

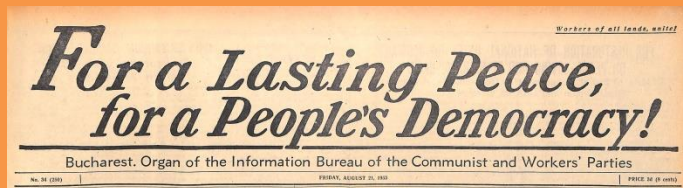
Workers of all lands, unite!

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

**Bucharest. Organ of the Information Bureau of
the Communist and Workers' Parties**



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FOR A UNITED, INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC, PEACE-LOVING GERMANY!

Over 8 years have passed since the war in Europe ended. However, Germany, through the fault of the ruling circles of the U.S., Britain and France, remains to this day without a peace treaty, is divided into Western and Eastern parts and is in a position of inequality in relation to the other states. Such an abnormal situation runs counter to the strivings of the peace-loving peoples for consolidating peace in Europe and the world over, and, at the same time, violates the legitimate national interests of the German people.

Settlement of the German question is the paramount international problem in the successful solution of which all peoples are vitally interested. All peace supporters, all progressive people know full well that the signing of a peace treaty with Germany, a correct solution of the German question would contribute decisively to the consolidation of peace in Europe, that the existence of a democratic, peace-loving Germany alongside the peace-loving Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy would exclude the possibility of new wars in Europe, would put an end to the enslaving of European countries by the U.S. imperialists.

The German question is the major unresolved question in international relations at present. Solution of this problem is vital for reinforcing the security of all European states, it is vital for the interests of the German people. Nor can it be denied that solution of the German problem would also help in settling other vital international questions.

It is known that the main principles for the settling of the German question are defined in the Potsdam Agreement by virtue of which the Soviet Union, the USA, Britain and also France, which adhered to it, took upon themselves the solemn international obligation—to facilitate the creation of a peace-loving and democratic Germany,

The Soviet Union adheres strictly to this international obligation, strives persistently to ensure realisation of the basic principles of the Potsdam Agreement, expressing the interests of the German people, the interests of all European peoples.

But the Governments of the USA, Britain and France are grossly violating the Potsdam Agreement, resisting the unification of Germany on a peace-loving and democratic basis.

The policy of the aggressive imperialist circles is aimed at wrecking the national unity of the German people and at perpetuating the dismemberment of Germany at depriving Western Germany of its national independence, at reviving German militarism and at turning Western Germany into a hotbed of war in the heart of Europe. The Washington conference of the foreign ministers of the USA, Britain and France, held in July, once again demonstrated that the governments of the Western Powers intend, in the future too, to pursue a policy alien to the national interests of the German people and hostile to the cause of peace, the policy contained in the Bonn and Paris agreements.

The Government of the USA is now exerting new pressure on its satellites to get the Bonn and Paris military agreements ratified at all cost. This proves once again that the Government of the USA aims at accelerating the revival of German militarism, at

speeding up creation of armed forces in Western Germany with a view to converting them into the striking force of the “European Army” and the main instrument for furthering, the aggressive designs of the North Atlantic bloc.

This aggressive policy of the imperialist circles of the USA and of the Adenauer clique, acting in unison with them, runs counter to the interests of the German people. The peace-loving forces of the German people realise full well that inclusion of Western Germany in the “European Army” and the North Atlantic bloc would make unification of the Western and Eastern parts of Germany impossible. It is precisely for this reason that the overwhelming majority of Germans are taking action against the Bonn and Paris agreements, against Western Germany being included in the “European Army” and the North Atlantic bloc.

The policy pursued by the U.S. Government aimed at reviving German militarism contradicts not only the interests of the German people, but also the vital interests of the states neighbouring Germany. The recent lessons of history are fresh in the memory of all. In a brief space of time German militarism twice unleashed sanguinary world wars. The lessons of history teach that militarist Germany was the mortal enemy of France, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Poland and other neighbouring states. Consequently, all the peoples of Europe are vitally interested in completely eliminating the danger of rebirth of German militarism, in Germany being turned into a peace-loving democratic state. Consequently, they are giving active support to the German people in their just struggle for a united, peace-loving Germany.

The path to the settlement of the German question, the path which corresponds to the interests and aspirations of the peoples of Europe, to the interests of all peace-loving people of the world has been indicated by the Government of the U.S.S.R. The Soviet Union is striving persistently and steadfastly to ensure the signing of a peace treaty with Germany as quickly as possible, to see that Germany becomes a united, independent, democratic, peace-loving state worthy of taking its rightful place among the other powers. The active and consistent struggle of the Soviet Union for a correct solution of the German problem found its embodiment in the Note of the Soviet Government of August 15 addressed to the Governments of France, Great Britain and the USA.

The Soviet Government proposes the convening within the next six months of a peace conference to discuss the question of a peace treaty with Germany, with the obligatory participation by representatives of Germany at all stages of the preparation of the peace treaty. For this it is necessary to form a Provisional All-German Government. The Soviet Note clearly defines both the ways of forming this government and its tasks. The main task of the Provisional All-German Government will be preparation for and the holding of all-German free elections, as a result of which the German people themselves, without any interference on the part of foreign powers, will decide the question of the social and state structure of a democratic Germany.

For the purpose of easing Germany's financial-economic obligations arising from the war, the Soviet Government deems it necessary, as from January 1st 1954, to relieve Germany of all reparation payments and the state postwar debts to the Four Powers and

considerably to reduce occupation expenditure.

The Note of the Soviet Government expresses the cherished hopes of all honest Germans. It will penetrate to the consciousness, to the heart of every German patriot, to everyone for whom the fate of his country is dear, who wants to see Germany united, independent, democratic and peace-loving, who wants Germany to take the pathway of unprecedented upsurge in developing the economy and culture, the path of friendly co-operation with other countries striving for peace and international security.

At the invitation of the Soviet Government, a government delegation from the German Democratic Republic arrived in Moscow for negotiations. Peace-loving Germans in both East and West Germany warmly welcome these negotiations, since the German people, as is the case with all progressive humanity, know that these negotiations will be a new vital stage in the further development of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic, that they will serve the cause of successful settlement of the German problem as a whole.

The population of the German Democratic Republic and all peace-loving Germans responded to the Note of the Soviet Government with feelings of profound satisfaction and gratitude. Meetings of the working people devoted to discussion of the new Note of the Soviet Government, now taking place in the German Democratic Republic, end in vivid demonstrations of the heartfelt gratitude to the Soviet Government for its aid to the German people in their national struggle.

The Soviet Government's Note evoked lively comment in all countries. The progressive press unanimously evaluates it as a document of great

international significance, as a big contribution to the cause of settling the German problem, to the cause of lessening the tension in international relations and of consolidating world peace.

The precise, absolutely clear and concrete proposals of the Soviet Government have caused confusion in the imperialist camp. As for the reactionary U.S. circles and the Adenauer clique, they, as was only to be expected, reacted to the Soviet Note with hostility. And this is understandable. For the Soviet Note proposes the peaceful settlement of one of the most vital international problems, while the aggressive forces [ear peace, considering any let 'up in the international tension as a disaster for themselves.

There are still many barriers and obstacles in the way to the settlement of the German question. The aggressive circles, retarding in every possible way any easing of the international tension, have tried and will keep on trying to frustrate settlement of the German question, have tried and will try again to unleash various adventures such as the Berlin provocation.

But the peoples are strong enough to bridle the warmongers. If the German people and all peace-loving mankind are vigilant, if they persistently struggle for peace and international security they will achieve a peaceful settlement of the German question and of the other unresolved international problems.

GROWING WELL-BEING IN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACIES

OUTPUT OF GOODS FOR POPULATION INCREASING IN POLAND

The Government of People's Poland displays constant care for the growing material and cultural requirements of the working people. Supplies of manufactured goods to the peasants are being systematically increased. In the first half of 1953 the cooperative trading network of the Peasants Mutual Aid Union fulfilled the plan for trade by 106.3 per cent. Trade increased nearly 12 per cent compared with the corresponding period for 1952.

Goods sold to the peasants included cement, 22 per cent more than in 1952; furniture, 38.4 per cent more; and 12 per cent more textile goods. Sale of radio sets also showed an increase. Peasants bought much larger quantities of sugar, wine, etc.

The public trade sector ensured a larger supply of vegetables and fruit for the urban population. Prices for vegetables and fruit have been reduced considerably in the state shops. Simultaneously market prices have also fallen.

BUMPER CROP IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Year by year the close economic co-operation

between the Republic of Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union leads to better technical equipment of the agriculture of the Republic. 819 Soviet harvester combines—almost double the number we had last year—are no working on the fields of the country.

The large number of machines—binders, tractors and mowing machines placed through machine and tractor depots at the disposal of the peasants by the people's democratic state help them to gather their harvest in time and without loss. Harvesting of grain crops, which last year lasted for weeks, was cut to a few days this year, even though yields were higher.

Record yields on the fields of the agricultural co-operatives are being reported from all over the country. Never before has there been such good yields on so vast an area as this year. Socialist agriculture is giving new proofs of its superiority over the individual small commodity production. The gathering of over 30 centners to the hectare on the fields of agricultural co-operatives is no exception this year. For example, the average yield of barley in all the co-operatives of the Nitra district in Slovakia amounted to 32 centners to the hectare. The members of the co-operative in Pasohlavky (Mikulov district) gathered 10 wagon-loads more grain than envisaged by the plan.

The good results of the harvesting mean bigger incomes for the members of the cooperatives. At bedrock of these successes lies the correct utilisation of the rich experience of the advanced Soviet agro-technique.

CARE OF WORKING PEOPLE'S HEALTH IN BULGARIA

On the example of the Soviet Union the training of nurses for the producer co-operatives in Bulgaria was initiated in 1951. To begin with training centres were established in four parts of the country to serve four regions.

The good results achieved led to the formation of more training centres. All the districts of the country are now served by such bases.

By the beginning of August a total of 1,000 had been trained in the centres. Upon completing their training the nurses are allocated to the medical centres attached to producer co-operatives. For example, 84 nurses are working in the producer co-operatives in the Plovdiv region. During the first half year they gave aid to 19,978 people, visited 537 schools and creches, gave pre-natal consultations to expectant mothers and delivered 445 medical lectures.

EVE OF 9th ANNIVERSARY LIBERATION OF ROMANIA BY SOVIET ARMY

Production Successes of Working People in Honour of Glorious Date

The socialist emulation in honour of August 23—the day of the liberation of Rumania by the glorious Soviet Army and the overthrow of the Antonescu fascist dictatorship—developed into a broad popular movement. It was joined by the Hunedoara and Resita

iron and steel workers, by oil workers in the Prahova valley, miners in the Jiu coal basin, by metal workers in Bucharest and the city of Stalin, textile workers in Buhuși, Timișoara and Arad, by thousands of machine operators in agriculture, state farm workers, members of the collective farms and the peasant mutual aid associations.

Great indeed is the creative upsurge of the liberated people. The workers of the “Vulcan” plant in Bucharest, of the tractor plant in the city of Stalin, the Josif Ranghet engineering works in Arad, the “Independenta” works in Sibiu and others are marking the ninth anniversary of the liberation with overfulfilment of production pledges. By August 10 the “Vulcan” workers yielded an economy of 3.1 million lei, instead of the 2.5 million pledged.

Big success has been registered by the miners in the Jiu coal basin. The plan for coal output was overfulfilled 130-200 per cent by many work teams in the Petrila, Lonea and Vulcan pits. The workers of the No. 1 oil refinery in Ploesti produced in excess of plan 680 tons of petroleum, 208 tons of lubricating oil and 302 tons of bitumen.

The socialist emulation is developing successfully in the enterprises of the light and food industries. The personnel of the big textile mill in Buhuși fulfilled the plan for the first 7 months of the year 105.37 per cent, considerably raising the quality of output and producing 30 new types of fabrics with 300 new designs. The plan for the first 17 days of August in the Gheorghiu-Dej clothing factory in Bucharest was exceeded 6 per cent with labour productivity 13 per cent above the planned figure. The June 11th silk fabric mill in Sighișoara turned out 8,000 metres of silk in excess of plan, etc.

High quality and durable fabrics for the working people—such is the motto of the textile workers now engaged in the emulation.

A youth team in the “Steagul Rosu” bakery bakes more than 5,000 kilos of bread daily in excess of plan; the May First food combinat in Satu-Mare produced, during the current year, tens of thousands of kilos of flour products and meat products.

In the course of the socialist emulation drive there is being born and developed the creative initiative of the working people and utilisation of advanced methods of labour such as high-speed methods of metal cutting, high-speed oil drilling; the cyclic system in the mining industry is being practised on a wide scale.

A movement has been started in the Nicolae Balceseu footwear factory in Bucharest for supplying as much footwear as possible from economised material. Having joined this movement the “Solidaritatea” footwear factory in Oradea has turned out over 10,000 pairs of boots and shoes from materials saved in the process of production. Workers in many food industry enterprises are also increasing their output and assortment.

Regarding the policy of the Rumanian Workers’ Party and the Government of the Rumanian People’s Republic, directed towards satisfying the constantly growing material and cultural needs of the working people, as their own policy, the workers, technical personnel and office staff are actively striving for its realisation.

Constitution Day in Hungary

Yesterday the working people of the Hungarian People's Republic celebrated their national holiday—Constitution Day.

Day by day the toilers of the country see their standard of living rising accordingly as the new Government programme is carried out. Only recently prices were reduced from 15 to 30 per cent for more than 800 items of manufactured goods. A few days ago factory workers received substantial cash bonuses for fulfilling production assignments in exemplary fashion. With a view to encouraging the best workers, the Council of Ministers has decided to award bonuses to working people using new methods of work. All-round aid is accorded the producer co-operatives and individual working peasants. Ordinary seed is being exchanged for high-quality seed from state stocks. In this way the state is aiding the agricultural population to the amount of 31.5 million forints.

The care and concern displayed by the Party and the Government for the working of people have evoked immense enthusiasm and labour upsurge in the country.

Workers in industry put in "Constitution shifts" during which inter-enterprise emulation developed on a still greater scale. The emulation between the metallurgical enterprises resulted in new labour achievements by the furnace workers in Diosgyör, in the Borsodnadasd steel smelting combinat, in the enterprises in Ozd, in the metallurgical plant in Salgotarjan, etc. More successes are reported by the coal mines in Tatabanya, Komlo and Nograd. The national economy is receiving thousands of tons of coal in excess of plan.

Constitution Day saw the opening in Budapest of a newly-constructed stadium with seating accommodation for 80,000.

Popular festivals were held in the capital in honour of Constitution Day. Performances were given by theatrical and folk-dance ensembles in parks and squares. Many new libraries and exhibitions were opened, depicting the successes of the peaceful creative Labour of the Hungarian people.

Social Insurance Albania

Social insurance in Albania is one of the factors improving the life of the working people, the significance of which grows year by year. The sum of 210,207,000 leks or 64 per cent more than in 1950 has been allocated for social insurance which is under the auspices of the trade unions. Of this sum almost double the 1950 allocation will be spent on the upkeep of maternity homes; 23 per cent more will be spent on rest homes and pioneer houses and 2.1 times more on pensions, etc.

The sum of 50.5 million leks has been assigned for upkeep of rest homes in 1953 which will accommodate 14,650 factory and office workers and pioneers-almost twice as many as in 1950—during their vacations.

A new health resort was built this year at the expense of social insurance in Voskopoye (Korchi region). The best house of culture in the country, named after Ali Kelmendi, and the best cinema in the country, the “Puntore” (“Worker”) located in Tirana, were built with social insurance funds, and clubs and reading rooms are maintained by the same source.

PEOPLE OF GERMANY WELCOME NOTE OF SOVIET GOVERNMENT

The people of Germany reacted with feelings of profound joy and gratitude to the Note addressed by the Soviet Government to the Governments or the three Western Powers on the German question. All peace-loving Germans, men and women, regard this Note as another proof of the sincere desire of the Soviet Government to obtain a solution to the German problem as quickly as possible.

Meetings devoted to the discussion of the latest Note of the Soviet Government took place on August 17 and subsequently in a number of enterprises in the democratic sector of Berlin. These meetings, which were addressed by members of the Government and leaders of the democratic parties and mass organisations, “turned into demonstrations of gratitude to the Soviet Government for the aid rendered to the people of Germany in their national struggle for a united, independent, democratic and peace-loving Germany.

A meeting in the Berlin radio plant, located in the Köpenick district, was addressed by Walter Ulbricht and Hans Loch, Vice-Premiers of the German Democratic Republic.

Walter Ulbricht said that the latest Note of the Soviet Government paves the way for a peaceful settlement of the German question. Every German man and woman, both in the East and the West, said Ulbricht, wholeheartedly welcomes this new Note of the Soviet Government since it indicates the way to lasting peace in Europe. Our most ardent wish, said Ulbricht in

conclusion, is by means of unanimous expression of the will of the entire people for peace, to get the agreement of the Western Powers, who so far have placed obstacles in the way of signing a peace treaty with Germany, to the Soviet proposals.

Representatives of the workers hailed the new Note of the Soviet Government and stressed its great significance for a speedy peaceful solution of the German question.

A meeting of the workers of the “Schering” people’s enterprise in Adlershof devoted to the Note of the Soviet Government was addressed by Vice-Premiers Heinrich Rau and Otto Nuschke.

This Note, Heinrich Rau said, inspires all German patriots.

Denouncing Adenauer’s anti-national policy aimed at frustrating negotiations and agreement between Germans and at furthering aggressive aims in the interests of the ruling circles of the USA and West German monopolists Otto Nuschke said: We have no desire to become the object of U.S. war designs. We want, finally, peace. All must act for the realisation of this noble aim.

STRIKES AND DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE IN FRANCE

The strikes which began in France early in August are continuing without let-up; Postal workers, railwaymen, miners, workers employed in the gas and electricity undertakings, office workers, workers employed in the public health and other services, Paris transport workers—all, day by day, are consolidating their unity in the fight for annulment of the emergency laws directed against the working people, and for higher wages.

The strike movement which received a fresh impulse in the past few days spread to hundreds of privately-owned enterprises. The movement has spread to the metalworking enterprises and now involve most or the big enterprises in the Paris area including the Renault automobile works. Some 40,000 workers have downed tools in the Nord Department. Work is at standstill in all metal-processing enterprises in Marseilles. The movement has spread to Roubaix-Tourcoing, the large textile centre where 25,000 struck work on August 18; it has spread to textile mills in Reims, Elbeuf, Rouen and other towns, and has brought work to a standstill on hundreds of construction sites. Also on strike are the working people employed in chemical enterprises in Marseilles and in the Seine Inferieure Department, transport workers in Lille-Roubaix-Tourcoing and other towns, dockers in Sete, Lorient, Dunkerque, Rouen and Havre. On August 17, owing to the 24-hour strike of printing workers, not a single newspaper appeared in France. Seamen struck work on August 20.

Powerful, militant demonstrations are being held

throughout the country. The demonstrations brought out 15,000 people in Nantes; 10,000 in Mulhouse; 5,000 metal workers in Havre; 4,000 civil servants in Rouen and 4,000 railwaymen in Le Mans.

United action committees are being formed, elected by all the working people. At present there are more than 40 such committees among railway workers and more than 50 among the miners and clerical staff in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Department coalfields. The fight of the postal workers in the Paris area is directed by a co-ordination committee consisting of representatives of the General Confederation of Labour, the Confederation of Christian Workers, "Force ouvriere" and the Autonomous Trade Union.

As a result of the unity established in the course of the struggle the working people have won their first victory: a meeting of the Bureau of the National Assembly has been announced for August 21 to discuss summoning the National Assembly.

CELEBRATION OF EIGHT ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF KOREA BY SOVIET ARMY

On August 15 the people of Korea celebrated the eighth anniversary of the liberation of the country by the Soviet Army from the yoke of Japanese imperialism.

On August 14 wreaths were laid at the base of the liberation monument an obelisk erected on Mount Moranbon, Pyongyang, by the Korean people in honour of the Soviet soldiers and officers who fell in battle for the liberation of Korea.

A celebration meeting dedicated to the anniversary was held in the evening.

An address on the anniversary of the liberation was delivered by Pak Chan Ok, Deputy Chairman of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Korea.

On August 15, the day of the liberation a military parade and a working people's demonstration were held in the capital of the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

OUTRAGES OF FRENCH AUTHORITIES IN MOROCCO

The French colonial authorities in Morocco are committing outrages which are part of a far-reaching offensive devised by French imperialism against the strivings of the population of the country and against its national independence.

They removed the Sultan who refused publicly to condemn the Moroccan national movement and deported him to Corsica.

Last week at a gathering of the conspirators, headed by the big landlord El Glaoui, a certain Mohammed Ben Arafa, a French agent, was proclaimed the Imam. i.e. religious leader of the Moslems in Morocco (as is known, the Sultan of Morocco is both secular and religious head of the country). These measures are actually directed against the people of Morocco.

This manoeuvre of the anti-national elements has evoked a wave of indignation and protest throughout the country. Demonstrations were held in various towns. The colonial troops opened fire on the demonstrators. According to official, obviously understated data, 11 people were killed in Casablanca; in Oudja 23 were killed and some 50 wounded. This outrage by the colonial authorities has evoked a new wave of indignation among the people of Morocco.

FOR RESTORATION OF NATIONAL UNITY OF GERMANY ON PEACE-LOVING AND DEMOCRATIC BASIS

Note of Soviet Government to Governments of France, Great Britain and USA on German Question

On August 17 the Soviet press published the Note of the Soviet Government of August 15, 1953, to the Governments of France, Great Britain and the USA on the German question. Below we give excerpts from the Note. The Note reads:

The Soviet Government considers it necessary to draw the attention once again of the Government of France, as well as the Governments of Great Britain and the USA, to the abnormality of a situation in which, eight years after the end of the war in Europe, Germany has no peace treaty, remains partitioned into Western and Eastern sections, and is in a position of inequality relative to other states. Such a situation is contrary to the desire of the peace-loving nations to consolidate peace in Europe, and at the same time violates the legitimate national interests of the German people.

The Note recalls that as far back as March 10, 1952, the Soviet Government submitted for the examination of the Governments of France, the USA and Great Britain draft Principles for a Peace Treaty with Germany, in respect to which the Governments of France, Great Britain and the USA have still not signified their attitude. Nor have the Governments of France,

Great Britain and the USA presented their own draft peace treaty. It follows from this, says the Note, that the Governments of these three Powers underestimate the importance of a peace treaty with Germany. The peace treaty with Germany is continuously postponed, and responsibility for this rests, above all, with the Governments of France, Great Britain and the USA.

Refusing to examine the question of a peace treaty with Germany, reads the Note, the Governments of France, Great Britain and the USA have adopted a different course.

On May 26, 1952, the Governments of France, Great Britain and the USA concluded with the Bonn Adenauer government a "Convention on Relations Between the Three Powers and the Federal Republic of Germany", known as the "Bonn agreement," and on May 27 of the same year the Governments of France, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg concluded with the Bonn government a "European Defence Community Treaty", known as the "Paris Agreement." Both the "Bonn agreement" and the "Paris agreement" are inseparably linked with the aggressive bloc of North-Atlantic Powers for a period of fifty years.

The course adopted by the Governments of France, the USA and Britain on the German question, continue the Note, leads to the rebirth of German militarism, to the creation of a new dangerous hotbed of aggression, and constantly increases the menace of another war in Europe.

There is another course, the Note continues, one which corresponds to the peaceful aims and obligations assumed by the four Powers with respect to Germany immediately after the war, and which conforms with the interests of peace in Europe.

Instead of settling the question of the formation of an all-German democratic government, the Governments of France, Great Britain and the USA, the Note points out, have advanced another proposal. They suggest that the question of all-German elections be discussed; but they reduce the whole matter to an examination by the four Powers of their proposal for the appointment of a so-called impartial commission of representatives of foreign states for "investigation with the view to creating the conditions" necessary for the holding of such elections. This cannot be assessed otherwise than an attempt to place the conduct of German elections in the hands of foreign powers, and for this purpose to impose sundry foreign "investigators" upon the German people, as if it were not Germany, which has long-standing democratic traditions; that is concerned here, but a disfranchised colony.

It is evident from the aforesaid that the restoration of the national unity of a democratic Germany was and remains the fundamental problem of the German people, in the solution of which all the peace-loving peoples of Europe are interested. No pleas can justify further delay in this matter, since under present conditions the chief responsibility for its settlement lies upon the Governments of the USA, Great Britain, France and the U.S.S.R.

On the basis of the aforesaid, the Note says, the Soviet Government considers it urgent to settle the following basic questions concerning Germany:

1. Convening of a peace conference to examine the question of a peace treaty with Germany.

The Soviet Government believes that such a conference of all states concerned could be convened

within the next six months, and sees no reason for further delay in convening a peace conference. All the preliminary work of preparing the peace treaty with Germany could be completed within the period indicated. It is important to ensure proper participation by representatives of Germany at all stages of preparation of the peace treaty and at the peace conference. Pending the formation of a Provisional All-German Government, representatives of the existing governments of East and West Germany might participate in the preparation of the peace treaty.

2. Formation of a Provisional All-German Government and holding of free all-German elections.

With a view to restoring the national unity of Germany on a peaceable and democratic basis, the Soviet Government proposes that the parliaments of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic should, with the broad participation of democratic organisations, set up a Provisional All-German Government.

Functions of the Provisional All-German Government:

a) The Provisional All-German Government might decide such questions of urgency to all Germany as: representation of Germany in the preparation of the peace treaty and in international organisations; prevention of the involvement of Germany in coalitions or military alliances directed against any Power whose armed forces participated in the war against Hitler Germany; questions of German citizenship; guarantee of freedom of activity for democratic parties and organisations, and barring of fascist, militarist and other organisations hostile to democracy and to peace; extension of trade relations between East and West

Germany; transport and postal and telegraphic communication; freedom of movement for persons and goods, irrespective of established zonal frontiers; development of economic and cultural relations between East and West Germany, and other questions affecting the interests of the whole German nation.

b) However, the chief function of the Provisional All-German Government should be to prepare and carry out free all-German elections, as a result of which the German people themselves would, without interference of foreign Powers, decide upon the social and political structure of a democratic Germany.

The Provisional All-German Government should draft an all-German election law which will ensure that the all-German elections are of a really democratic character and that all democratic organisations are able to participate in them, and which will debar the exercise of pressure on the voters by the big monopolies. It alone should have freedom to decide whether an investigation is advisable to verify that the necessary conditions for democratic elections exist throughout Germany, and to take measures to ensure such conditions.

The Soviet Government further considers it necessary that the Governments of France, the USA; Great Britain and the U.S.S.R. take measures to ensure that the all-German elections are held in conditions of real freedom which rule but the exertion of pressure on them by foreign Powers.

3. Relaxation of Germany's financial and economic obligations arising out of the war.

Bearing in mind that Germany has already discharged a substantial part of its financial and economic obligations towards the U.S.S.R., France,

Great Britain and the USA arising out of the war, and considering it necessary to ease Germany's economic position, the Government of the U.S.S.R. believes that the necessary decisions to this end should be urgently adopted.

a) The Soviet Government considers it necessary to relieve Germany, as of January 1, 1954, of all further reparations payments, and also of repayment of government postwar debts to the four Powers, with the exception of debts arising out of commercial transactions.

b) The Soviet Government likewise considers it necessary to limit the expenditure connected with the presence of armed forces of the four Powers on German territory. To this end, it is proposed that total annual expenditure on the maintenance of these forces shall not exceed 5 per cent of the national revenues of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic, and in any case shall not exceed the occupation expenditure of 1949, when its scale was still not influenced by the formation of the North-Atlantic bloc.

The Soviet Government also proposes that Germany should be entirely relieved of repayment of the debt incurred after 1945 in connection with the external occupation expenses of the four Powers.

The Soviet Government, concludes the Note, expresses the confidence that agreement between the U.S.S.R., France, the USA and Great Britain on the German question, and the adoption, already in the near future, of decisions on the aforesaid proposals will help to lessen international tension and thereby promote international peace and security.

The Soviet Government's Draft of a peace treaty

with Germany was published simultaneously.

**WAY TO PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF
GERMAN ay to Peaceful Solution of
German PROBLEM. Radio Address by
WILHELM PIECK, President of German
Democratic Republic**

Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic, in a radio address to the German people on August 17, said:

“Dear compatriots in the East and West of our homeland!

Workers, peasants and all citizens of the German Democratic Republic!

Dear German youth!

In these hours when our hearts are filled with hope and confidence I address myself to the entire German nation. For eight long years our people have waited for a just peace treaty and have fought for national unity and the independence of their country. The peace treaty and democratic unity of Germany are vital national aspirations of our people. Today the Soviet Government in its Note to the Governments of France, Great Britain and the USA has advanced proposals which make possible the speedy signing of a peace treaty with democratic Germany. Hence, the Note by the Soviet Government is hailed whole-heartedly with a feeling of relief by all genuinely peace-loving and nationally-conscious Germans. The Note paves the way for the peaceful settlement of the German problem and thereby heralds an easing of the situation in Europe which is threatened with restoration of aggressive

militarism in Western Germany.

The treaties signed by Adenauer in Bonn and Paris are incompatible with the national interests of our people. They render impossible national reunification and deprive the population in Western Germany of national independence for a period of 50 years. They tie Western Germany to the aggressive North Atlantic pact for which German youth, under the command of Hitler generals, will be forced to die on the field of battle on German soil. In an enslaved Germany the military treaties ensure domination for the munition magnates and the junkerdom who already in the course of two wars twice brought our people to the brink of disaster. Hence, people of different political convictions and varying world outlooks, the majority of our people, reject these military treaties and oppose Adenauer. This will also be confirmed by the vote against Adenauer during the Bundestag election.

The Note of the Soviet Government opens a new phase in the struggle of our people for unity and peace. The Note proposes the convening of a peace conference within six months and discussion at this conference of the question of a peace treaty with Germany. German representation must be ensured during all the stages of preparing the peace treaty and also at the peace conference. The negotiations must be conducted not over the heads of the German people but with the representatives of the people. This will be the mission of the Provisional All-German Government which will either replace the now existing governments or which will be formed from representatives from the two parts of Germany alongside these governments. However, it must, in either case, be empowered to undertake measures that will ensure for the German people

preservation of peace and the establishment of genuine democratic relations throughout Germany. An important step in this direction will be preparation for all-German free elections as a result of which there will be solved, without any interference on the part of foreign powers, the question of the social and state structure of democratic Germany.

In accordance with the proposals advanced by the Soviet Government the people of Germany must be freed from the onerous financial and economic obligations connected with the outcome of the war. The reparation payments and the state postwar debts to the four Great Powers must end as from January 1st, 1954. Occupation expenditure must be scaled down considerably to a sum not exceeding 5 per cent of the state budget and so that the total occupation expenditure does not, in any circumstances, exceed the 1949 occupation expenditure. The enormous significance of this proposal is obvious even from the fact that occupation expenditure in Western Germany has grown from 3.9 billion Western marks in 1949 to 9.3 billion in 1953.

The Soviet Government again submits the draft for a peace treaty with Germany submitted as an appendix to the Note of March 10th, 1952. To this day the governments of the Western Powers have not replied to this proposal, nor have they submitted any counter-proposals. By submitting their proposal for an international commission to study the conditions for holding an election they rather wish to delay indefinitely the signing of a peace treaty with a united democratic Germany. This policy, pursued by the Government of the USA and by the German executor of its will, Konrad Adenauer is incompatible with the vital

interests of our people.

The German people need a peace treaty, they need a united democratic Germany, without the armaments magnates, without militarists and fascists. Free development of peaceful economy and equal trade with all countries on this basis will ensure for our people a well-to-do and happy life.

The proposals contained in the Note of the Soviet Government correspond to these vital demands of the German people. But, dear fellow-countrymen, it is not enough wholeheartedly to welcome this Note. We ourselves must take steps in order to contribute to the convening of a peace conference, the signing of a peace treaty and the realisation of a united democratic Germany. Agreement between Germans is today the most vital national demand.

Let the parliaments in both parts of Germany fulfil their national duty, let them subordinate all differences of opinion and differences of conviction to the common interests of the German people. Our people expect such high national consciousness from every man and woman taking part in public life in the two parts of our homeland.

Dear fellow-countrymen! The Note of the Soviet Government to the Governments of France, Great Britain and the USA paves the way for a peace conference, for a peace treaty and for a united democratic Germany. This is the pathway to easing the tension and ensuring peace throughout Europe. This is the pathway along which the people of Germany can, as an equal and great nation, enter the family of peace-loving nations. So let us, Germans, take this path, guided by the genuine and the correctly understood interests of our homeland! Let us begin with the nearest

and simplest things with all-German agreement”.

GROWING UNITY OF WORKING PEOPLE

Enlarged Plenum, Central Committee, Communist Party of Finland

An enlarged plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Finland took place in Helsinki early in August. Main point on the agenda was the report by Comrade Ville Pessi, General Secretary of the Party, "The situation and tasks of the Party". At the outset V. Pessi dwelt on the present international situation and economic life of Finland. On the basis of statistics he showed that the economic crisis had become more acute and would lead to a sharpening of the political situation in the country.

Comrade V. Pessi gave many examples of the growing militancy of the working class and of the working peasants, of their determination to fight and spoke about the thousands of mass demonstrations that had taken place during the summer. These demonstrations and meetings showed, said Comrade Pessi, that despite the machinations of the splitters, a united front with Social Democratic and non-party workers had been formed in the enterprises and with peasants in the countryside who previously followed the leadership of the Agrarian Party. By means of the united front, said Comrade Pessi, we will be able, in the future too, to rebuff the attacks spearheaded against the working people and improve the conditions of the working people.

The speaker stressed the need for a campaign to

ensure the settling of international questions by means of negotiations, for an all-round intensification of the struggle for peace.

He called on Party members to make a thorough study of Marxist-Leninist theory. The lessons of the case of Beria, traitor and imperialist agent, he said, show the need for intensified struggle against the disruptors of the Party and of the working-class movement, against hangovers of bourgeois ideology in the minds of the members, for deepening the consciousness of the members and for skill in applying Marxist-Leninist theory to the concrete conditions of the struggle.

Comrade V. Pessi pointed out that the theses issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Party constitute an important document which must be thoroughly studied by Communists in Finland.

On the basis of Comrade Pessi's report and the lively discussion which followed the meeting adopted a resolution which defines the tasks of the Party.

MEETING OF CENTRAL BOARD, COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY

The Xth Plenary Meeting of the Central Board of the Communist Party of Germany took place in Dusseldorf on August 10, Comrade Max Reimann, Chairman of the Party, delivered a report entitled "New course of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the tasks of the Party". After discussion of the report the Central Board unanimously adopted a resolution on the tasks of the Party in the forthcoming elections for the Bundestag.

The resolution unanimously hailed the decisions of the XV Plenary Meeting of the Socialist Unity Party's Central Committee and expressed its profound confidence in the Central Committee and the newly elected Political Bureau of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. The Central Board hailed the smashing of the Zaisser-Herrnstadt anti-Party faction.

The new course of the Socialist Unity Party and of the Government of the German Democratic Republic, says the resolution, serves the "cause of a speedy restoration of the unity of Germany and is of great help to our Party in the election struggle".

The most important prerequisite for uniting all Adenauer's opponents in the course of the election struggle, the resolution says, is close, fraternal, militant alliance between Social Democrats and Communists.

"Every step taken by the Social-Democratic Party of Germany in the interests of our people," it continues, "I will receive our support. At the same time we shall not relinquish our criticism of the inconsistent and half-way tendencies in the policy of the leadership of the Social-

Democratic Party". The Central Board calls on every Communist to make every effort in order to ensure that the workers-members of the Communist and Social-Democratic parties, of the Christian parties, and non-Party people, jointly with all Adenauer's opponents smash the fascist terror in the election campaign, reach agreement about ensuring an honest election struggle and protect their meetings from fascist provocations.

The best guarantee of the correct realisation of the polity of the Party, according to the resolution, is constant collective work by all the Party committees. To ensure this the elected bodies must collectively prepare decisions and also ensure collective verification of their fulfilment.

FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF LEADERSHIP OF BRANCH PARTY ORGANISATIONS

Carrying out the decisions of the March meeting of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, the area and urban committees of the Party have achieved a definite improvement in lending the branch organisations and now have more direct contact with them.

However, as noted by the newspaper "Unen", central organ of the Central Committee and of the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic, some of the Party committees are not yet giving adequate leadership to the branches. Sometimes leadership is effected in a bureaucratic way.

The Party committee, writes the newspaper, must give daily aid to the branches. Special attention must be devoted to the Party organisations in the enterprises and districts which are lagging and which are neglected by some leading party functionaries. The district and urban Party committees must, in the first place, orientate the branches in the direction of skilful combination of economic and political tasks in their day-to-day practical activity.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE

On Hydrogen Bomb Test in the Soviet Union

The Soviet press for August 20th contained the following Government announcement:

“The other day one of the types of the hydrogen bomb was exploded in the Soviet Union for experimental purposes.

Powerful thermo-nuclear reaction in the hydrogen bomb caused an explosion of great violence. The test has shown that the hydrogen bomb is many times more powerful than the atom bomb.

It is known that for a number of years already the Soviet Union has been in possession of the atomic weapon and that it has carried out corresponding tests of this weapon. As follows from the speech made by G. M. Malenkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., at the 5th session of the Supreme Soviet on August 8, Soviet Union has also mastered the secret of hydrogen bomb production.

The announcement made by the Soviet Government gave rise to numerous comments abroad. Some foreign circles who in their policy had previously banked on the U.S. monopoly of the atom bomb, and then of the hydrogen bomb, are trying to frighten the peoples with the fact that the Soviet Union possesses the secret of producing the hydrogen weapon, are trying to evoke alarm in this connection, using it for the purpose of intensifying the arms drive.

The Soviet Government deems it necessary to

declare that as before, there are absolutely no grounds for such alarm.

In keeping with the invariable policy of the Soviet Union, aimed at strengthening peace and the security of the peoples, the Soviet Government has repeatedly proposed to the governments of other countries that a considerable reduction in armaments be carried out and that use of atomic and other weapons of wholesale slaughter be prohibited, establishing, within the framework of the United Nations Organisation, and international control over the implementation of this ban.

The Soviet Government firmly adheres to this position also at the present time.

RURAL COMMUNISTS IN STRUGGLE FOR TIMELY HARVESTING

From Experience of a District Organisation of Hungarian Working People's Party

The village branches of the Hungarian Working People's Party are now faced with the responsible task of gathering the bumper harvest and of successfully delivering grain to the state:

The Party organisations in Szob district prepared themselves thoroughly for the summer agricultural campaign. At the suggestion of the district committee of the Party the leadership of the branches together with the executive committees of people's councils, the leaders of the mass organisations and with the leading peasants in the villages, worked out a plan for rapid fulfilment of the harvesting assignments, threshing and state deliveries. The work of the Party organisations and fulfilment of the assignments by the Communists are summed up every week.

The Government has granted the producer co-operatives and individual peasants substantial privileges. In their agitation our Party organisations utilise this as concrete proof of the Government's solicitude for the working peasants. In the course of a single week—July 19-26—the leaders of the Party organisations, of the people's councils, and mass organisations organised 360 meetings in the villages. Talks were held with small groups of peasants as they

rested, in accordance with custom, outside their gates in the evenings. These meetings and talks had a big effect, and our district was first in the region in finishing the harvesting of grain crops.

The positive example of the Communists is of great significance. Due to it the peasants deliver their grain to the state immediately after threshing.

The scale of work was extended when the news of the truce in Korea was received. Honour-shifts were worked in many places and thanks to this the results were better than previously.

Producer co-operatives and villages are competing for the honoured title of “best village” and “best producer co-operative”. The results of the competition are systematically verified and widely popularised. Competition is underway for the Red Banner awarded by the district committee of the Party which is handed over to the winner at a public meeting. Our district is engaged in emulation with other two districts of the county and also with two neighbouring districts of the fraternal Czechoslovak Republic—Strurovo and Zelizovce. This competition, which has already become traditional, is being carried out under the sign of friendship between the Hungarian and Czechoslovak peoples.

The district committee of the Party and the branches are fighting to get rid of the shortcomings in their work. There are leaders who put administrative measures above Party agitation. For example, the secretary of the Party branch in Bernecebarati, pleading that he was too busy with field work, considered it impossible to bother about the political training of the working people. Some of the staff of the people’s councils have poor contact with masses, do not know

their needs and requirements and therefore they cannot solve quickly the questions which arise. The district committee of the Party and the branches made a mistake when they did not use the method of individual talks in their political education. We shall do our eliminate these shortcomings.

Antal BALINT
Secretary, Szob district committee,
Hungarian Working People's Party

FROM COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PRESS

Educating Working People In Spirit of Conscious Labour Discipline. “Jenminjihpao”— Central Organ, Communist Party of China



In connection with the transition to planned development of the national economy newspapers in the Chinese People's Republic are raising in their columns vital practical questions facilitating successful fulfilment of the assignments of the first year of the Five-Year Plan.

In a recent leading article “Our urgent task is to improve labour discipline”, “Jenminjihpao” severely criticised instances of violation of labour discipline by the workers and denounced the erroneous views held by some economic and other leading cadres which tended to weaken labour discipline.

In the course of the past three years, says the

editorial, Chinese workers, toiling selflessly to overcome various difficulties and developing production emulation, considerably raised the level of industrial production. These brilliant achievements are inseparable from the conscious labour discipline of the broad masses. It must be admitted, however, the newspaper, wrote, that, owing to hangovers of the old society, the presence of a large number of non-proletarian elements who joined the ranks of the rapidly growing working class, and to the weaknesses in political education in factories and enterprises, there are still cases of violation of labour discipline and every serious ones.

The newspaper describes the experiences in Tientsin where leading cadres pay close attention to labour discipline and take effective measures to improve it, and are enthusiastically supported by the broad masses of the workers, with the result that the feature of a factory undergo a complete change. On the other hand, cadres who imagine that the tightening of labour discipline will give rise to discontent among the masses of workers, display a mistaken approach to the question. The more they neglect tightening labour discipline, neglect which is contrary to the fundamental interests of the working class and the state, the more they become divorced from the masses.

As proved by the experience in Tientsin, the editorial emphasizes, labour discipline can be improved only by means of patiently educating the masses in Communism. The slackening of labour discipline and the harm it does to production should be exposed; the advanced ideology of those workers and groups who have never been guilty of absenteeism, who have always observed labour regulations, should be

commended. Wrong conceptions leading to violation of labour discipline should be criticized; and the consciousness of the working people in their love of labour and of their motherland, as well as their recognition of labour discipline, should be raised so that they may realise the need for combining the state and individual interests, and see the bright prospects.

The newspaper stresses the role of criticism and self-criticism in strengthening labour discipline. Labour discipline will be strengthened when the masses of workers are properly educated when criticism and self-criticism are developed among them on a mass scale.

Also obviously erroneous, the editorial goes on, is the idea that the consciousness of the masses of workers is already high enough to allow relaxation of their education in Communism. Those who entertain this idea, "Jenminjihpao" points out, do not see the various non-proletarian ideologies and styles which, in more and more concealed form, daily infiltrate the working class.

Labour discipline, says the editorial, is conscious discipline of the working class. It is our glorious task to observe this discipline and to make efforts to raise labour productivity. Those who carry out this task earnestly will certainly have the backing and support of the broad masses of the workers.

The editorial calls upon the leading personnel in the enterprises, trade unions, particularly the Party workers, to make improvement of labour discipline part of their regular work. At present, says the editorial, besides immediate special measures we must also constantly carry on education. It is certain that only by constant education in Communist ideology can we overcome bourgeois ideology, sluggishness, pleasure-

seeking and selfishness as well as the petty-bourgeois individualism.

RESULTS OF FOURTH WORLD FESTIVAL OF YOUTH AND STUDENTS. Jacques Denis, General Secretary, World Federation of Democratic Youth

The IVth World Festival of Youth and Students ended in a grand mass demonstration and a youth meeting on the evening of August 16. The sky over Bucharest glowed with the words: PEACE and FRIENDSHIP, words repeated so many times during the 15 unforgettable days.

Amid great enthusiasm the meeting adopted an appeal to the world youth. It called on the youth to unite so that the spirit of negotiation shall triumph over the spirit of force, that mutual confidence on the basis of equality be established among the nations, that the hopes of the young generation for a better future be realised, that the sacred rights of the youth be respected all over the world, that the cultural and sports exchange between the youth of different countries develop freely.

At its meeting on the day after the closing of the Festival, the international Festival Committee evaluated the gathering as a big success for the peace-loving forces. The IV Festival vividly demonstrated that young people of different views and convictions can reach agreement. The preparation for the Festival and the holding of it acted as a powerful stimulus for rallying the youth in the struggle for peace and for a greater future.

The Festival took place after the signing of the truce in Korea, and its participants gladly hailed this significant event as a first success of the movement for

negotiations. However, the feeling of joy was accompanied by a profound awareness that today more than ever before it is necessary to strengthen and extend unity in the cause of defending peace, since there are forces which are interested in preventing a peaceful settlement of Controversial international questions.

As a result of this rally all the delegates became even more deeply conscious of the unbreakable might of the peoples' struggle for peace, a most remarkable manifestation of which was the release and the arrival at the Festival of Henri Martin, the seaman of peace.

The rapid growth of the youth forces of the world was reflected at the IV Festival even more strikingly than in the previous grand rallies of the youth. It reflected all that inspires the youth—its cheerfulness, optimism, thirst for knowledge and action, its striving for friendship and the immense creative possibilities inherent in it. Every young man and woman, no matter who they were, found at the Festival a response to their strivings and the opportunity to take part in any form of art or sports.

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Thirty thousand young men and women from 111 countries took part in the Festival. This unprecedentedly broad representation of the youth confirmed the correctness of the decision to invite to the Festival young men and women irrespective of political and religious beliefs, race or nationality, and also all representative organisations of the youth. The French delegation numbered 3,500, Finland sent 2,400, Italy 1,500, Norway 800 and Austria 1,700. Particular

mention should be made of the broad participation in the Festival of the delegates from the colonial and dependent countries who reached Bucharest despite the tremendous obstacles placed in their way by the enemies of peace and despite great financial difficulties. Thus, for instance, 190 delegates came from Algeria, 150 from India, 130 from Brazil, 140 from Egypt, 320 from Lebanon, etc.

A highly interesting feature of the Festival was the composition of the delegations, reflecting the fact that most of the delegates were sent to Bucharest by their work-mates, college-friends or by their respective organisations. The delegations from the Scandinavian countries represented more than 200 youth organisations, the delegation from Iran represented 34 organisations, while the delegation of Chile represented 33.

Hundreds of festivals and other undertakings at national, regional and local levels attended by millions of young men and women took place prior to and during the World Festival. Such manifestations in support of the Festival took place in many countries of Latin America including Argentina, Bolivia, Venezuela and other countries.

The great interest aroused by the Festival also found expression in the presence of eminent personalities including the laureates of the International Stalin Peace Prize, Ikuo Oyama, Elisa Branco, Hewlett Johnson and Monica Felton.

The news agencies, newspapers and broadcasting stations of the world sent their correspondents to cover the Festival. In addition to Rumania journalists there were 489 journalists from 50 countries, including 338 from 39 countries of Western Europe, America, Japan,

Australia and colonial countries.

Undertakings held during the Festival included: the Day of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the Day of the International Union of Students, the Day of youth struggle for peace and negotiations; girls' Day, which was marked by a splendid demonstration; the Rumanian youth day held on August 9th ended in a demonstration which brought together 400,000 young men and women; the Day in defence of youth rights, marked by 17 meetings attended by young people of different professions; solidarity day with the youth of colonial and dependent countries ended with a grand bonfire.

Of particular significance was the meeting of the delegates from the different countries. Hundreds of such meetings were held and, were attended by practically all the delegates. The meetings that took place between the youth of USA and Korea, France and Viet Nam, the U.S.S.R. and Great Britain, etc. made a powerful impression on the delegations. Special interest was aroused by the meetings with the Rumanian youth. More than 1,000 young Italians attended such a meeting. They asked the Rumanian youth a large number of questions and were given detailed answers.

There were 508 excursions to factories, agricultural co-operatives and other establishments, with 52,200 young people taking part.

Particularly Interesting were the exhibitions. 1,228 pictures were submitted for display at the art exhibitions by young people from 41 countries, By August 1, about 186,800 people had visited the four Festival exhibitions.

The cultural programme gave the youth a still deeper knowledge of other countries and added to their

esteem for one another. The performances of the youth were on exceptionally high level. Groups and soloists from 65 countries participated in cultural programmes. Some of them took part for the first time as for example the delegate from Nepal and Martinique. There were 537 concerts of which 442 were national and 95 international, attended by a total of 2,346,830 people, not counting the numerous performances given during inter-delegation meets. 708,600 attended the 1,681 film shows and saw 157 films from 33 countries.

For the pre-festival competitions, sponsored by the journal "World Youth", there were 1,357 literature and art entries from 50 countries.

Competitions were held in 11 different branches of art 3,711 people from 32 countries, including 378 soloists and 3,333 members of 83 ensembles took part. The juries, composed of 68 well-known personalities from 19 countries, awarded the coveted title of laureate of the IVth Festival to 214 voting people from 23 countries.

A feature of the Festival was the brilliant success of the friendly sports meets. The significance of the sports competitions is due in the first place to the large number of participants (4,366 sportsmen from 54 countries) and also the variety of the 18 events. It was due also to the quality of the results: five world records and 93 national records were broken. Sportsmen from 18 countries won 1,060 medals in the various events.

From April until the opening of the Festival 15 numbers of the paper "Festival" were issued in 8 languages, in a weekly edition of 360,000 copies; 18 issues were printed during the Festival.

The young people who enjoyed the happy days of the Festival were deeply moved by making the

acquaintance of the Rumanian people who accorded them such hospitality, such a friendly welcome, who, by selfless effort, created the best possible conditions for their stay in Bucharest and took such an active part in all Festival undertakings. Deep in their hearts the young people will carry the image of a nation which is working enthusiastically to build a prosperous and happy life in a country where only ten years ago poverty, ignorance and oppression hold sway. The fruitful peaceful labour of the Rumanian people and youth have strengthened the determination of each of us to make the policy of peace prevail everywhere. The youth delegates of the world expressed their gratitude to and their love for people's Rumania.

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The delegates are returning to their respective countries. They are aware that an urgent task confronts them—to popularise as widely as possible the results of the IIIrd World Youth Congress and the IVth World Festival of Youth and Students; and that in carrying out this task they can rely on the support of all peace champions.

Reporting-back meetings, open to all young people and their friends, have begun. At these meetings the documents of the IIIrd World Youth Congress and the concluding address of the Festival delegates, calling for consolidation of unity in order to realise the aspirations and hopes of the youth, are read and discussed. The meetings are accompanied by performances, films and Festival songs. The audiences are discussing ways and means for active participation in the International campaign in favour of negotiations and also in the

struggle for youth rights, for establishing still wider contact in the sphere of culture and sports.

The Festival preparatory committees which were formed in a number of countries are now carrying forward the work in order to strengthen still more the ties of international friendship. The unity effected by joint effort in the course of these months will be preserved, consolidated and broadened.

RIISING COST OF LIVING IN USA

More and more frequently reports appear in the American press testifying to the plight of big sections of the people in the USA.

“U.S. News and World Report” reported in a recent issue that life in America is more expensive today than at any previous time. Prices for food and other goods and the cost of services are rising steadily, according to the journal. In mid-June, food prices rose again to the level of June 1952, the highest postwar mark registered in the United States. In July prices soared higher still. In August, says the journal, the rent **paid by many families** may go up 10-20 per cent.

Working people in the United States were fully justified in believing that the truce in Korea would lead to a substantial reduction in military expenditure, to reduction or partial abolition of the heavy taxation, to a rise in real wages and improvement in living conditions. But the reactionary circles in the USA, for the purpose of ensuring maximum profits derived by the monopoly groups from war orders, want to continue along the disastrous course of militarising the economy and intensifying the impoverishment of the working masses. In this connection, particularly, widespread anxiety was evoked by the part of Eisenhower’s recent radio address to the effect that the Government would postpone reduction and abolition of taxes which, as he put it, no matter how onerous, enable the Government to get the money needed for keeping down the national debt. As pointed out by the President in his address, the unprecedented growth of the national debt in the U.S.

is due to the enormous war expenditure.

FACTORY WORKERS' PAPERS IN ITALY/ Paolo Robetti, Alternate Member, Central Committee, Communist Party of Italy



A characteristic and significant factor in the working-class movement in Italy is undoubtedly the extensive network of factory papers produced by the workers. The number of these papers, small in past years, has grown considerably. Even so, all the big industrial enterprises are far from having their papers. By 1952 factory newspapers were published only in 80 industrial enterprises. All in all, there are more than 150 factory papers throughout the country, circulating in more than 200,000 copies. Papers such as “Battaglia democratica”, which is circulated in a number of factories “La lotta” published in the Fiat works in

Torino, "Il giornale di fabbrica" in the Ilva plant in Piombino and others are printed in editions of thousands. All or almost all workers in many factories subscribe to their newspapers.

The printing of these papers reflects not only the ability of the workers to produce their own printed organ in the plant, to direct it and circulate it. Simultaneously it is a manifestation of courage, since in the conditions of the rigorous regime in almost every industrial enterprise in Italy, the worker responsible for the factory paper, who contributes to it or helps to circulate it, is subjected to constant repressions. The capitalists seek a pretext for getting rid of such a worker. As one of many examples we can cite the dismissal of the editor of the paper in the Richard Ginori enterprise in Florence.

It should be pointed out that after making the inevitable mistakes and overcoming the difficulties these papers have followed a correct line. Their content shows that the editorial boards have not yielded to the tendency to give a solely professional touch to the paper or to turn it into an organ dealing solely with the internal problems of the enterprise. Handling all these matters the factory papers also feature events of national and international significance. The editorial boards have learnt how to relate national and international matters to life in the enterprise, imparting thereby a lively and militant character to the paper, and at the same time contributing to the education of the more politically backward working people it does this by drawing their attention to matters which often escaped their notice, thus creating a situation in which these workers themselves begin to relate the conditions in their enterprise to national and international

problems. It is precisely for this reason that the owners of the enterprises resort to repressions against the workers on the editorial boards and against those supporting the papers.

Another important feature of the activity, common practically to all factory papers, is the striving for a form and content which would facilitate the establishing and consolidation of the unity of all the workers in the given enterprise.

What are the most important and difficult tasks now confronting the factory and office workers employed in Italian industry? First of all the fight for a higher standard of living, against the closing down of enterprises which means liquidation of industry created by the Italian people and which is the source of labour for millions of citizens; second, protecting the dignity and freedom of the working people in the enterprises against all attacks arising from the internal regime established by the owners; third, protecting the activity of the internal commissions and the rights of their members freely to maintain contact with all the working people; and, finally, the fight for safety measures and better labour hygiene and for preventing industrial accidents.

While featuring all these questions affecting the internal life of the enterprises the factory papers link them with the general questions raised by the national democratic forces: struggle in defence of and for the development of the national economy, exposing the consequences of the Schuman plan approved by the Christian Democratic Government, struggle against foreign and home monopolies, against the enslavement of the country by U.S. imperialism and defence of peace, against violation of constitutional freedoms and

against the super-exploitation. At the same time the columns of the factory papers are permeated with the spirit of international solidarity of the working people and friendship among the peoples.

In the recent election struggle the factory papers took a clear and correct stand in relation to the questions which were broadly discussed on a national scale and in so doing rendered valuable help to the democratic forces. Let us take, for example, the paper "Martello" ("Hammer") produced in the Ansaldo shipyard in Livorno. One of the issues published at the time stressed on the front page the need to nationalise the enterprises of the Italian monopolies and the need to build houses for the working people. This was followed up with an article, written by a worker, exposing the foul activity of the Christian Democrats who by sending bundles of literature to the electors tried to slander the countries of the camp of peace and democracy. The materials in these bundles, allegedly illustrating the "terror" in the countries of people's democracy, were supplied by the Americans. In this connection the Worker wrote; "It is disgusting to see these 'dear' masters of ours whose, one desire is to close the enterprises, to arrest, beat up and quite frequently to kill working people defending their right to work, who try to teach us on the eve of the elections how to avoid terror and suffering".

The factory papers wage a consistent struggle against dismissals and repressions, support the struggle of the workers in other enterprises, show up the miserable life of the working people, act against violation of the Constitution and for democratic freedoms, unmask the traitors whom the owners send into the ranks of the working class movement with a

view to splitting it. The papers publicise the splendid economic achievements of the U.S.S.R. and the People's Democracies, resolutely and actively rally the masses to fight for settlement of all international disputes by means of negotiations, unmask the provocations of the U.S. imperialists who seek to prevent a lessening of the international tension.

Some of the factory papers display interesting initiative: relating the history of the enterprise they show how the capitalists have waxed rich by exploiting the workers, and also the struggle of the workers throughout the history of the given factory or plant. Other newspapers narrate the history of their town in the same spirit.

Many of the factory papers contain quite good stories, technical and popular science articles. They also publish critical reviews of books, theatre performances and films, and also a sports round-up. Such reading matter, presented in lively form, facilitates circulation and attracts contributors from the different political trends.

During the election campaign some of the factory papers in Northern Italy printed special issues for the workers in enterprises in the South. Recently, the workers of the "Magona" metallurgical plant in Piombino were visited by a worker from another region who came to study how the editorial board of the "Magona" paper organised their work. The comrades who produce this paper furnished him with all the necessary information and shared their experiences with him. They also sent their representative to the workers of another enterprise in order to help them organise their paper. This is not an exceptional case: many of the papers were founded in this way.

A highly positive fact is the steady growth of the cadres, the improved skill and the higher political level of the editorial boards of factory papers. Some of the personnel of these newspapers have joined the staff of the central newspapers of the democratic parties and organisations or have become their correspondents.

A special monthly bulletin is published to help editorial boards of factory papers. An elementary lecture course for the personnel of editorial boards and for correspondents of the factory papers was also published.

But one big shortcoming must be mentioned. In Milan, Venice, Terni, Naples, Palermo and other towns there are still big enterprises in which the working people have no newspaper of their own. This serious drawback will, doubtlessly, be overcome to a considerable extent by the middle of October when the congress of factory press workers, convened on the initiative of "Il Lavoro", organ of the General Confederation of Labour, and of many factory newspapers in Northern Italy, takes place in Milan.

The printing of factory papers testifies to the rise in the political and cultural level of the workers, to the activity of the working class of Italy, to its revolutionary energy, to its strength and organisation. The factory paper is a keen and effective instrument of struggle. It helps the workers to uphold their rights, teaches them how to fight for these rights against the reactionary measures of the industrialists. It rallies the working people for consolidation and extension of unity—the basis for success in the fight for peace, national independence and social progress.

JAPAN'S EXPORTS DECLINING

The Japanese Ministry of Finance recently published official data testifying to a decline in the country's foreign trade. For the past six months Japanese imports were in the region of 1,159 million American dollars, while exports were about 598 million. The deficit nearly doubled compared with the corresponding period last year.

Japanese exports to dollar zone countries in the past six months amounted, despite a slight increase, to only 263 million American dollars, while exports to the sterling zone declined 60 per cent compared with the corresponding period last year and amounted to a mere 151 million American dollars.

The sharp drop in Japanese exports is due to the inequality of the Japanese-American trade agreements, to the colonial policy pursued by the reactionary circles in the USA, to the growing competition between the capitalist countries and the monopoly groups; it is also a reflection of the violation of economic relations with the countries of the democratic camp and the prohibition by the USA of trade with China.

VENEZUELA UNDER YOKE OF U.S. MONOPOLIES. Santos Yorme, Secretary, Central Committee, Communist Party of Venezuela

The United States of America is doing all in its power to subordinate the Latin American countries, just as it is trying to do with the entire capitalist world, to its economic and political domination and control. In pursuit of this aim it stops at no means or methods. By means of the enslaving U.S.-Venezuela trade agreement it seeks to close the door to British, French German and Belgian goods, on the one hand, and, on the other, to bring pressure to bear on the Latin American countries, blackmailing them and preventing them from forming regional blocs, retarding their industrial development and denying them technical aid and machinery. More and more arrogantly the USA interferes in the internal affairs of the Latin American countries with the aim of getting more docile governments on whom they could rely as “good” customers and “good” suppliers of raw materials. It is precisely such a mission that has been assigned in our country to the dictatorial clique headed by Perez Jimenez.

“American imperialism”, Comrade Malenkov pointed out at the XIX Congress of the C.P.S.U., “is acting today not only as an international exploiter and enslaver of nations, but also as a force that is disrupting the economies of the other capitalist countries. After the war, United State monopoly capital, taking advantage of the weakness of its competitors, seized a large part of

the world capitalist market. It is wrecking the historically established multilateral economic ties between the capitalist countries and replacing them by unilateral ties between these countries and the United States. Boosting their exports through the most unscrupulous dumping, while at the same time closing their home market to foreign goods with the result that the American people are being strangled by high prices, the American monopolies are more and more dislocating the world capitalist market”.

The U.S. imperialist strivings for enslaving the Latin American countries, including Venezuela, meet with a rebuff on the part of all our national forces. This resistance is caused by the very development of events and is the reply to the colonial policy of the imperialist cannibals.

Trying to keep their grip on the Venezuela market the U.S. imperialists are ruining and rendering bankrupt the few industrial enterprises in which national capital and labour are invested. This leads to reduction of home trade, rising unemployment and poverty in Venezuela.

There is growing rivalry for the Venezuela market among the imperialist countries. This is evident from the numerous visits by “trade missions” from Britain, Canada, Belgium, France, Western Germany, etc. All of them come to Venezuela on the lookout for a “source” of dollars, which is exactly what Venezuela is by virtue of its oilfields. More and more frequently our country is visited by U.S. industrialists, traders and politicians whose sole purpose is to draw still tighter the noose of hunger and poverty.

The revenue obtained from exploiting Venezuela’s oilfields, which finds its way to the national budget and

the budgets of the states and municipalities, is used for the sole purpose of enriching the ruling clique. This clique allocates fabulous sums for all kinds of unproductive expenditure, particularly for military installations (airfields, ports, strategic highways, etc.). The military-police Government, docile to the U.S. is not interested in developing and expanding home production; it leaves our internal market unprotected against competition from goods produced in the USA. This explains why billions of bolivars are being spent on the construction of Bolivar Avenue, the Caracas—La Guaira Highway, etc. and why every obstacle is placed in the way of investing capital for the building of a metallurgical works and for electrification, etc.

This economic policy has been worsened by the signing of the U.S.-Venezuela trade agreement—an agreement dictated to the Perez Jimenez puppet clique by the U.S. monopolists. So brazen was this pressure of the U.S. monopolists, expressed in bribery, etc., on “Venezuela businessmen” that Dr. Manuel Reina, for instance, who was supposed to protect the national interests, brazenly resigned from his post in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 48 hours after the signing of the agreement and opened an office representing the interests of various American capitalist magnates who benefit from the agreement.

Because of the signs of crisis in the USA the economic prospects for Venezuela are also very gloomy. In the U.S. the crisis is irresistibly maturing: unsold goods are piling up; agricultural prices are falling and the number of enterprises working below capacity is increasing; unemployment is rising and bankruptcies are multiplying.

Attempts are being made to cover up the elements

of crisis in our country by an artificial “prosperity” brought about by the rapacious exploitation of the oilfields. However, nothing can conceal from the majority of population the consequences of the aggressive policy of the U.S. reactionaries. This attempt is as doomed to failure as an attempt to obscure the sun with one’s finger.

In order to obtain the maximum profits the U.S. imperialists have increased their capital investments in Venezuela to over 8,000 million bolivars. In pursuit of this aim the U.S. oil companies are dismissing over 25,000 oil workers, forcing the puppet government to reduce the duty on oil, to grant them new concessions and to sign another enslaving trade agreement.

With the aim of getting maximum profits the U.S. monopolists rapaciously ship our iron ore and, prevent the construction of blast furnaces in our country; they are opposed even to home manufacture of bolts, knives, etc.

They strangle every attempt made to develop the economy and retard the development of new branches of industry. What is more, they transfer certain industrial operations from Venezuela with a view to closing enterprises in which national capital has been invested. This was the case, for instance, with General Motors and other enterprises.

The United States backs the present regime of military-police dictatorship which, by means of ruthless repressions, crushes everything that is national, persecutes all who protest against the anti-national policy, who defend Venezuela’s industry and the interests of the nation.

The U.S. helps the military dictatorship in Venezuela in setting up an apparatus of repressions and

militarisation; it enables U.S. trusts to sell to our country aeroplanes, ships and other equipment, to utilise Venezuela as a military air and naval base. They want to use our youth as cannon fodder in future military gambles, for the realisation of the lunatic designs of the U.S. for world domination.

The praises lavished by the different pro-imperialist groups on the “American way of life” encounter the growing resistance of the people who are experiencing the difficulties brought about by these groups of traitors to the homeland.

Understanding of the reasons which lead to the U.S. imperialist enslaving and plundering of our country rallies our people for rebuffing the colonisers. This understanding prompts the means for shedding the foreign yoke by way of forming a powerful National Democratic Front, which is called upon to put an end to the feudal-imperialist domination and to establish an anti-feudal and anti-imperialist system, headed by the working class.

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Every patriot in Venezuela must realise that the struggle for the abolition of the domination of the U.S. monopolies is a vital link in the general struggle against imperialism, for national liberation, for frustrating the military designs of the enemies of peace, for the overthrow of the present military-police dictatorship and for the establishment in our country, under the leadership of the working class, of an anti-imperialist and anti-feudal system which would merge with the camp of peace and democracy.

This aim can be achieved in close alliance with all

peoples fighting against imperialist oppression and arbitrariness. Hence, it is essential that the people of Venezuela, while setting themselves the task of uniting in a powerful National Democratic Front, should clearly see the perspectives of the two camps into which the world is at present divided, that they become conscious of the fact that their place is in the camp of peace and democracy.

The planned and rapid development of the countries of the camp of peace and democracy is accompanied by consolidation of the fraternal friendship of the peoples of these countries and by growing mutual aid among them. This aid is the very opposite of the imperialist "aid" known as the "Marshall plan" which is designed to tighten the imperialist chains on other countries, including Venezuela.

In order to obtain abrogation of the enslaving treaties and agreements signed in recent years by the ruling clique of Venezuela with the U.S. imperialists, there is needed, in the first place, the overthrow of the present regime and its replacement by a social system of broad civil guarantees which would provide democratic freedoms and rally on a wide scale the national, anti-imperialist and anti-feudal forces, the forces of the peace partisans. We must fight for a people's-democratic government in Venezuela which would include representatives of the working class and of the peasants, its solid allies, representatives of the small and national bourgeoisie. The leading force of this government will be the most revolutionary, the most indomitable and militant class in our country which is opposed to all enslavement—the working class of Venezuela.

WE ARE SURE OF FINAL VICTORY (LETTER FROM VIETNAM). Din

It has become traditional with us at the end of June each year to summarise the results for the past six months and to chart the programme for the next half year. Continuing the war for national liberation, we carried out, in the first half of this year, two main tasks: political training of cadres and agrarian reform.

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After the victory of the revolution in August 1945 the Party had a membership of about 3,000; most of these comrades had just left the French prisons of Poulo Condore, Lao Bao, Son La and others. Some of them had been in prison for 15-17 years.

Beginning with 1946 the Party grew rapidly, even too rapidly. By the end of 1950 it had a membership of some 700,000. This too rapid growth, which was not accompanied by corresponding systematic work with the new members, led to a lowering of the political consciousness of the members. Hence the Central Committee decided to stop enrolling new members and to organise political courses with a view to acquainting Party members with the rudiments of Marxism-Leninism.

Due to lack of experience and to the acute shortage of skilled tutors the results at first were not quite satisfactory.

The Central Committee is doing everything possible to make use of the experience of the fraternal parties, in the first instance, of the experience of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Communist Party of China, for the purpose of improving

the ideological education. Between June 1952 and June 1953 the Central Committee organised three courses with a student body of 800—all leading functionaries of central, provincial and district organs of the Party and Government (including non-party). These courses were led by Central Committee comrades.

The district and provincial committees organised courses for their functionaries and for functionaries at lower levels. These courses had a student body of 11,380.

All in all, 12,180 functionaries attended political classes. Depending on local conditions the study course was of 2,3 or 4 months duration. 'The curriculum contained the following subjects: the national and democratic revolution in Viet Nam, the patriotic war and the effort of the entire nation; the policy of the National Front, agrarian, economic and finance policy of Viet Nam; organisation of the people's army; work in the temporarily occupied areas; conditions of admittance to the Party.

These subjects are studied on the basis of the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, of Comrade Malenkov's report at the XIX Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, on the basis of the works of Mao Tse-Tung, Ho Chi Minh and Party documents,

In the People's army all rank and file and officers also get political training on a narrower programme.

The classes are systematically linked with criticism of the shortcomings in our work and self-criticism. At the end of the study term a week or a fortnight is allotted for all-round and self-critical analysis of the work of each student. This yields good results as can be seen from the sincerity with which students disclose shortcomings and drawbacks in their work and also from

the improvement that has taken place in the day-to-day activity of Party organisations and the Government bodies. In the army the results tell even more in the better discipline, deeper political consciousness, in the valour and heroism of soldiers and officers. The basic result is the higher ideological and political, level of our cadres.

Together with these initial successes we disclosed many shortcomings: too little time is allocated for the study course, the number of tutors is inadequate, Marxist-Leninist theory is not studied deeply enough, etc. Moreover, of 1,365 students occupying leading positions only 139 are workers and 351 working peasants. Consequently, the Party. must improve the social composition of its cadres.

Despite the difficulties and shortcomings, the ideological education of our cadres, as is evident from experience, is taking the correct pathway. We shall go ahead with this work, continually improving it.

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The moment the French colonisers and the Japanese imperialists were driven from our country the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam published a decision concerning, agrarian reform-distribution among the poor peasants of the land held by the imperialists and traitors, distribution of the communal land, and 25 per cent reduction in land rent, etc. But the landlords are doing everything to evade the law. Very few of them are honestly implementing the decision concerning rent reduction, for example.

In December 1952, on the occasion of the anniversary of the patriotic war, President Ho Chi Minh

declared in his address to the people: The working peasants provide the largest number of men for our army, the bulk of the country's food and perform the greatest amount of work at the front and in the rear.

And yet they are the poorest of all, since they have either very little land or none at all, because they are brutally exploited by means of land rent and exorbitant usurious interest. The Government, the Party and the National Front must, from now on, conduct a new agrarian policy with a view to improving the lot of our peasants and prosecuting the national war with greater vigour...

This call marked the beginning for work. Under the auspices of the Party and after thorough preparation the Peasant Union convened a conference in May 1953, which was attended by over 200 delegates. The conference discussed in detail the directives of the Party and the Government decisions concerning the new agrarian policy, elaborated a programme of work for effective reduction of land rent and usurious interest and decided to begin work on the realisation of the new agrarian policy in the given areas, gradually extending its sphere of action.

After the conference the delegates, having formed into two groups, went to the countryside, to two different districts. The groups broke up into smaller units of 12-15 members. Each group was responsible for the work in the given village. The members of the groups were instructed to adhere rigidly to the established rules. One of the articles of these rules, known as the "Three Commandments" reads as follows: 1. Stay with the poor. 2. Share their table and eat what they eat. 3. Help them in all their work.

The work of the groups was divided into stages:

visits to the poor peasants and talks with them, studying the situation in the village; explaining the reasons for their poverty and discussing means of struggle against the poverty; explaining the agrarian policy of the Party and Government; drawing in activists from among peasants; inviting peasants to describe the oppression and exploitation to which they had been subjected, instilling in them hatred for the landlords; establishing a provisional committee for the Peasant Union, the members of which are elected by the active peasants. This committee will lead the movement for effecting the new agrarian policy.

After this a meeting is called which must be attended by landlords guilty of criminal offences against the peasants. Their peasant victims publicly charge them on the basis of facts.

And, finally, the people's tribunal tries them and passes sentence. The condemned are obliged to return to the peasants the land rent they had illegally extorted from them, the illegally delayed payments, to return the land fraudulently appropriated by them, etc.

In cases where those charged have committed more serious crimes, the people's tribunal has the right to impose a sentence up to and including the death penalty.

At present there are about a score of such villages where these measures are being carried out. The experience acquired in these villages is very rich. This is real class struggle in the countryside. The awakened working peasants are becoming militant and active.

The majority of the landlords are exceedingly crafty and treacherous. Some of them have perpetrated monstrous crimes for which they have not yet been brought to book because the peasants are afraid to

unmask them.

In the villages affected by the new agrarian policy the power of the feudal landlords has been crushed and the working peasants are now masters there. In the second half of the year this movement will embrace more than 200 villages. The peasants are filled with enthusiasm since this movement corresponds to their aspirations and their interests.

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Big successes were achieved in the patriotic war during the first six months of 1953.

New partisan bases are being created and reinforced in the Baç; Bo Delta, in particular, in the provinces of Thai Binh, Hadong, HaNam, Hung Yen and Hai Duong. A feature of the operations during this period was that our partisans attacked even such provincial centres as Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Hai Duong and Kien An. In the last mentioned our partisans blew up hundreds of tons of bombs and projectiles and burned hundreds of thousands of litres of petrol.

Bunkers in Yen Vy, the system of fortifications which, according to the French, won fame for the late Marshal de Tassigny, were captured and destroyed.

Here are the results of the fighting in the Bac Bo Delta during the first six months of 1953. Enemy losses in manpower: 17,000 killed or taken prisoner. Material losses suffered by the enemy: 4 landing craft and 4 boats sunk, two railway trains destroyed, 9 aircraft shot down, 24 tanks and 680 trucks etc., destroyed. Our booty included: 3,800 rifles, 820 machine guns and sub-machine guns, 15 bazookas, guns, etc.

According to incomplete data, on fronts, we put out

of commission captured and dispersed) 23,000 soldiers.

Between December 1950 and May 1953 the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, in pursuing its humane policy, returned to their families over 35,500 French prisoners of war, legionnaires and soldiers of the puppet government.

As stated above, political education in the People's army has yielded splendid results. Our army also won big success in the military sphere. This is acknowledged even by our enemies. According to the French newspaper "Monde" the People's army "at present disposes of an infantry which, for operations of this nature, is, perhaps, the best in the world; it is far from being exacting in its demands, is extremely mobile and equipped exclusively with light weapons. Tanks, artillery and aircraft are powerless against this elusive infantry". ("Monde", May 21, 1953). The enemy admits that each year of the war in Indo-China has cost France 100,000 soldiers and 500 billion francs, a sum sufficient to finance the building of 250,000 houses. But these enormous losses bring France neither a better strategic situation, political results nor prospects for the future. The enemy also admits that the situation in Annam in 1953 remains grave: "Viet Minh disposes of splendid divisions; the situation in the country favours it and it maintains the initiative. There is an obviously grave situation in Tonking. Our (the French army—Ed.) army is bogged down in Indo-China", (Newspaper "Climats").

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As for us, without resting on our laurels and without underestimating the enemy, we feel that we are becoming stronger and stronger, more and more

confident of final victory and filled with ever greater determination to drive the French colonisers and their masters the U.S. interventionists—from our homeland, while maintaining our friendly, fraternal attitude towards the French people.

July, 1953.

IN DEFENCE OF DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS IN CUBA

General Batista, dictator of Cuba, who on March 10, 1952 effected a coup on orders from his Wall Street bosses, is now going all out to abolish all democratic freedoms. The pretext for the sharp intensification of the fascist terror was the action taken in the Eastern province by some groups of the petty bourgeois opposition late in July when they attacked military barracks. The dictator seized on this as a pretext for action against the genuine leader of the working class and of the people of Cuba—the Popular Socialist Party and its leaders.

On July 26 the Party's daily, "Noticias de Hoy", was banned and its premises wrecked by troops. Joaquin Ordoqui, Organising Secretary of the Party, Lazaro Pena, Vice Chairman of the World Federation of Trade Unions, Gonzalo Collado, leader of the All-Cuba Federation of Tobacco Workers and others have been arrested. The Batista Government issued an extraordinary decree abrogating for a period of 90 days all the civil rights proclaimed in the Constitution.

The Popular Socialist Party has called on all working people and on the entire nation resolutely to combat the extraordinary decree and to fight for the preservation of democratic freedoms, for the Constitution, against the fascist repressions, for economic demands, for a mass united front, against all kinds of coups and adventures, for an all-Cuba Democratic Front government.

World public opinion more and more resolutely

protests against the fascist actions of the Batista Government and is acting in defence of the democratic organisations in Cuba.

FACTS EXPOSE...

A Frank Admission

On July 4, the national holiday in the USA, the “U.S. States News and World Report” decided to have a frank talk with its readers. The cover of the magazine features the globe belted with three stripes. The first bears the inscription:

“July 4, 1933. U.S. armed forces were Serving in 3 foreign countries”. The second states that on July 4, 1943 they were quartered in 39 countries and the third that in 1953 U.S. armed forces were already quartered in 49 countries.

The magazine obviously wanted to do a bit of boasting. But all unwittingly it exposed the aggressiveness of American imperialism.

Sirens Which are Anything but Pleasing

At 2 p.m. on August 6 sirens sounded through-out Belgium. This was an air alert, part of the authorities’ “plan for preparing civilian defence”. On orders from the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry for National Defence this “musical” exercise will be carried out on the first Thursday of each month at the same time.

The alert sirens are pleasing to the ear of the trans-ocean conductors of war psychosis in Belgium. But they only reminded the ordinary Belgians of their terrible wartime hardships and privations.

Teachers and Students in Turkey

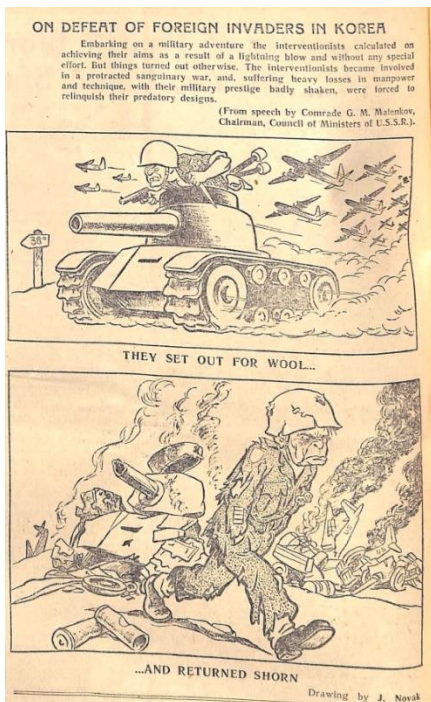
The bulk of the teaching staff in three universities in Turkey are foreigners. Thus, in Ankara University 57 of the 109 professors are foreigners, including 24 Americans, 13 British, 9 Germans (among them notorious Hitlerites).

According to official data the student body of this university is as follows: 67 per cent, sons of the aristocracy; 9 per cent, sons of the higher bureaucracy; 13 per cent, of the higher military caste; 7 per cent, of traders; 3 per cent, foreigners, and “ordinary” students a mere one per cent.

ON DEFEAT OF FOREIGN INVADERS IN KOREA

Embarking on a military adventure the interventionists calculated on achieving their aims as a result of a lightning blow and without any special effort. But things turned out otherwise. The interventionists became involved in a protracted sanguinary war, and, suffering heavy losses in manpower and technique, with their military prestige badly shaken, were forced to relinquish their predatory designs.

(From speech by Comrade G. M. Malenkov, Chairman, Council of Ministers of U.S.S.R.).



POLITICAL NOTES

Anti-Communist Hysteria in San Francisco

Ever since Senator McCarthy and his Wall Street paymasters caught the infection of anti-Communist hysteria, New York, Pittsburg, San Francisco and dozens of other American cities have witnessed many of the hysterical manifestations which fill the history of fascism and all reaction; they have seen the framed trials of Communist Party leaders, victimisation of peace supporters, public book burnings, the establishment of thought control, etc.

Seen against the background of these events, that which took place recently in San Francisco is no less barbarous. This thing is so incredible that reading about it in the "San Francisco Chronicle" one can hardly believe one's eyes. But in the USA facts like this are, apparently, quite usual. Here, in black and white, is what the paper writes:

"Sixty-seven new state employees were herded into the Assembly chambers today and administered their oaths of office. Each swore he had not been a member of the Communist Party... The new employees, whose ages range from 4 to 15 are ... working part of their vacation as pages".

Just imagine the sombre scene enacted in San Francisco, a city hitherto renowned for its gaiety and tolerance! The city fathers, wearing their robes of office, advance towards a child, and, in sonorous tones,

put the question: “Do you solemnly swear that you have never been at any time in your life a member of the Communist Party?”

Not until the 9 or ten year-old boy had sworn his anti-Communist oath, did the humourless McCarthyites enrol him in the corps of pages.

Small wonder that more and more people in the USA are beginning to say that the most un-American of all are the McCarthy, and their inquisitorial committees. They have worked themselves into such a state of anti-Communist hysteria that they even fear children.

Jan MAREK

BOOK REVIEW

IN WORLD OF FRIENDSHIP, LABOUR AND HAPPINESS. Book By K. Vaikunthavasan “Three Months in New China and Soviet Union”

Hundreds of working people’s delegations, public figures, cultural workers and representatives of business circles have visited the Soviet Union and the People’s Democracies since the war. Between 1945-52 140 worker delegations from the capitalist and colonial countries have been to the U.S.S.R. Reactionary imperialist circles seek to prevent honest people from seeing with their own eyes the leading democracy on earth, the world of friendship, labour and happiness. But truth will out. Foreign delegations from different countries, utilising every possibility, go to the countries where the working people have become masters of their own life.

At the end of 1952 a group of people from Ceylon spent three months travelling in the U.S.S.R. and in the Chinese People’s Republic. One member of this group—K. Vaikunthavasan, editor of a progressive newspaper, a former official of the colonial administration who was dismissed for his trade union activity—has written a booklet on his visit.

“Three Months in New China and Soviet Union” as the author states, is but the impressions of a Ceylonese.

* Three months in new China and Soviet Union, by K. Vaikunthavasan. People’s Press. Ceylon. 1953.

However, this conscientious description of what the author saw, endeavoured to analyse and compare gives a vivid picture of life in China and the U.S.S.R.

In a foreword Professor Bernal, Vice-Chairman of the World Peace Council, writes that the book enables the reader to draw three conclusions. In the first place, he says, anyone visiting the U.S.S.R. and China becomes convinced that the peoples of China and the Soviet Union desire nothing more ardently than peace. A visit to these countries shows also that a people that has won freedom can achieve the same high level of prosperity and culture, as that achieved by the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and China. And finally, anyone who visits these countries clearly sees that small nations too are developing, in a friendly family of nations, their own national culture which becomes a contribution to a common civilisation. The vital prerequisite for all this is to shake off the yoke of imperialism in all spheres political, economic and cultural.

In his book, Vaikunthavasan has carefully arrayed the facts, providing the reader with considerable statistical data.

In China his chief interest lay in the land question, in the realisation of the age-old dream of the peasants of the colonial countries, including Ceylon. On the example of the village of Eight Angles, which the group visited, the author shows what the new system has given the Chinese peasant.

There are 449 households in this village with a total of 2,098 persons. 1,619 mou of land belonged to 22 landlords owning an average of 13 mou for each member of the family, while the villagers had but 1/3 of a mou each. In these circumstances it is understandable that, as the village elder expressed it, after working for

twenty years the peasants did not get enough to eat and clothe themselves.

As a result of the land reform 223 landless peasant families received three mou of land for each member of the family. 231 mou were left in possession of the landlord families. With the help of the Government 1,937 mou of waste land has been converted into flowering paddy-lands-yields having risen from one picul to 2½ piculs per mou. There are already 29 Mutual Aid Associations and two producer co-operatives in this village.

During their stay in China the delegates from Ceylon visited factories and universities, hospitals and nurseries, shops and clubs. Wherever they went they saw great solicitude for the well-being of the working people, a sharp rise in living standards. They learnt that at a paper factory in Tientsin, formerly owned by a Japanese capitalist the wage of an unskilled worker which used to be the equivalent of 15 kilograms of flour is now the equivalent of 77 kilograms. In a textile mill in Shanghai they saw for themselves that “22 doctors were looking after the health of the workers and their families” and that a cooling system was installed in the workshops.

“The greatest wonder in New China is not the Great Wall, but the new man and the new society”, exclaims the author. “Who is the fool who says that the Chinese people are not truly liberated, that they are not the real rulers in their country?”.

*

The author begins his description of what he saw in the Soviet Union by relating a conversation which took place in London upon his return from the U.S.S.R. A man

asked him whether they were able to see the things they had wanted to see and whether they were followed by secret police wherever they went?.. “I was not particularly surprised at the questions put by the Ceylonese friend”, points out Vaikunthavasan, “because he is an army officer undergoing training in Great Britain and when even ordinary people are kept in the dark with regard to the truth about the Soviet Union, it is too much to expect army men to be allowed to know the truth...”.

Vaikunthavasan answered that he saw in the Soviet Union everything he wanted to see, that he was given every opportunity to see the Soviet people both at work and at rest, to talk with anyone he wanted, to clear up all the points of interest to him.

The author highly appraises the grand construction projects which impress anyone visiting the capital of the Soviet Union—the Moscow University, multi-storeyed buildings, Metro stations. He enumerates the cultural establishments of the Moscow J. V. Stalin Automobile Plant and points out that the Concert Hall in the plant’s Palace of Culture compares quite favourably with the Royal Festival Hall—the best in London. He is surprised that the magnificent Grand Theatre in Moscow is always overcrowded. He is delighted at the abundance of food in Moscow food-shops.

Vaikunthavasan who strives to give readers in Ceylon a true picture of this life, goes into detail about facts which have long become part of everyday life in the land of Soviets.

Thus after spending a day in a Moscow cigarette factory he writes that the workers have an annual paid holiday of 24 working days each year, free medical service, are entitled to a pension, that they pay only 30

per cent of the cost for rest and treatment in sanatoria, that the workers' children get free kindergarten facilities and spend the summer in children's camp. The canteen, he writes, is very clean and spacious and the food served costs very little, the hospital attached to the factory is well equipped and staffed with skilled personnel. His interest in these facts is fully understandable if one takes into account that in Ceylon there is only one doctor for nearly 7,000 inhabitants and that in hospitals three patients occupy one bed.

The author carefully calculates how much the working people in the Soviet Union pay for rent. He points out that a miner pays but 1 per cent of his earnings for a two-roomed flat., that charges for gas and electricity are insignificant. This seems almost incredible compared with the conditions in Ceylon where rent swallows fifty per cent of a worker's earnings.

To Vaikunthavasan a railway storekeeper, a pensioner, whose three daughters are respectively doctor, language teacher and drug-store manager, was like a character, taken from a fable. He points out that one of the best meals he had in the U.S.S.R. was in a collective farmer's house where he and the other members of the delegation were hospitably entertained.

"The Soviet people receive a salary sufficient for a decent standard of living", the author sums up. "Everybody is employed. Everybody is literate. No discrimination against women with regard to pay or conditions of work. Everybody is entitled to a pension. Education and medical services are free. There are theatres, cinemas and hundreds of other facilities for entertainment. There is maximum scope for cultural advancement. Freedom of religion and worship is

guaranteed and I have seen people in prayer and worship. There is freedom to criticise and to give publicity to such criticisms. One has only to read the Soviet newspapers for the number of letters published from individuals criticising acts of government officials, and other matters to be convinced of this...”

The author was greatly impressed by the friendship of the peoples of the multi-national Soviet Union. “As one belonging to a minority in Ceylon—the Tamils, who form the second largest community—I was greatly struck by my visit to Soviet Georgia. The Georgians number only 3 million... But in Georgia I found the people quite contented, proud of their language which is given its rightful place, and developing their national culture to their hearts desire...”

In contrast, Vaikunthavasan here and there in his book makes bitter references about the living conditions of the working people in colonial countries.

The following example is worth quoting. Ceylon, which the colonisers have turned into a country of mono-crop agriculture, is forced to import rice. While flying over Burma the author saw vast areas of rice fields and wondered why Burma could not export rice to Ceylon as was formerly the case. It turned out that Burma’s rice is bought by the Americans.

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Referring to the great creative labour of the Soviet people the author reaches the following conclusion: “In every field of human activity they are motivated only by the sole desire to increase the happiness and prosperity of their people”, and the value of Vaikunthavasan’s book is that the reader will inevitably reach the same conclusion; he will learn the truth about the countries

of peace, democracy and Socialism.

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