from militarisation of the economy and the inflated war industry, while most branches of industry showed reduced production. For example, coal output in the capitalist countries taken together dropped by 3 per cent in the 3rd quarter of 1952 and in the U.S. – by 14 per cent; steel production declined 10 per cent, and in the U.S. – by 26 per cent.

The countries of people's democracy registered considerable success also in agriculture, public health, education and in improving the living conditions of the working people.

It is quite understandable that the successes of Communist construction in the U.S.S.R. and the successes of socialist construction in the countries of people's democracy evoke savage venom on the part of the rulers of the imperialist camp

who do not hesitate at the most insidious, foul and brutal methods of struggle against the countries of the camp of Socialism. The danger of wrecking, sabotage and espionage on the part of the capitalist states in these Countries has far from disappeared. In these circumstances all-round alerting of political vigilance, struggle against all manifestations of carelessness, complacency and negligence, exposure of all the machinations of the enemies of peace – the imperialist warmongers and their Right-wing Socialist and Titoite accomplices – acquire a special significance.

The results of 1952 are further proof of the cardinal superiority of the new social system in the U.S.S.R. and in the People's Democracies over the system of capitalism. The peoples in all countries see more and more clearly the picture of the world economic situation characterised by the existence of the two opposite lines of development. One line of development is the steady advance of the peaceful economy in the Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy, for whom the characteristic feature is friendly co-operation and mutual aid. The other line is that of the economy of capitalism the productive forces of which are marking time, an economy which is in the grip of the constantly deepening general crisis of capitalism and the recurring economic crises; this is the line of militarisation of the economy, of rivalry between countries, and enslavement of some countries by others.

A feature of all the countries of capital is the further relative and absolute impoverishment of the working people.

The truth about the steady powerful upsurge of the peace economy in the countries of the socialist camp exerts a powerful influence on the peoples of the entire world and inspires the oppressed and exploited masses in the capitalist and colonial countries in their struggle for freedom and, independence for human rights. The Communist and Workers' Parties will do all in their power to make this truth the property

of the broad masses, and, in this way, will make another contribution in the struggle for world peace, for democracy, for Socialism.

RESULT OF FULFILMENT OF STATE PLAN OF NATIONAL ECONOMY OF U.S.S.R. IN 1952

**Report by Central Statistical Board of
Council of Ministers of U.S.S.R.**

The development of industry, agriculture, and transport, capital construction, trade expansion, and rise in the material and cultural standards of the people in 1952 are indicated by the following data.

I. FULFILMENT OF INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT PLAN

The 1952 plan of gross output for industry as a whole was fulfilled 101 per cent, and annual gross output by Ministries was as follows:

	Annual output in percentage of plan for 1952
Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy	103
Ministry of Non-ferrous Metallurgy	100
Ministry of the Coal Industry	100.2
Ministry of the Oil Industry	100.7
Ministry of Power Stations	100.9
Ministry of the Chemical Industry	102
Ministry of the Electrical Industry	102
Ministry of the Communications Equipment Industry	100.9
Ministry of the Heavy Machine-Building Industry	99
Ministry of the Automobile and Tractor Industry	102
Ministry of the Machine-Tool Industry	100.5
Ministry of the Machine-and-Instrument-Making Industry	100.7
Ministry of the Building and Road-Building Machinery Industry	100.4
Ministry of the Transport Machinery Industry	96
Ministry of the Agricultural Machinery Industry	96
Ministry of the Building Materials Industry of the U.S.S.R.	99
Ministry of the Lumber Industry of the U.S.S.R.	90
Ministry of the Paper and Wood-Working Industry	102
Ministry of the Light Industry of the U.S.S.R.	100.6
Ministry of the Fish Industry of the U.S.S.R.	94
Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry of the U.S.S.R.	100.5
Ministry of Food Industry of the U.S.S.R.	103
The Industrial Enterprises of the Ministry of Cotton Growing of the U.S.S.R.	99.9
Industrial Enterprises of the Ministry of Communications	100
Industrial Enterprises of the Ministry of Public Health of the U.S.S.R.	103
Industrial Enterprises of the Ministry of Film Industry	

of the U.S.S.R.	107
Industrial Enterprises of the Central Board of Polygraphical Industry, Publishing Houses and Book Agencies of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R.	104
Ministries of Local Industry and Ministries of Local Fuel Industry of the Union Republics	103
Producer Co-operatives	102

In 1952 considerable quantities of industrial items were produced in excess of plan: pig iron, steel, rolled meta, steel piping, certain non-ferrous metals, coal, oil, benzine, kerosene, diesel fuel, natural gas, power transformers, automobiles, ball bearings, excavators, bulldozers, metal-cutting machines, caustic and calcined soda, mineral fertilisers, chemicals for combating agricultural pests and weeds, dyes and other chemicals, motor tyres, window glass, roofing state, paper, woollen and silk fabrics, hosiery, bicycles, cameras, pianos and also cheese, condensed milk, confectionery, tea, wine, cigarettes, matches and other items of manufacture.

In 1952 quality of industrial products improved, however, some enterprises were remiss in regard to quality and assortment of manufactured goods and gave defective production.

In number of branches of industry the production plans were not fulfilled in relation to assortment. Thus, for instance, the Ministry of the Heavy Machine-Building did not fulfil the 1952 plan for certain types of electrical equipment, the Ministry of the Machine-Tool Industry did not fulfil the plan for production of certain types of machine-tools, the Ministry of the Agricultural Machinery Industry – for certain agricultural machine, the Ministry of the Building Materials Industry of the U.S.S.R. – some types of cement. The Ministry of the Lumber Industry of the U.S.S.R. did not fulfil the plan for delivery of logs.

II. GROWTH OF INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT

Output of major manufactures in 1952, compared with 1951, changed as follows:

	1952 compared with 1951 (per cent)		1952 compared with 1951 (per cent)
Pig iron	114	Caustic soda	111
Steel	110	Calcined soda	121
Rolled metal	112	Mineral fertilizers	108
Rails (railway)	153	Chemicals for combating agricultural pests and weeds	145
Steel piping	114	Synthetic dyes	108
Copper	115	Synthetic rubber	109
Zinc	124	Motor tyres	101
Lead	117	Paper	109
Coal	107	Cement	115
Oil	112	Roofing slate	126
Benzine	126	Roofing felt	114
Diesel fuel	134	Bricks	119
Natural gas	102	Pre-fabricated houses	127
Electric power	113	Bicycles	143
Trolleybuses	11.9 times	Radios	106
Automobiles	107	Gramophones	123
Ball bearings	117	Sewing machines	120
Oil equipment	144	Clocks and watches	109
Metallurgical equipment	112	Cameras	128
Large single-shovel excavators	107	Pianos	118
Multi-shovel excavators	122	Cotton fibre	107
Steam turbines	108	Cotton fabrics	106
Large hydro-turbines	124	Woollen fabrics	108
Turbo-generators	130	Silk fabrics	129
Hydro-generators	138	Meat	115
Large electrical machines	107	Butter	104
Derrick trucks	103	Dairy products	105
Electric motors	106	Condensed milk	128
Electric bulbs	109	Vegetable oil	109
Metal-cutting lathes (Ministry of the Machine-Tool Industry)	103	Cheese	115
Chemical equipment	128	Sugar	103

Spinning machines	118	Confectionary	112
Looms	139	Canned goods	111
Calculating machines	153	Tea	112
Tractors	107	Soap	102
Sugar-beet combines	119	Alcohol	110
Tractor-drawn mowing machines	120	Cigarettes	112
Seed drills	107	Wine	128
		Beer	106

Gross industrial output in the U.S.S.R. in 1952 was 11 per cent above 1951.

In keeping with the State supply plan the national economy in the past year received far more raw materials, materials, fuel, electric power and equipment than in 1951.

In 1952 still greater efficiency was achieved in utilisation of industrial equipment. In ferrous metallurgy, utilisation of useful blast furnace volume improved 5 per cent in 1952 compared with 1951. Steel output per square metre of open-hearth furnace increased 3 per cent. In the enterprises of the Ministry of the Oil Industry oil-drilling was speeded up 4 per cent against 1951. Utilisation of the capacities in oil-processing plants was improved and the percentage of refined oil product extracted from crude oil increased. In enterprises of the Ministry of Coal Industry productivity of the "Donbas" coal-combine increased. In enterprises of the Ministry of Power Stations fuel consumption in generating electric power fell by 2.3 per cent. There was better utilisation of production capacity for manufacturing synthetic ammonia and sulphuric acid in the chemical industry and also better utilisation of the capacities in the cement industry. There was better utilisation of equipment in the cotton, wool, ilk and knitted goods industries. However, there life still considerable reserves of unused capacities in a number of industries particularly in the machine-building and lumber industries.

Expenditure of raw materials, materials, fuel and electric

energy per production unit was reduced in 1952 as against 1951, nevertheless, in a number of enterprises there is excess expenditure of raw materials and materials.

Reduction in cost of production in 1952, tailing into account the lower prices for raw material, material, fuel and charges for electrical and thermo energy and transport rates, amounted to more than 8 per cent.

III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNIQUE IN THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Growth and perfecting of socialist production in 1952 proceeded, as in previous year, on the basis of the introduction of the achievement of Soviet science and technique.

In 1952 the Soviet machine-building industry produced nearly 600 most important new types and designs of machines and mechanisms, ensuring further technical progress of the national economy. The machine-tool industry assimilated more than 200 new types and designs of metal-cutting and wood processing machine-tools, forging machines and presses, including new designs of highly productive special purpose machine-tool and heavy machine-tools, automatic and semi-automatic machine-tools and new automatic machine-tool lines.

New types of coal combines were produced for mechanising labour-consuming jobs in thin-seam pits and new instrument and equipment for prospecting oil seams and deposits.

New type of equipment was produced for electric stations, for the metallurgical, chemical and other branches of industry, including more economic hydraulic and steam turbines, highly-productive rolling equipment, machinery for thermic welding of alloys and low-carbon steel, new types of instruments and gauges for automatic control and regulation of production

processes.

New models of powerful scrapers, bulldozers and excavating-machinery were produced as well as excavator cranes for mechanising earthwork and for loading and unloading in construction work.

New designs of machinery, mechanisms and appliances, including a self-propelled pneumatic cotton picker for non-irrigated cotton districts, silo-gathering combines, highly productive mowing machines, machines for combating pests and diseases in agriculture were produced for mechanised cultivation of grain and industrial crops and also for mechanising work on livestock farms.

Mechanisation of production increased considerably in all branches of the national economy.

In the pits of the Ministry of the Coal Industry where cutting, hewing, delivery and haulage were already completely mechanised in previous years, the work carried out in 1952 aimed at further mechanising the more labour-consuming processes in coal production – coal haulage at the coal face and loading of coal and dirt during preliminary work. Compared with 1951 the volume of mechanisation of such work in 1952 increased, in coal haulage 25 per cent, in loading coal and dirt 17 per cent. The process of introducing new types of reinforcement in preliminary workings, using metal and concrete props, was continued. By the end of 1952 a total of nearly 2,000 combines and cutting machines and more than 1,600 conveyer lines were switched to remote control.

In the lumber industry mechanisation of basic jobs increased. Compared with 1951 the volume of mechanisation in the Lumber Industry of the U.S.S.R. increased in felling by 26 per cent, log haulage 20 per cent and log loading 39 per cent. Despite the increased mechanisation in lumbering this industry did not quite fulfil the 1952 mechanisation assignment for logging.

Mechanisation of loading and unloading on the railways and water transport increased this year.

Highly-productive technological processes and automatisisation of production in various branches of industry were further developed in 1952.

New highly-productive methods of extracting iron-ore were successfully applied in the ore-workings of the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy. Work was carried out for intensification of production processes in iron and steel smelting, increasing the productivity of blast furnaces and open-hearth furnaces. Work was continued for equipping metallurgical furnaces with instruments for automatic regulation of the thermic regime.

By the end of 1952 the transfer to automatic control of all aggregates of hydro-electric stations in exploitation in the system of the Ministry of Power Stations was completed. Hydro-electric stations accounting for over 50 per cent of the total capacity of the hydro-electric stations were switched to tele-mechanical control. Automatisisation of production processes at the thermo-power stations was carried out on a more extensive scale.

The share of turbine drilling in overall drilling in the oil industry rose. An accelerated regime in turbine well-drilling and double-barrelled drilling, ensuring greater drilling speed and shortening the time for assembly work, was successfully introduced. Methods of extracting oil by maintaining pressure in the strata, particularly by forcing a stream outside the boundary, were further developed. Methods of second-round extraction of oil were continued by pumping water, gas and air into the oil strata.

In machine-building the use of new grades of modified pig iron – a substitute for steel and standardised rolled metal – increased. Advanced methods of accelerated treatment of metal were further developed. New assembly-lines were introduced in the production of machine parts and in the assembly, of

machines, aggregates and instruments. The work of equipping thermic and heating furnaces with automatic apparatuses continued, the number of automatic and semi-automatic appliances used in different technological processes increased.

The introduction of new, highly-productive aggregates, machines and automatics in the cotton, woollen and other branches of the light industry, and also assembly-line methods in hosiery production continued. More work was carried out for further equipping enterprises of the food industry with automatics, automatic lines and also with instruments and aggregates for automatic control and regulation of production processes.

In 1952 the number of inventions and proposals for rationalisation submitted by working people increased in all branches of the national economy, Nearly 800 thousand inventions, technical improvements and rationalisation proposals were introduced in industry, building and transport.

IV. AGRICULTURE

The crop area in 1952 exceeded that of 1951 by 2,765,000 hectares. During the same period the area sown to wheat – the most valuable grain crop-increased by 3,320,000 hectares. The area sown to cotton, sugar-beet, sunflower and other technical crops also increased. A considerable increase was registered in the area sown to fodder roots, silo crops and perennial grasses.

According to the figures of the Chief Harvest Assessment Inspection of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. a good harvest of cereals and technical crops was gathered in 1952. Gross harvest of cereals in 1952 totalled 8,000 million poods with the wheat harvest increasing 23 per cent over the 1951 figure. Gross yield of cotton, sugar-beet, sunflower, flax and other technical crops as well as gross yield of potatoes and

vegetables were greater than in 1951.

The material-technical base of agriculture was further extended and strengthened during 1952.

In 1952 agriculture received 131,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p. tractors), 41,000 harvester combines (of which 21,000 self-propelled), 57,000 trucks and more than 2 million soil cultivation implements, sowing, harvesting and other agricultural machines as well as machines and equipment for stock-raising farms.

The level of mechanisation on the collective and state farms rose as a result of the increased technical equipment supplied to agriculture. Three-fourths of the main agricultural work on the collective farms in 1952 was done by the machine and tractor stations. Nearly all ploughing and over 80 per cent of the sowing on the collective-farms was mechanised in 1952. Nearly all sowing of cotton, sugar-beet and other technical crops was mechanised in the past year. Some 70 per cent of the collective-farm grain was harvested by combines, more than two-thirds of the sugar-beet was harvested by beet harvester combines and tractor-drawn beet-picker.

Although the amount of work done by the machine and tractor stations on the collective farms in 1952 considerably increased, the machine and tractor stations did not complete the plan for harvesting potatoes, for silo fodder and autumn ploughing.

A considerably wider use of electrical energy for ensuring water supply, preparing fodder, milking and sheep shearing was made on collective-farms.

Publicly-owned livestock on the collective-farms increased in 1952 as follows: cows – 6 per cent; hogs – 4 per cent; sheep – 7 per cent; horses – 4 per cent.

Livestock increases on the state farms of the Ministry of State Farms of the U.S.S.R. during 1952 were: cows – 5 per cent; hogs 4 percent; sheep – 8 per cent; horses – 9 per cent.

Collective-farms, forest nurseries, machine and tractor stations and shelter-belt stations as well as the state farms in the steppe and forest-steppe areas of the European part of the U.S.S.R., working on the afforestation plan adopted in 1948, planted in 1952 shelter-belts on an area of more than 725,000 hectares. The 1952 plan for shelter-belt planting was overfulfilled.

During 1952 much work was done in developing irrigated agriculture and in draining swamps and marshlands.

V. GROWTH OF RAIL, WATER AND ROAD TRANSPORT

The 1952 plan for rail freight was overfulfilled. Freight turnover increased 9 per cent compared with 1951. The general plan for average daily car-loading was fulfilled by the railways 104 per cent. However, some of the railways did not fulfil the fixed plan for loading of vital freightage. In the past year the assignment for accelerating turnaround of wagons was fulfilled. Fuel expenditure per ton km. on the railways was reduced 4.4 per cent compared with 1951.

River-borne freight carriage increased 12 per cent compared with 1951 but fell short somewhat of plan requirements.

Sea-borne freight carriage increased 9 per cent compared with 1951. The annual assignment for sea-borne freight carriage for 1952 was fulfilled.

Road freight carriage increased 15 per cent. compared with 1951.

VI. INCREASE IN CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

The volume of state capital construction in 1952 was 111 per cent compared with 1951. Volume of capital construction for power stations was 126 per cent, for ferrous and non-

ferrous metallurgy 111 per cent, the coal and oil industries 105 per cent, the machine-building industry 112 per cent, the building-materials industry 109 per cent, the light and food industries 109 per cent, dwelling house construction 110 per cent.

During 1952 a considerable number of new production capacities was commissioned in all branches of the economy.

The 1952 assignments in building the big hydro-electric stations and irrigation systems on the Volga, Don, Dnieper and Amu-Darya were successfully fulfilled.

In 1952, the V. I. Lenin Volga-Don Navigation Canal was commissioned.

Building organisations received in 1952 a considerable quantity of highly-productive machines and mechanisms. Compared with 1951, the excavator park increased 25 per cent, scrapers more than 40 per cent, bulldozers 29 per cent, tower cranes more than 70 per cent, the park of other building machines and mechanisms was also greatly increased. The switching from mechanisation of individual processes to complex mechanisation of building work is being realised on construction sites. However, building machines and mechanisms are not sufficiently used on many construction sites.

Building costs were reduced in 1952 compared with 1951. However, many building organisations did not ensure fulfilment of the state-plan assignment for lowering construction costs by means of improving organisation of construction and assembly work and by cutting overheads, and administrative expenditure.

In 1952 state enterprises, establishments and local Soviets, and also the population in towns and workers' settlements aided by state, loans, built dwelling houses with floor space totalling over 27 million square metres. In addition, 370,000 dwelling houses were built in the countryside.

VII. EXPANSION OF TRADE

In 1952 Soviet trade continued to expand. The new achievements in industrial and agricultural production, the rise in labour productivity and reduced production costs enabled the Government on April 1st, 1952, to reduce retail prices on consumer goods for the fifth time in succession since the abolition of rationing. On April 1st, 1952, book prices, including text-books, were also reduced. The new price reduction resulted in a further strengthening of the Soviet rouble, in increasing its purchasing power, and in a further increase in the sale of goods to the population.

In 1952 the population purchased in state and co-operative stores 10 per cent more goods than in 1951. Sales of separate vital items increased: meat – 10 per cent, fish products – 13 per cent, butter, oil and other fats – 17 per cent, eggs – 9 per cent, milk and dairy products – 17 per cent, sugar – 26 per cent, confectionary – 19 per cent, silk fabrics – 20 per cent, clothing – 11 per cent, knitted goods – 17 per cent, stockings and socks – 11 per cent, leather footwear – 15 per cent, furniture – more than 20 per cent, scap – 7 per cent. building materials for the population – more than 20 per cent, bicycles – 24 per cent, clocks and watches – 20 per cent, televisors – 27 per cent, cameras – 30 per cent, sewing machines – 22 per cent, gramophones – 25 per cent. Sales to the population of household refrigerators, vacuum cleaners and washing machines rose considerably.

In 1952 state and co-operative trade was extended. About 7 thousand new shops were opened. The network of specialised shops was considerably extended in towns, workers' settlements and in the countryside.

In 1952 sales to the population of agricultural products on the collective-farm markets continued to increase; sales of flour, cereals, potatoes, vegetables, poultry, eggs and honey

showed a particularly pronounced increase.

VIII. INCREASE IN NUMBER OF FACTORY AND OFFICE WORKERS AND GROWTH OF LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY

The number of factory and office workers in the national economy of the U.S.S.R. at the end of 1952 amounted to 41,700,000 and was 900,000 more than at the end of 1951. The number of workers and office employees in industry, agriculture and forestry, building and the transport services, increased by 725,000 in the course of the year, in educational, scientific-research and medical institutions – by 115,000 in public feeding, housing and other communal services – by 60.000.

As in previous years there was no unemployment in the country in 1952.

In the past year 326,000 young people graduated as skilled workers from vocational railway, factory and mining schools and colleges and were given jobs in industry, building and on the railways.

Seven million eight hundred thousand factory workers and office employees acquired skill or improved their qualifications with the help of individual, group and class instruction in 1952.

Labour productivity of industrial workers was 7 per cent higher in 1952 than in 1951; it was 10 per cent higher in the machine-building industry, 8 per cent in ferrous metallurgy, 8 per cent in non-ferrous metallurgy, 4 per cent in the coal industry, 5 per cent in the oil industry and 8 per cent in the chemical industry.

Labour productivity of building workers increased 7 per cent in 1952, compared with 1951.

IX. CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND URBAN IMPROVEMENT

1952 was marked by a further rise in the cultural level of the Soviet people.

In connection with the extension of seven-year and ten-year schooling the number of pupils attending 5-10 classes increased by more than one and a half million in 1952 including an increase of one million pupils attending the eight-ten year classes.

In line with the fixed task of switching from seven-year schooling to universal secondary schooling in the capitals of the republics, cities under republican authority, regional, territorial and large industrial centres the number of pupils attending eight-ten year classes in these cities rose 44 per cent in 1952.

1,442 thousand students (including correspondence course students), that is, 85 thousand more than in 1951, attended higher-educational establishments; 1,475 thousand students or 106 thousand more than in 1951 attended technical colleges and other secondary special-educational establishments (including correspondence course students).

The number of graduates of higher-educational establishments and technical colleges working as specialists in the national economy in 1952 was 8 per cent higher than in 1951.

After-work education of the working people in higher and secondary special-educational establishments and in ordinary schools were extended. Thus, the numbers taking correspondence courses and attending evening higher-educational establishments were 8 per cent greater than in 1951, taking correspondence courses and attending evening technical colleges 11 per cent and in the worker and peasant youth schools 8 per cent greater.

In 1952 more than 27 thousand students took post-graduate courses in higher-educational establishments and scientific-research institutes.

1,776 scientists, engineers, agronomists, workers in the realms of literature and art, workers and leading people in agriculture were honoured with a Stalin Prizes for outstanding work in science, invention, literature and art.

In 1952 there were 368 thousand libraries of all kinds under the auspices of state and public organisations, the number of books exceeding 830 million copies.

The number of film projectors increased by 5 per cent in 1952 compared with 1951.

In the summer of 1952, 5 million 500 thousand children and juveniles spent holidays in pioneer camps, children's sanatoria, tourist camps or in the countryside with their respective kindergartens, children's homes and creches.

1952 was marked by further improvement in medical-sanitary and prophylactic services. The network of hospitals, maternity homes, dispensaries and other medical establishments and of sanatoria and rest homes was extended. The number of beds in hospitals and maternity homes increased by more than 50 thousand compared with 1951. The number of doctors increased by 14 thousand compared with 1951.

In 1952 output of industry producing medicines and medical apparatus increased by 23 per cent compared with 1951. There was a substantial increase in output of highly-effective prophylactics, equipment for diagnosis and treatment as well as surgical instruments.

Much work was done in 1952 in building communal establishments, in improving towns and workers' settlements, installing water-supply systems and sewerage, extending street-car and trolleybus services, in installing gas and heating in

homes, paving and asphaltting streets and squares, planting trees and greenery in cities and workers' settlements and laying out boulevards, public gardens and parks.

X. GROWTH OF NATIONAL INCOME AND INCOME OF POPULATION

In 1952 the national income in the U.S.S.R. grew by 11 per cent compared with 1951.

In the Soviet Union the entire national income belongs to the working people. The working people of the Soviet Union received, for the satisfaction of their personal and cultural needs, as in the previous year, nearly three quarters of the national income, the rest of the national income remained at the disposal of the state, collective farms and co-operative organisations for extending socialist production and other general state and general public needs.

The growth in the national income made it possible considerably to improve the material conditions of the workers, peasants and intelligentsia and to ensure the further extension of socialist production.

The improvement in the material conditions of the population of the U.S.S.R. found expression in the rise in nominal and real wages of workers and employees and in the increased incomes derived by the peasants both from commonly-owned collective economy and from their household plots and personal husbandry.

In 1952, as was the case in previous years, the population received, from the state, benefits and payments from social insurance funds for workers and employees; pensions from the social-maintenance fund; accommodation in sanatoria, rest homes and child establishments free of charge or at reduced rates; allowances for mothers of large families and unmarried mothers; free medical treatment; free training and training for improving qualifications, students stipendiums and a number of

other payments and benefits, Further, all workers and employees, that is, nearly 42 million people, enjoyed paid holidays of not less than two weeks, while workers in a number of trades had longer vacations. In 1952 the population received from the state in the above-mentioned benefits and payments the sum of nearly 129 billion roubles.

Due to the price reductions for goods of mass consumption, to the growth of money earnings of workers and employees, of cash and kind incomes of the peasants and payments and benefits to the population at state expense – the income of workers and employees for every one employed worker increased by 7 per cent in 1952 as against 1951 and the income of peasants for every one working in agriculture by 8 per cent.

Central Statistical Board of Council of Ministers of U.S.S.R.

RESULTS OF FULFILMENT OF STATE PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ECONOMY IN COUNTRIES OF PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY IN 1952

POLISH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

Gross output of socialist industry in Poland in 1952 rose 20 per cent compared with 1951. Production of pig iron compared with 1951, was 113 per cent, steel – 114 per cent, extraction of copper ore – 155 per cent, coal output – 103 per cent, coke – 116 per cent, electric power – by 114 per cent, etc.

Further successes were registered in introducing new technique.

In agriculture the crop area increased by 142,000 hectares compared with 1951. Gross harvest of four grain crops increased 4 per cent, the number of pigs – nearly 3 per cent, the number of sheep – nearly 13 per cent. Agriculture received over 8,400 tractors (in terms of 15h. p) and many other machines. The area cultivated by the socialist sector extended in 1952 to nearly 17 per cent of the entire cultivable land in the country. By the end of 1952 the agricultural producer co-operatives numbered nearly 4,900. The number of machine and tractor stations increased nearly 25 per cent reaching the figure of 325 by the end of the year.

Nineteen fifty-two saw the commissioning of nearly 490 big and medium industrial enterprises including the blooming mill in the “Bobrek” iron and steel works. The working people received almost 111,600 new apartments. The number of factory and office workers employed in the socialist sector of the national economy rose by nearly 324 thousand compared with 1951. Labour productivity in socialist industry rose by more than 13 per cent. According to preliminary data the national income in 1952 grew approximately 10 per cent.

HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

The 1952 plan of gross output for industry in the People's Republic of Hungary as a whole was fulfilled 100.7 per cent. Industrial output was 23.6 per cent higher than last year. Compared with 1951 output of coal was 122.8 per cent, electric power – 119.3 per cent, steel – 113.1 per cent, pig iron – 126.7 per cent.

A number of new enterprises were commissioned in 1952. Many enterprises were enlarged and modernised! The new enterprises include: the big blast furnace at Diosgyor, the

Sztalinvaros fire-proof brick factory, the Tsza Chemical Combinat, the Maly brick works, the Hajdusag medical factory, etc. At the end of 1952 the number of workers and employees engaged in national economy was 203,000 more than in the corresponding period last year, the wage-fund rose 23.5 per cent.

The fact that in 1952 the area harvested by machines increased twofold compared with 1951 testifies to the development of agriculture. Agriculture received 1,700 tractors, 500 combines and about 25,000 other agricultural machines. An additional 90 thousand families joined the producer cooperatives. Thirty-seven per cent of the total crop area now belongs to the socialist sector.

Big success was also registered in cultural life. Last year 4.7 million people visited theatres. The book fund in the 8,500 public libraries increased to 4.3 million volumes.

Nearly three-quarters of the national income went for the material and cultural needs of the population, and one-quarter went for extension of industry and for other state and public needs.

RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

The 1952 production plan in the Rumanian People's Republic was fulfilled in industry as a whole, 101.7 per cent. The following data testify to the rapid growth of industry: compared with 1951 oil extraction in 1952 amounted to 128.9 per cent, ore extraction 136.9 per cent, electric power output 117.6 per cent, pig iron 111.5 per cent, steel 108 per cent, rolled metal 115.9 per cent, electric motors 145.3 per cent, generators 399.2 per cent, transformers 171.5 per cent, tractors 124.2 per cent, ball-bearings 131.3 per cent.

The overall increase in the output of socialist industry for

the year amounted to 23 per cent.

The Rumanian people achieved new successes in developing technique: 68 new types of machines, including 120 h.p. tractors, scrapers, excavators, high voltage transformers, etc., were produced.

In 1952 the socialist sector of agriculture was extended and strengthened. During the past year the countryside received 3,530 tractors, 1,440 sowing machines, 1,200 threshing machines and 300 self-propelled combines. Thirty new machine and tractor stations were established. The number of producer co-operatives rose to 1,795.

An extensive programme of capital construction was successfully carried out in 1952. The volume of work carried out equals 135.7 per cent compared with 1951. A number of vital industrial enterprises such as the Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej thermo station in Doicesti, the Ovidiu II thermo station, a blast-furnace in Calan, blast furnace No. 6 in the Gh. Gheorghiu-Dej iron and steel combinat in Hunedoara, two cement plants, the "Carbochim" plant in Cluj, etc., were commissioned.

Cultural construction and dwelling-house construction developed on a large scale. In 1952 the state allocated more than 2,200 million lei for public education and cultural development.

AGAINST RATIFICATION OF BONN AND PARIS MILITARY TREATIES!

Call to German and French Peoples

The Board of the Communist Party of Germany, the Central Committee of the French Communist Party and the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany have addressed a combined call to the German and French peoples, which reads:

“The peoples of Germany and France are threatened with the danger of a new war. The Bonn and Paris treaties further the formation of an aggressive European Army under the

command of U.S. imperialism. The Bonn and Paris treaties signify the revival of Nazism and militarism and restoration of the Wehrmacht in Western Germany.

“Basing themselves on the Bonn and Paris treaties the U.S. seeks to convert Western Germany into a spring-board for a new war against the U.S.S.R. and against the people of France. This inevitably leads to the armaments drive and to increased misery for the working people.

“The U.S. imperialists seek to use our peoples in carrying out their schemes for world domination and, following the example of Hitler, they advocate an anti-Soviet crusade. They have found allies in the German and French imperialists who are betraying the “national interests of our two peoples, depriving them of their independence and threatening them with the danger of a new world slaughter.

“They elaborated the Bonn and Paris treaties with a view to involving Western Germany in the aggressive system of the Atlantic pact directed against the Soviet Union. These treaties facilitate the revival of German militarism and imperialism, which aims, with the help of the U. S., at achieving a dominant position in Europe and which, if it feels strong enough, will inevitably resort once more to its former aggressive schemes. Thus, these treaties are fraught also with the danger of a new war between Germany and France.

“For the purpose of carrying out the war policy the reactionary imperialist forces under U.S. imperialist command are striving to break the national resistance in the two countries and to suppress the popular peace movement. This is also the reason for the repressions against the French Communist Party and the leading comrades, such as Jacques Duclos, and also for the persecution of the Communist Party of Germany and Max Reimann, its Chairman.

“Both peoples long for peace and a stable agreement with each other. Peace between France and Germany, peace in

Europe will be achieved by means of joint struggle by the peoples against the instigators of war.

“Our two peoples welcome the important statement made by Comrade Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic, to the effect that: ‘The German Democratic Republic will never tolerate that Germany should ever again wage war against the French people.’

“The peoples of Germany and France will not become hirelings of the imperialists. They will not wage war either against the Soviet Union or against each other.

“The peoples of France and Germany approve and support the efforts of the Soviet Union in the matter of a peaceful settlement of the German problem. These efforts stem from the consistent peace policy carried out by the U.S.S.R., a policy which was recently re-affirmed by Comrade Stalin in his interview.

“The common aims of the struggle of the working people of the two countries, aims which at the same time correspond to the interests of all peace-loving peoples, are:

- a peace treaty with Germany,
- a peace-loving, democratic, united Germany without Nazism and militarism,
- a guarantee that Germany will not participate in any military alliance directed against another country.

The combined struggle of our peoples for peace will restore unity in Germany and security and independence to France. A peace-loving, democratic, united Germany is the best guarantee of the security of France and the other peoples of Europe.

“This struggle will facilitate the peaceful development of Europe in conditions of respect for freedom and equality of all nations.

“For the first time the possibility of establishing stable, peaceful relations between Germany and France is seen by the

two peoples. In order to establish such relations it is essential to frustrate the military 'general contract' as well as all other preparations for aggressive war. Our peoples have already won a big victory by holding up ratification of the Bonn and Paris treaties. They can completely thwart them by intensified struggle. The two peoples demand a meeting of the Four Powers for a peaceful settlement of the German problem.

“Such is the great duty of the working people and of the entire population of the two countries.

“Such is the historic task, realisation of which is urged by the three Parties who have signed this document.

“Long live the militant solidarity of the peoples of France and Germany!

“Long live peace!

“January 27, 1953.

“Board of the Communist Party of Germany.

“Central Committee of the French Communist Party.

“Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.”

LAYING MATERIAL-TECHNICAL FOUNDATION OF SOCIALISM IN SLOVAKIA – Julius Branik, Member, Central Committee, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia

The industrialisation of Slovakia, the laying of the material-technical foundation of Socialism there, is of the greatest importance for socialist construction in Czechoslovakia.

Prior to the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Army Slovakia was one of the most backward regions of

Central and South-East Europe. In the days of the pre-Munich bourgeois republic the monopolists who controlled Czechoslovak economy did all in their power to maintain Slovakia as a backward, agrarian area, as a source of cheap labour and a supplier of agricultural products and raw materials. Suffice it to say that the number of workers employed in industry in Slovakia on the eve of World War II was the same as in 1913. Slovakia was subjected to intensive exploitation and national oppression.

The people's-democratic government tackled the question of economic development of the country in an entirely different way, in the spirit of the Lenin-Stalin national policy.

“The elimination of the discrepancy between the Czech lands and Slovakia” said Comrade Klement Gottwald “is not simply the aim of Socialism in our country, it is also the immediate prerequisite for the triumph of Socialism”.

Accordingly, Slovakia receives all possible aid from the Party and Government, from Comrade Gottwald personally and from all Czech working people. The friendship of the peoples of the Czechoslovak Republic grows stronger and develops in common labour, in socialist construction.

The Five-Year Plan provided that the level of industrial production in Slovakia in 1953 would be 183 per cent of the 1948 level and 358 per cent compared with 1937. According to the increased Five-Year Plan assignments adopted at the meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in February 1951, production in 1953 will be more than five times that of 1937. At the end of 1952 the index of industrial output in Slovakia was 435 (1937=100). This year the growth of industrial production alone will exceed the industrial output for the pre-war year of 1937. Heavy industry branches are developing at an even more accelerated rate. At the end of 1952 the index of heavy industry was already 628 compared with 1937.

The economic development of Slovakia is proceeding in accordance with Comrade Stalin's brilliant teaching on socialist industrialisation. "The centre of industrialisation, its basis," Comrade Stalin points out, "consists in developing the heavy industry (fuel, metal, etc.), in developing, in the final analysis, production of the means of production, in developing native machine-building".

The historic XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U. provided abundant material testifying to the accelerated development of the formerly backward regions of Russia whose inhabitants had been oppressed by tsarism. The results of socialist construction in these regions represent a real triumph for the Lenin-Stalin national policy. Slovakia is also following this path of rapid economic and cultural prosperity.

J. V. Stalin's new and brilliant work "Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R." is invaluable for all our creative endeavour. In the light of this work we are beginning better to see, among other things, the entire course industrialisation and to comprehend more clearly our shortcomings and future tasks. A very important thesis is that planning of the national economy must correctly reflect the demand of the objective law of planning national-economic development and must, in everything, take into account all the requirements of the basic economic law of Socialism. These directives of Comrade Stalin are of the greatest significance for all our concrete planning of the national economy.

The further economic development and direction of industrialisation in Slovakia is defined by the action of the basic economic law of Socialism discovered by Comrade Stalin.

The securing of the maximum satisfaction of the constantly rising material and cultural requirements of the whole of society, – this is the **aim** of socialist production: continuous expansion and perfection of socialist production on the basis of

higher techniques – is the **means** for achieving the goal.

Such, teaches Comrade Stalin, is the basic economic law of Socialism.

The rapid development of socialist industry in Slovakia is further testimony to the progressive action of the basic economic law of Socialism, leading to an upsurge of the productive forces of society and to its flourishing.

Along with the laying of the material-technical foundation of Socialism, changes are also taking place in the social structure of Slovakia. Under capitalism Slovakia had a numerically insignificant working class, small producers prevailed in town and countryside, but there was quite a significant rural proletariat. In the conditions of economic decline, brought about by the policy of the imperialist plunderers and the Czechoslovak bourgeoisie which served them in the conditions of undeveloped industry and primitive agriculture, a large section of Slovakia's working people were unemployed. As a result, Slovakia provided the biggest exodus of migrants from Central and South-East Europe to the U.S. and other transatlantic countries.

In the course of several years of socialist construction a radical change has taken place in Slovakia's social structure. The working class has considerably increased and its ranks are growing all the time. Unemployment and poverty have been banished from town and countryside. In the factories, in the higher educational establishments and in all sectors of the national economy and culture new and numerous cadres of a socialist intelligentsia are being moulded.



The national-economic plan of Slovakia for 1953 envisages, as in previous years, the development in the first place of the basic branches of the economy: increased output of

ores and coal, more electric power, increased production of pig iron and steel. At present, after the exposure and smashing of the anti-state conspiracy centre, headed by Slansky, the task is to overcome as early as possible, the aftermath of the wrecking activity of this gang of imperialist hirelings, to accelerate the development of the afore-mentioned branches in order that they, at an ever increasing rate, supply the economy of Slovakia with fuel, electric energy and raw materials. Coal output is scheduled to rise 34.2 per cent, during the current year, electric power 36 per cent and extraction of iron ore 22.8 per cent.

Increased coal output is a matter of paramount importance for the national economy of Slovakia. Under capitalism Slovakia's coal output was insignificant. The Five-Year Plan provides for increased coal extraction in existing coalfields and sinking of new shafts. The pits have now been substantially mechanised. Soviet "Donbas" coal combines are now being introduced. The task of the miners is to master the new machinery find the progressive methods of labour, particularly the timed cyclic method, to use the latest methods of propping and working the seams.

Slovakia's power base is being extended on the basis of increased coal output. However, chief attention is devoted to utilising the water resources in which Slovakia is very rich. The capitalist system proved incapable of using on a wide scale and rationally the cheap "white coal" with the result that the share of hydro-energy in the general power balance was insignificant. The People's-Democratic Republic is developing large-scale construction of hydro-electric stations. Despite the subversive activity of the wreckers, the hydroelectric station on the River Vag was put into operation in 1952. A number of hydro-electric stations will be commissioned this year. In 1955 the hydro-electric stations of Slovakia will account for 41 per cent of the total electric power generated. Electric-power production this

year exceeds fourfold and in 1955 will be more than eightfold that of 1937.

Under capitalism extraction of iron-ore and non-ferrous metals steadily declined. Actually no prospecting was carried out. At present the mining industry is a highly important branch of the national economy. Extraction of iron-ore is already considerably in excess of the pre-war level. But this only the beginning of the development deliberately retarded by the saboteurs. Further large-scale mechanisation, construction of mills for enriching the ores and large-scale geological survey are planned, and these will create the prerequisites for a new, powerful upsurge in extraction of iron-ore and non-ferrous metals.

Big development of both ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy is planned. In the near future, due to large-scale construction, the metallurgical industry will become one of the leading branches of Slovak economy. Utilisation of the rich sources of raw materials and energy in Slovakia will considerably consolidate the raw materials and power base of socialist construction throughout the Republic.

Machine-building is also growing at a rapid rate. Under capitalism machine-building in Slovakia was exceptionally weak. Slovakia produced in the main simple equipment for the light industry and the food industry. At present the machine-building works produce up-to-date machinery and equipment. The machine-builders provide equipment for power stations, mines and chemical plants; they produce steel construction, machine-tools, etc.

Other branches of industry are also rapidly developing. In 1952 the volume of production in the chemical industry increased roughly twofold compared with 1948. Production of building materials is being substantially expanded.

The building sites use the latest designs of Soviet machinery: dredgers, scrapers, excavators and other machines.

Due to mechanisation construction is proceeding at a rapid pace on all sectors of the national economy. The volume of construction in 1952 was five times the 1937 figure.

In order to make rational use of the timber resources large-scale construction of wood-processing plants and cellulose mills is underway.

The food industry is also growing; the increase in dairy and meat products is especially marked. Twenty-eight new dairy-combinats, equipped with up-to-date machinery, have been built during the years of socialist construction. New refrigerators and meat packing plants are under construction.

Big changes have taken place in the distribution of Slovakia's productive forces.

GREAT STRUGGLE OF PEOPLE OF ITALY IN DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY – Pietro Secchia, Deputy, General Secretary, Communist Party of Italy

January 21, which was the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Italy, marked the highest point of the first phase of the great, nation-wide struggle in defence of democratic freedoms, peace and national independence.

The Communist Party of Italy was born 32 years ago, at a

time when fascism, by means of violence and terror, by assassinating the leaders of the organisations of the working people and trampling upon the rights and dignity of citizens, destroyed democratic freedoms, abolished the constitutional status and jeopardized the independence of the country and impelled it along the pathway of war and destruction.

Right from its very inception, the Communist Party of Italy had to wage a merciless struggle against fascism and the reactionary forces that had run amuck. The Communists demonstrated a splendid example of bravery, confidence in and devotion to the cause of the working people. During the two decade of the fascist dictatorship thousands of Communists languished long year in prison: the special fascist tribunal passed sentences totalling 28,693 years hard labour, of which 22,960 years were imposed on Communists. Many of our comrades died from torture or as a result of the privation and suffering. Eleven years of imprisonment and indescribable suffering killed Comrade Antonio Gramsci, the founder of our Party. This great son of the Italian people, together with Comrade Palmiro Togliatti, adhering to the counsel and directives of Lenin, Stalin and the Communist International, founded the Party of the proletariat, the Party which is inseparable from the people and which constitutes democracy's most solid bulwark in Italy.

Thirty-two years ago the Communist Party of Italy was a small Party, weak politically and ideologically; it was faced with the task of overcoming the sectarianism and the right and "left" opportunism in its ranks; it had yet to win the confidence of the broad popular masses. Today the Communist Party of Italy is the strongest Party in the country, it enjoys the support of the overwhelming majority of the working class, of the working population, of the advanced section of the people of Italy.

Fascism triumphed in Italy in 1921-22 due to the treachery

of the Right-wing social-democratic leaders, due to the absence of unity of the working class, of the working population and the people as a whole.

The struggle waged in the past years and the present great struggle in defence of Parliament, universal suffrage and democracy testify to the great path traversed by the Italian working people and their Party. The present struggle in defence of democratic freedoms and national independence is taking place to the accompaniment of working class unity, at a time when at the head of the working people and the democratic movement there stand the Communist and Socialist parties linked by the pact of united action – the decisive factor in the solidarity, strength and successes in the struggle of the people of Italy.

Again we are confronted with the grim necessity of defending, with all our energy, the democratic freedoms and independence of the country.

The attempts by reaction to abolish the bourgeois! democratic freedoms are becoming increasingly clear. But, at the same time forces have appeared on the scene, forces which have become tempered and capable of resolutely defending these freedoms. Today the workers, peasants and other categories of the working population of Italy are deeply conscious of the significance of democratic freedoms and have demonstrated that, in no circumstances whatever will they let anyone rob them of the rights won at the cost of long struggle and heroic sacrifice.

The struggle in Parliament and throughout the country, which developed at a rapid rate during the past three months, resulted in the clerical government and its accomplices suffering an ignominious failure on January 21.

Although the draft of the fraudulent electoral law was passed by the Chamber in which the clerical party commands a considerable majority, nevertheless, the Government could

only get this approval by guillotining the debate, for which purpose it resorted to arbitrary action and naked violation of all parliamentary rules and norms.

When he considered that the right moment had come, De Gasperi said to the deputies: “Gentlemen, you have had enough of debating. If you like the bill, approve it exactly as submitted, if you don't like it, well, reject it; but this bill must be approved or rejected as a whole, in the exact form that it has been submitted, without any changes or amendments. The debate has gone on long enough, the government now raises the question of confidence, the government itself will handle this bill.”

All this is something unheard of and illegal in the conditions of a bourgeois-democratic system. It signifies the destruction of the parliamentary system, means taking the path of installing a clerical dictatorship. If the government, by means of a vote of confidence, arrogates to itself the right to issue laws, then parliament will have no choice but to cease its activity; fascism could come to power “legally” without the aid of armed units violence and terror; all that the government need do is to demand a vote of confidence in order to get a free hand for doing away with democratic freedoms by means of legislative decrees.

Indeed, while Mussolini came to power by means of violence, Hitler in Germany in 1933 took the so-called “legal” path, that is, through Parliament, under cover of the laws of the Weimar Republic – laws which increasingly, were shorn of their democratic nature. The clerical rulers in Italy, attempting a coup d'état, have now taken this path. The dominant groups of the big bourgeoisie in Italy, who are subordinated to American imperialism, feel that they are no longer in a position to retain power by relying on the democratic parliamentary system. They know perfectly well that if the people were in a position to exercise their will freely without police violence

and intimidation, without religious terror, without economic pressure and threats and without foreign interference, they would ruthlessly sweep aside their government and their policy. This is the sole reason why the clerical government, supported by groups of liberals, by the Saragat and republican chieftains, prepared a draft law which virtually abolishes universal suffrage and violates the republican Constitution.

The old ruling classes feel that their power is becoming more and more shaky with every passing day, that they cannot freely conduct the policy of war; and if in 1921-22 they resorted to fascism in order to thrust back the working-class and democratic movement, today they resort to violence and arbitrary action in the sphere of legislation in an attempt to liquidate the democratic freedoms and to establish a regime of tyranny.

“By repudiating universal suffrage, with which it had hitherto draped itself and from which it sucked its omnipotence, the bourgeoisie openly confesses; **‘Our dictatorship has hitherto existed by the will of the people; it must now be consolidated against the will of the people’**. And, consistently, it seeks its supporters no longer within **France**, but without, in foreign countries, in an **invasion**.”

Although these words came from Marx's pen in 1850 they could have been written today. The leading groups of the big bourgeoisie in Italy seek salvation not within Italy, not among the people of Italy, but without, abroad, seek salvation in the support of American imperialism, in suppression of democratic freedoms. But they have miscalculated. Conditions today are not what they were a hundred years ago, and are different from what they were even 30 years ago when fascism, by resorting to force, abolished parliament, democratic organisations and democratic freedoms.

Today the working people of Italy have become more mature, their political and national consciousness has deepened

and they know the price of democratic freedoms. And if the reactionary groups think fit to rob the people of Italy of democratic freedoms, to revise or abolish the Italian Constitution, the people of Italy, the working masses, on their part, have no intention of being deprived of gains won as the result of stubborn struggle, great sacrifice, as a result of the national-liberation war.

Consequently, the working people of Italy have risen in resolute struggle. Each day and every phase of the great three-month battle fought in the Parliament by the democratic opposition had the backing of increasingly wider actions by the working masses of Italy. This three-month, ever-extending struggle in Parliament and throughout the country against the fraudulent electoral law in defence of universal suffrage and the republican Constitution, is without parallel in the history of the working class and popular movement in Italy. It was unprecedented for sharpness of Parliamentary debate, in the persistence with which the Communist deputies, the Socialists and independent democrats upheld their rights. Unprecedented too is the keen interest in the struggle and the sympathy shown by the popular masses and the contribution made to the struggle by the working people in every province of Italy. It was without precedent in the direct contact established between the working masses and their representatives in Parliament, in the close linking of the struggle for the basic economic and social demands of the working people with the struggle in defence of equal voting rights.

The popular protest movement is growing in vigour, in scale, and initiative. This is evident from the thousands of protest resolutions adopted by the internal commission in enterprises, in the communal and provincial councils, at trade union meetings, in the peasant leagues and in the labour chambers. This is evident from the messages sent to parliament and signed by tens of thousands of citizens, from the fact that

numerous delegations of workers, peasants and intelligentsia came to Rome from all parts of Italy, including remote villages. Thousands of strikes took place, bringing work to a standstill in factories, on construction sites and on agricultural estates.

The spontaneous work stoppages and strikes which took place early in December later began to gain momentum and swelled into a mighty wave, assuming a more and more organised and universal character and mounted to an unprecedented height. The first days of January saw the beginning of strikes in which all categories of the working people participated, involving entire towns. The first half of January witnessed general strikes in all the industrial and agricultural centres' in the country – in Rome, Milan, Genoa, Turin, Bologna, Florence, Aosta, Biella, Novara, Terni, Taranto, Livorno, Naples, Palermo, Bari, Ferrara and in many other cities and provinces. Today in one town, tomorrow in another the working people stopped all work. Not a single day passed during the past month without monster manifestations and mass strikes in the large cities, and in dozens of villages in defence of Parliament, democratic freedoms and national independence. It can safely be said that there is not a single village in the country in which the significance of the present struggle has not been explained, and whose population did not rise in protest against the fraudulent electoral law. There is not a single enterprise in which workers, at least once, did not stop work, there was not a single large industrial centre in which the worker did not strike least for a few hours duration. The strikes reached their climax on January 21 in protest against the unlawful act of violence on the part of the clerical chieftains in Parliament and against police repressions. Simultaneous general strikes took place in Turin, Genoa, Modena, Parma, Ferrara, Padua, Rovigo, Alessandria, Biella and in many other communities in the Tuscany, Campania, Emilia, Apulia and Sicily regions.

The working masses throughout Italy rose in defence of democratic freedoms. They became conscious of the fact that everything was at stake because the imposition of the fraudulent electoral law, the act of violence carried out by the clerical rulers against Parliament jeopardize all their gains, threatening both their immediate and general interests.

The struggle which they are waging is a struggle for peace and work, for bread and freedom. It is a fight for the right of the working masses to collective agreements, to internal commissions in the enterprises, the right to organisation, to strikes, freedom of the press and of all the other freedoms of citizens.

The struggle which the people of Italy are waging in defence of democratic freedom in defence of Parliament and the republican Constitution is worthy of their traditions and their strength. This great struggle is not yet over. The draft of the electoral law will be debated in the Senate where the debate will be prosecuted with the same energy and with the same vigour as in the Chamber of Deputies. Every day increasingly broader sections of citizens will join the struggle of the working class, of the peasantry and of all the working masses. The protest movement will spread wider and wider throughout the country. The people of Italy will carry forward the banner of peace, democratic freedoms and national independence. They will unfold, with still greater energy, a victorious struggle to save democracy and the republican Constitution.

POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY ORGANISATIONS HOLD CONFERENCES

Conferences of rural, district and town organisations preceded by meetings of the Party branches are being held in the Polish United Workers' Party.

These conferences show that the historic decisions of the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U. have deeply influenced the life of the Polish. United Workers' Party.

Militant criticism of shortcomings and mistakes made in the work of individual Party organisations and committees was unfolded at many of the conferences. For example, in

Limanowa (Cracow region) delegates subjected the district committee to outspoken criticism; they demanded that it give better help to the local organisations and pointed to the need for constant attention to the question of raising the political level of members and probationers. In Ruda Slaska (Kalowice region) the participants of the conference pointed out that the youth work of the town committee of the Party was inadequate with the result that young members in the Party organisations are very few. The comrades who took part in the discussion advanced numerous proposals for improving the work of the town committee and of the Party organisation. Lively discussion took place at the district conference in Widzew (Lodz). Numerous contributions by delegates testified to the deep appreciation of the fact that economic achievements derive from correct Party-political work. The conference severely criticised the work of the district Party committee in the matter of training cadres. Delegates criticised the district committee also for its tendency to substitute for political-educational work the practice of issuing commands. The exacting nature of the demands made on members of the district committee found expression particularly in the fact that the former secretary was not re-elected.

However, not all the conferences subjected the work of Party organisations and Party committees to the necessary criticism. Some of the conferences, in Tomaszow-Lubelski (Lublin region), for instance, failed to disclose numerous shortcomings in the work of the district committee and the criticism of the district committee was inadequate. The speeches of a number of delegates were not sufficiently self-critical. A shortcoming of some of the conferences was that they inadequately combined the analysis of the work done in carrying out economic assignments with an analysis of the leading role of the Party organisations. Not always were concrete conclusions drawn from the criticism of mistakes.

FACTORY PARTY BRANCHES FIGHT FOR FULFILMENT OF PLAN

Factory branches of the Communist Party of Bulgaria are actively fighting for fulfilment of the production plans for 1953.

The production plan of the Ernst Thälmann textile mill in Sofia envisaged an 18 per cent increase in output compared with 1952. At a general Party meeting the members thoroughly discussed the tasks arising from the production plan, outlined broad measures for its fulfilment, for raising the vanguard role of the Communists and for improving Party-political work. Each member was given a concrete assignment. Georgi Jordanov, Party organiser, was instructed to call a meeting of his group and to discuss the tasks facing it, utilising for this purpose experience of the Party organisation of the Kanavin woollen mill in the Soviet Union. All Party organisers in the factory attended the meeting in order to utilise this experience in their own groups.

On the initiative of Angel Tonev, Party member and foreman, the plan of Koika Minkova's team was discussed in the factory. The workers made many suggestions for utilising the team's inner reserves, A similar discussion took place in the section of foreman Zveta Kuzmanova. The experience of Minkova and Kuzmanova was studied in all sections and teams.

UNEMPLOYED CONFERENCE IN AUSTRIA

A catastrophic growth of unemployment is taking place in Austria. By mid-December the number amounted to 215 thousand and has now reached 300 thousand. This figure does not include the tens of thousands not registered and those working on short time.

On January 25 the Central Committee of the Unemployed convened the first conference of unemployed workers in Vienna.

1078 delegate from all provinces discussed the question of taking effective measures against the growing unemployment.

After lively discussion the conference unanimously adopted a programme which called upon the ministers to take immediate measures against unemployment, particularly, the immediate raising of all restrictions on trade with the East, to use profits of the state enterprises and banks for organising public work and for increasing unemployment allowances, to stop discharging workers from state enterprises, etc.

The conference called on all unemployed workers in the country to vote in the coming elections for the "Austrian people's opposition" which is opposing the Marshallised Government. A second conference of unemployed workers will be held in March.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND HUNGER IN TITO-FASCIST YUGOSLAVIA

Caught in the vice of dollar “aid” the economy of Titoite Yugoslavia today is completely in the service of the imperialist warmongers.

Disclosing his criminal adventurous plans, the chieftain of the Belgrade fascist gang in a moment of candour declared to foreign correspondents last year that “his government has spent and is spending more on armaments than any other West-European country”. Stressing his lackey-like loyalty to the transatlantic masters Tito asserted that “Yugoslavia is developing only those branches of industry which correspond to the interests of the allies (i.e. the U.S.–V.K.) and which facilitate effective utilisation of the sources of strategic raw materials”.

The open line taken by the Titoites for intensifying war preparations, dictated by the interests of the U.S. billionaires, has disorganised the entire economy of Yugoslavia, has resulted in the decline and complete disruption of civilian production and has doomed the working masses to appalling privation and suffering, to unemployment, poverty and hunger.



Civilian construction and peaceful branches of industry have been constantly curtailed ever since Yugoslav economy began the switch to war production. In 1952 the volume of civilian capital construction, that is, industrial enterprises producing consumer goods, was curtailed by 70 per cent compared with 1951. Thousands and thousands of workers have been thrown out of work.

Even the far from complete data which appear in the Titoite press give an idea of the widespread nature of

unemployment in Yugoslavia. The army of “surplus” people at present numbers over 300,000 industrial workers, 180,000 handicraftsmen and about 70,000 office workers.

At first the Titoites carefully concealed the existence of unemployment in the country. Seeking to deceive the working masses they tried to prove that the “partial labour reserve” in industry was a “temporary” phenomenon. At present, however, there is not a town in the country in which unemployment does not make itself felt. Belgrade and Zagreb alone – the two main cities and biggest industrial centres in the country – registered, according to the Tito press, more than 70,000 applications for “jobs” in 8 months of 1952. In the town of Osjek about one in every three industrial workers was sacked in the first six months of 1952. The “Slavonia” wood-working enterprise in Osjek sacked 1,034 workers.

According to the obviously understated data published by the fascist clique. The unemployed women in the country number approximately 130,000. The decline in the number of women in industry is evident from figures: If the total number of women in industry in 1949 be taken as 100, the figure dwindled in 1950 to 87 and to 72 in 1952. The Titoite newspaper “Ludska Pravica”, published in Slovenia, admits that in 1951 14,000 women were sacked in Ljubljuna and Maribor, on the pretext that there was “surplus” labour. These facts are grim reminders of the unhappy lot of women workers in Titoite Yugoslavia.

Defending the fascist regime and justifying the brutal attitude towards women in industry the Tito fascist press tries to prove that things cannot be otherwise. “Borba” – the main Titoite mouthpiece – stated for example that “women in industry are a burden on the wage fund” and that “women lack the stamina of men and are often ill.” From all this cynical talk the fascist rag draws the no less cynical conclusion: “women cannot always replace men on a job for purely natural reasons, their place is in

the home”.

The youth also add to the army of unemployed. In Croatia the number of young people who want to learn a trade and find jobs in industry exceeds 26,000. The special juvenile schools for training skilled labour are closing, and the trainees, thrown onto the street, remain idle. The fate of those who succeeded in acquiring a trade in these schools is just as hopeless. Evidently for the purpose of providing an outlet for the discontent caused among youth by this state of affairs the Belgrade newspaper “Omladina” quoted Tibor , Mosaros, a young worker who took a course in the railway school in the town of Subotica and who has been out of work for six months: “I am not alone”, he said, “about 150 others finished school with me. We’ve been in many towns – Zagreb, Pola, Nish and Zrenjanin. Everywhere the answer is the same: ““We have no vacancies for skilled workers””.

Alongside the year by year growth and enrichment of the rural bourgeoisie – the kulaks – the social pillar of the Tito fascist regime in the countryside, there is the wholesale ruin of the poor and medium peasant households. Unable to bear the heavy tax burden and ruthless kulak bondage, many thousands of rural toilers are forced to abandon their tiny plots – their main means of livelihood. Eight thousand seven hundred and ninety-six peasant households have abandoned the countryside in the Zagreb district alone, and are searching for work in the towns. Actually the towns are flooded with the numerous army of the “surplus” rural population. These ruined peasant families roam the country looking for jobs. They fill the lodging houses, the railway stations and beg in the streets.

At present all Yugoslav towns-large and small – have permanently functioning and crowded labour markets. The labour exchanges which the Titoites opened early last year are doing all in their power to write down the unemployment statistics. They register only those unemployed who have a

two-year unbroken record in industry or a five-year standing at different jobs. Nor do they take into account the workless peasants and youth unless the latter have a general education or vocational training. It is understandable that the concealed army, that is, the unregistered jobless, is several times bigger than is represented in Titoite statistics.

When opening the labour exchanges in the towns the fascist rulers announced for demagogic purposes that the jobless would get unemployment benefit. However, in the ten months of 1952 only 8 per cent of the registered unemployed received a meagre allowance at the Belgrade labour exchange – the remainder of the applications were turned down. The labour exchanges deprive unemployed workers of the right to benefit and strike them off the unemployment lists for expressing the slightest discontent with the Tito fascist regime. The same procedure is practised by the labour exchanges in relation to those who refuse jobs on military-strategic constructions.

The Tito-fascist gang uses the reserve army of labour for exercising pressure on employed workers and first of all for reducing wages, for worsening the standard of living, intensifying oppression and further aggravating their slave-status. Early in 1952, on the pretext of bringing order into the system of remuneration for labour in industry, the Titoites introduced new wage rates with the result that the meagre earnings of workers dropped 18-20 per cent. Not only did the new rates bring no order into the system of payment for labour, they created for the owners of enterprises numerous opportunities for swindling machinations and for cheating the workers. The miners in the Milijevine ore-workings, for instance, got only 80 per cent of the payment stipulated in the new wage rates, while the remainder, according to the administration, goes for “making good the deficit in production”.

Day by day there is a growing number of facts testifying

that the armaments drive is becoming an increasingly heavier burden for the Yugoslav workers, that it is becoming intolerable. Work in Titoite factories and ore mines is real slavery. Human life counts for nothing. The worker is exploited to the extreme and when he becomes prematurely old or disabled, he is thrown out of the factory. Titoite statistics have had to acknowledge that in the metallurgical industry 280 accidents were recorded per thousand workers in 1951 and in 1952 (in first 6 months) – 337. The number of fatal accidents is rising all the time.

Mass unemployment, impoverishment of the working people, hunger – all have led to an increase in social diseases, particularly tuberculosis, trachoma. etc., and make the mortality rate in Yugoslavia one the highest in the world. In the towns child vagrancy, banditry, prostitution and suicides have assumed large dimensions.

The predatory, militarist policy which presses on all aspects of life in Yugoslavia, the unrestrained armaments drive of the ruling fascist gang in Belgrade, is pursued first of all for personal enrichment and for ensuring maximum profits for Wall Street's industrial and financial tycoon who, in the guise of "aid", are stepping up their capital investments in the Yugoslav economy. Yugoslavia's debt to the transatlantic monopolies is more than 20,000 dinars per capita, including infants. The more the U.S. imperialists, with the help of the mercenary Tito fascist gang, line their pockets on war preparations, the more unbearable becomes the position of the Yugoslav working class and of all working people and the greater the army of "surplus" people doomed to impoverishment and hunger. As already reported in the press, Uno experts studying questions of food and agriculture have calculated that, even with the greatest economy, Yugoslavia now lacks 280,000 tons of wheat, 330,000 tons of maize, 20,000 tons of barley, 20,000 tons of beans, 30,000 tons of lard

and 20,000 tons of sugar.



The ordinary people in Yugoslavia now experiencing the oppression of the fascist regime and colonial enslavement are beginning to see that the ruling fascist gang – the imperialist agency – doomed the working people to unemployment, impoverishment and hunger. The wrath of the people is growing, and growing too is their profound indignation with the bloody dictatorship of the fascist hangmen. Day by day the working people of Yugoslavia are intensifying their struggle against the Tito-fascist tyranny and colonial slavery.

V. KIRSANOV



Korean children, residing in the Rumanian People's Republic at the invitation of the Aid Korea Committee, received a wholehearted welcome from the working people. Photo: A little Korean being treated at a Child Institute in Bucharest.

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Photo: A little Korean being treated at a Child Institute in Bucharest.

IN COLONIAL AND DEPENDENT COUNTRIES

Saudi Arabia in Bondage to U.S. Imperialists

The population of Saudi Arabia suffers from the double yoke of feudal beys and U.S. monopolists who are ruthlessly plundering the wealth of the country. Oil extraction, foreign and home trade, transport, and the banking system are in the hands of 15 U.S. companies. "ARAMCO" (Arabian-American Oil Company), established in 1939 and in which the American Standard Oil of California, Texas Oil Company, Standard Oil of New Jersey, and Sokony Vacuum have holdings, has been granted in the shape of a concession nearly half the territory of the country up to the year 2005!

The colossal profits of the U.S. oil companies can be gauged from the fact that the oil extracted in Saudi Arabia costs them almost 10 times less than the oil extracted in the U.S. This is explained in the first place by the ruthless exploitation of Arabian workers whose earnings are so meagre that they do not provide food and clothing for the hungry and ragged families. There is a working day of 12 and more hours and trade unions are banned. The vast majority of the population of Saudi Arabia is starving and suffers from disease. The U.S. imperialists are turning the country into a military springboard. A special military agreement was reached between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia in 1951. An American military air base has been built in Dahran, in the heart of the oil fields. The port of Damman is under construction on the coast of the Persian Gulf. American military barracks and airfields have been built along the pipe-line taking the oil to the Mediterranean.

FACTS EXPOSE...

Growing Suicide Rate in India

Nearly 6,000 people committed suicide in the past five years in the Uttar Pradesh province alone. Statistics show that suicides are mounting: in 1947 – 969, 1950 – 1,298, 1951 – 1,507. The majority of those who take their own lives are young people from 15 to 30 years of age.

The reason for the suicides, according to the newspapers, is poverty, hunger, unemployment.

POLITICAL NOTES

TURKISH LACKEYS OF U.S. AGGRESSORS

Never before have the present rulers of Turkey been so pleased with themselves as they are just now. Having become lackeys of the U.S. aggressors the Turkish “statesmen” regard it as an honour to barter their homeland. This gang of hardened traitors who are ready at any moment to sacrifice the blood and lives of the Turkish people for their own interests and in the interests of their transatlantic masters, wants the whole world to know about their servility to the U.S. dollar.

The Turkish press goes out of its way in trying to depict Turkey, if not the centre of the world politics, at any rate as the right hand of the U.S. in its international brigandage. “Turkey is... a highly important base for dealing a blow to the enemy”, writes the newspaper “Vatan”, a Turkish trumpet of Wall Street, “To Turkey belongs the first place among the countries providing the largest number of divisions for the European Army”, boasts the reactionary newspaper “Djumhuriyet”, “Our regular army”, writes this newspaper, “is stronger than the Danish, Dutch, Norwegian, Belgian and Luxemburg armies taken together”. “The whole world now knows that... the Turkish people are a fighting people”, complacently concludes the “Vatan”.

And evidently in order that no one should have any doubts about this “fighting quality”, that no one should recall now and again the smashing defeat suffered by the Turkish marauders in Korea, and, mainly for the purpose of begging as many dollars as possible, the Turkish rulers recently decided to introduce again the uniform of the janissaries of the XVI-XVII centuries in order “to instil in the army the spirit of janissaries”.

Is it not clear that it is not the Turkish workers and peasants

in uniform who need “the spirit of janissaries” but the U.S. warmongers striving to establish their world domination by using the hands of others and who, for this purpose, are turning Turkey into a military bridge-head for attack on the Soviet Union and the countries of people’s democracy. In the current year the Turkish rulers added 70 million lire to the military budget which already absorbed 60 per cent of the national income, Turkey is literally flooded with U.S. intelligence agents operating in the guise of “specialists”.

The incorporation of Turkey into the aggressive North-Atlantic Union and its transformation into a U.S. military bridge-head have produced chaos in its economy and have brought the people appalling privation and hardship. Barlas, Minister of Labour, admitted that the operation of the “Marshall plan” in Turkey resulted in the closing of 412 industrial enterprises; of the enterprises still functioning working for civilian needs, many have curtailed production by 50-80 per cent. Militarisation of the economy has resulted in catastrophic lowering of the standard of living. According to the “Ulus” prices for items of prime necessity rose last year by 30-100 per cent compared with 1951. The appalling poverty drove more than 190 men and women to suicide last year in the city of Istanbul alone.

Rural poverty in Turkey baffles description. Most of the peasants lack even primitive implements. For every 100 peasant households there are but 11 wooden ploughs, while one threshing-machine is shared by 1,666 households. During the last four years over 500,000 peasants abandoned their plots and tramped the country in search of a means of existence. Even the reactionary Turkish press was forced to admit that 6 million landless peasants are literally doomed to die of starvation.

While the Turkish rulers maintain thousands of U.S. officials and spend millions of lire on military construction, almost half the population suffers from tuberculosis – the result

of brutal exploitation, malnutrition and primitive living conditions. The Minister of Public Health was forced to admit that of the 800,000 infants born, 400,000 die every year. Complete absence of medical aid in the Turkish countryside, nearly 16,5 million illiterates – such is the plight to which the people are doomed by the Turkish followers of the “American way of life”.

With the bestial ferocity of fascists the Turkish rulers put down any manifestation of discontent on the part of the working people. Turkey has been turned into a medieval dungeon. In the last two years the gendarmerie jailed 35,000 people. Even the reactionary newspapers are forced to admit that hundreds of Turkish citizens are put to death without trial. Not satisfied with the fact that the country already has more than 500 prisons the Turkish rulers are planning to build another 28 prisons in the current year, to extend the police apparatus. On orders from the U.S. military mission a special police “committee for struggle against peace supporters” has been formed.

But no matter the crimes resorted to by the Turkish bashi-bazouks, currying favour with the U.S. militarists, they cannot smother the progressive sentiments of the people. The workers, peasants and intelligentsia are beginning to discern who is their friend and who their enemy; they are resolutely resisting the fascist policy of the Turkish lackeys of Wall Street. Numerous arrests and savage persecution of workers in the factories are powerless to crush the revolutionary spirit of the workers, their loyalty to the cause of peace, their love for the Soviet Union – bulwark of peace, democracy and Socialism. More and more frequently the walls of schools and universities are chalked with the slogan: “Stalin is Peace”. Unrest among the peasants is growing and is accompanied by resolute resistance to the police, by seizing land and livestock from the landlords. The wholesale desertion from the army and the open manifestations

of dissatisfaction among the officers are a grim warning to the Turkish militarists.

This testifies once again that in Turkey as in the other capitalist countries the last word will be said by the people.

Jan MAREK

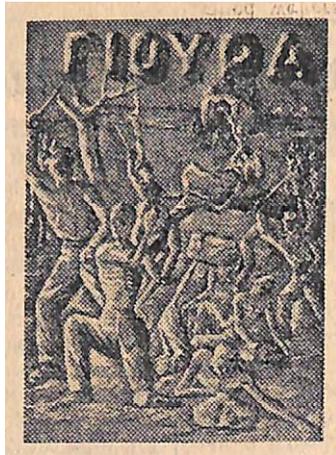
HOMES IN CAVES AND VAULTS

The intensified military construction now carried out by the fascist butcher Franco on the orders of the U.S. imperialists heralds for the Spanish people even greater hardships and impoverishment. Even the fascist press is forced to admit that a million and a half families have nowhere to live. Facts show that this figure is clearly underestimated.

In factory districts in the large cities families of 5-7 are cooped in a single room. Barcelona is fringed with 12,000 barracks, ply-wood and corrugated-iron shacks. In the vicinity of Madrid 11,000 homeless families live in caves. The French journal "Observateur" describes one such cave where a family of nine – husband, wife, six children and grandmother – share two beds. One family which was evicted from the ruins of a house in Carabanchel has occupied a cave for five years. The family bread winner, a bricklayer, earns 15 pesetas on days when working (the price of a kilogram of bread is six pesetas). Similar conditions prevail in Valencia, Seville, Bilbao and other cities. People even live in vaults in cemeteries...

BOOK REVIEW

THE UNCONQUERABLE – Book by Political Prisoners on the Greek Island of Iura



Iura is a tiny island in the Aegean Sea, only 28 square kilometres in area. It is swept by winds at all seasons. There is no fresh water on the island, no soil or vegetation – nothing but bare cliffs and sea water. Only sea-gulls circle over its arid surface. Snakes, rats, scorpions and crows – these are the only representatives of the animal world met with in this place which is strewn with the remains of the ancient graves of 80,000 political opponents of Rome.

Here is what Tacitus, the Roman historian, wrote about this accursed island: "... All were asked to state their views. One was condemned to death. Tiberius opposed the sentence...

Asinia Gala expressed the view that the guilty man should be imprisoned on either Giaros (Iura) or on Donus Island (another island in the Aegean Sea). 'No, no', repealed Tiberius, 'these islands are waterless. When we spare a man's life we should also provide him with means of sustenance'. And so Serenus was exiled to Amorgos Island!"

Iura Island has not been a place of exile since the time of the Roman emperors. This island, long forgotten by people, was recalled after a period of twenty generations by the sanguinary U.S. imperialists and their Greek monarcho-fascist puppets in order to continue in Greece the history of wholesale slaughter and bloody nightmare. In the summer of 1947 the Greek monarcho-fascists established amidst the lifeless rock and under the technical guidance of the U.S. imperialist murderers a "monument to western democracy" – the limit of barbarity and horror which can hardly be surpassed. They converted Iura Island into a prison, into a death camp and graveyard for thousands of innocent people. In these years of tragedy for Greece tens of thousands of Greek anti-fascists, fighters for democracy and peace languished on this island of torture.

In June last year the democratic publishing house "New Greece" issued the book "Iura" which is now being translated into Russian and French. It would be impossible to find another book like it in any library in the world. It is a really moving document which exposes before world public opinion the unprecedented bloody orgies of Greek monarcho-fascism. A feature of this document, one which makes it exceptionally important testimony, is that the entire book, from the first to the last of its 600 pages, was written and illustrated by heroes and martyrs of the penal servitude, by the Iura victims!

The authors of this grim narrative and their convictions can be discerned from the first few pages, "This book," write the prisoners on Iura Island, "is dedicated to the indomitable Greek

people of whom we have proved worthy and to the World Peace Congress which by its stirring Appeal strives to unite millions of honest people throughout the world”.

The writing of this book was indeed a heroic exploit that called for the same courage and will as the struggle described in its pages. The nameless authors add in the preface: “How this book came to be written is a long story that cannot at present be made public. The contributors include thousands of people all of whom have first-hand experience of Iura... People who rarely handled a pen wrote complete chapters of the book”.

It is impossible in a brief article to describe even approximately the Iura hell, established on a “scientific basis”. The organisers of this camp, which continues and perfects the horror regime of Hitler’s Dachau, resort to all manner of physical and spiritual torment in order to exterminate the political adversaries who fall into the hands of the Athens’ fascist regime. Wholesale bloody beatings. Penal labour. Breaking boulders which, under the whip of supervisors, are then carried on their back by prisoners and dumped... into the sea! The unbearable torment of thirst, of standing stripped in the blazing sun. Suspension of victims from the notorious Iura fig-tree, inoculation with germs of infectious diseases...

This is how Panaiotis Suliotis, one victim who is no longer alive, having died on Iura Island on August 4, 1950 after brutal torture, describes a day on the prison-island. “... In the morning when the bugle sounds,’ you hardly have time to wash, before the call for tea is sounded, and before you have had time to gulp it down the whistling and cursing start and prison guards, armed with sticks, enter the camp and begin beating up, shouting: ‘Bulgarians, you are doomed; your hour has struck!’ It is not only that you are hit at the moment. The point is that you are sent to a torture chamber, but before being locked in you are suspended from, the ‘fig-tree’ and beaten

until you lose consciousness... When, however, they see your chin drop, you are taken down, still unconscious, and allowed to come round; then they torture you again until they become tired... In all this I find neither a beginning nor an end”.

The tragic diary of another prisoner included in the hook is a day by day chronicle of the fascist hell:

“September 6, 1947.. Thirty-seven prisoners depart for trial by a military tribunal. Twenty new prisoners arrived. The rations are peas and olives. Glastras, deputy director, has returned after a long absence... He beat up many prisoners”.

“September 12, 1947. A launch arrived with musty bread. At ten in the morning the 3007 ‘Axios’ transport arrived with a party of 100 prisoners from Lamia and 470 from Trikkala. On landing they were brutally beaten. The beating was done by the prison guards Kolokagdis, Komninos, Daukakis and Zeibekos”.

“September 14, 1947. The ration today is onion and peas. Most of the bread was thrown away. Poisoning is a common occurrence. The water-supply vessel has not shown up for six days. The water in the wells that were sunk has become impregnated with salt”.

“October 20, 1947. Autumn cold has set in. All prisoners are badly clothed. None have blankets”.

One of the favourite diabolical tortures practised on prisoners is thirst. Here is what one of the thousands of contributors writes:

“Every day from dawn till dusk, on the ‘hill’ which has to be levelled out, 500-600 prisoners work in clouds of dust. Wagonettes travel to-and-fro. Whistling, shouting; screaming and cursing. Truncheons are broken on scarred backs. The heat melts the body. The rock is ablaze... There is absolutely no water on the island. The wells have dried up. The little water which remains has been monopolized by the gendarmerie. It is used to keep the dust down at a time when 10,000 prisoners

lack a mug of fresh water with which wet their lips, dry and sore from sea water”.

What do the butchers want of their victims? They want the prisoners to kneel before the American law. They call the prisoners “Bulgarians”, “traitors”, “Cominform agents”. They want to “re-educate” them. Alongside the torturer with the lash stands the “re-educator”, Father Procopios, archimandrite and “religious inspector of state prisons,” “the real spiritual pastor of the Truman doctrine. While the prison guards beat the prisoners he, without a murmur, continues to preach the word of his dollar god: “... If the beatings continue it means that it is God’s will, that all should suffer because your sins have not yet been washed away. Beatings emaciate and exhaust the flesh but purify the soul”.

The Iura hell functions to this day. Thousands of people there are subjected to inhuman torture now too. In one of the documents dated June 1952 the martyrs of Iura write: “June 12, 1952 marked the fifth year of the functioning of the extermination camp for political prisoners on this deserted, waterless island of Iura... A grave responsibility and disgrace falls not only on those who made Iura a place of extermination, but also on those who for five years sought to make this prison the mass graveyard of thousands of people, subjected to torture and torment because they love peace and are fighting for the welfare of their country”.

For this the prisoners of the Iura Island of death, the thousands of prisoners languishing in the countless prisons and concentration camps of monarcho-fascist Greece suffer indescribable agonies and pay with their lives. They are defenceless but indomitable in their courage. Neither terror, torture nor wholesale shootings can shake their devotion to their ideas, because these ideas are all-powerful. They inspire the hearts of millions of fighters throughout the world. The death camp in Iura is but one of the battle lines where the

vanguard fighters of the Greek people are nobly upholding freedom.

This book, each page of which is stained with the blood of Greek patriots, is not only a formidable indictment and exposure of the sinister deeds of the monarcho-fascist butchers. It is a courageous and firm voice which will reach all honest people in the world who will spare no effort to save the victims of U.S.-Greek fascism. Here is one document which testifies to the indestructible faith of the victims of fascism:

“... Throughout all these years, years of indescribable torment and torture the Greek democrats remain staunch, steadfast and indomitable... They kept their heads erect. Their faith became stronger and their ideas deeper embedded in their hearts and minds. Iura at present is perhaps the threshold to the graveyard. But at the same time it is a camp of heroes, a citadel of fighters for freedom. Though our backs be scarred with wounds, though our bones be fractured and our breasts rolling, though death overtakes us daily, our hearts are filled with love for our long-suffering Greece, just as long-suffering as we are. And our spirits have been tempered in the flames of the grimmest and most arduous but also the most sacred of struggles. We know that we are fulfilling our duty as men and Greeks. We also know ‘hat we shall surmount every obstacle, just as we conquered Iura, just as we conquered death. We are not alone now. We have the support of all peoples in the world. We have the support of all honest people irrespective of country. And we are confident that they will help us even more actively, more directly and will **fight for our lives...**’

The banner of the great struggle waves proudly over the Iura camp. This is the same banner beneath which the Greek people, together with all peoples of the world, are fighting with indomitable courage. This is the banner of peace and democracy.

The day will come and the book about the Island of death

will be supplemented by a new and a final chapter – the story of the severe punishment meted out to those who have watered the soil of Greece with the tears and blood of the people.

Ap. SPILLOS

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