

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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CONGRESS OF UNITY AND SOLIDARITY OF WORKING PEOPLE

The third World Congress of Trade Unions, convened on the initiative of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), is indeed an historic event in the development of the world trade-union movement. The widespread response and powerful support for the Congress in all countries testify that the working people consider its convocation as an exceptionally significant contribution to the struggle for reinforcing international working-class unity which, in the present situation, is more vital than ever before. Unity of the working-class movement is the foundation for the national unification of all the democratic forces, a vital condition for the successful solution not only of the day-to-day tasks of the working class but also of the cardinal problems of the fight for national dependence, for world democratic liberties, for raising the standard of living of the working people, for world peace. It was precisely for this reason that Congress began its work with discussion of the tasks of the trade unions in strengthening unity of action of the working people in the struggle for a higher standard of life, for peace.

Millions of working people see in the unity of their ranks the source of strength and guarantee of success in the struggle for their vital demands, against the offensive of the monopolists, against the war-makers. In their speeches delegates from France Italy, Germany, Britain, India. Finland, Chile, Brazil, Guatemala, Burma and from other countries cited numerous examples testifying to the great striving of the working class for united action on an international and national scale. The experience of the successful outcome of the joint

struggle of the working people in many countries in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa for higher wages, for a better life, against unemployment, for democratic rights and for peace, a struggle in which representatives of the different trade union trends participated, tells them that united action alone brings victory, forcing the governments and the industrialists to make substantial concessions.

The fact that a considerable number of representatives from trade unions not affiliated to the WFTU is attending the Congress is striking testimony to the growing striving of the working masses and their trade unions for unity. The activity of the WFTU which is aimed entirely at consolidating working-class unity received the universal approval of the delegates. The prestige and influence of the WFTU—the most powerful international trade union body, which unites in its ranks the majority of the working people of the world—stem, above all, from its selfless struggle for the vital interests of all toilers, irrespective of their political and religious beliefs, race and nationality, for trade union rights and democratic liberties, for national independence of the peoples and for world peace. That is why there resounds louder and louder the demand of those worker trade unionists not affiliated to the WFTU for restoration of contact between these unions and the most influential international working-class organisation—the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The acute need to strengthen national and international unity of the working class is dictated by the profound changes which have taken place in recent years in the status of the peoples in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries. The working class is ever more resolutely rising in struggle against the

onslaught of the capitalist monopolists on the vital rights and democratic freedoms of the working people, against unemployment and lowering of the standard of living of the popular masses, against the policy of militarisation and preparation for a new world war. The powerful strike movement which has gripped all capitalist and colonial countries speaks for the fact that the working people do not want and refuse to put up with the unprecedented tax burden, the decline in wages, soaring prices, the arbitrariness of the monopolies which, intensifying the speed-up system of exploitation, are amassing maximum profits at the expense of the masses whom they plunder and reduce to poverty.

Conscious of the enormous strength, which united action of organised working people signifies, international reaction seeks to lay its hands on the trade unions, win over the leaders, infiltrate its agents into the working-class movement; it gives every support to the splitters in order to get the trade unions to serve their anti-popular policy. And when the splitting activity of their agents ends in failure reaction resorts to repressions, seeking to destroy the trade-unions or to hinder their activity. Reaction strives to disorganise and weaken the working class, to enmesh the working people in lies, sow enmity and distrust among them and deepen the split in the trade union movement.

Life, however, has proved that the disruptive policy of the reactionary union leaders in no way reflects the sentiment of the rank and file members, proves that this policy runs counter to the genuine aspirations of the working people. Taking this into account many delegates stressed the urgent need for greater exposure of the anti-people's disruptive

activity of the leaders of the “International Federation of Free Trade Unions”, of the American Federation of Labour and the Congress of Industrial Organisations—the betrayers of the working class and loyal servants of aggressive American imperialism. The delegates suggested that a call be addressed to the national trade union centres and to the working people of Britain, Western Germany, Latin America and other countries not affiliated to the WFTU, to strengthen the united trade union front for joint struggle to ensure better conditions for the working people, for consolidating peace and international security.

An urgent task of the trade unions is the fight for unity of action in every enterprise, in every profession, in every branch of industry, on a national and international scale. Unity of action can be achieved on the basis of a concrete programme, acceptable to trade unions belonging to the different union amalgamations.

Unity of the working-class movement in the capitalist and colonial countries can become the genuine basis for successful unification of the democratic forces on a national scale, provided the trade unions establish close contact with the mass organisations of the women and youth fighting for better conditions for women and the young generation, for democratic freedoms, for world peace.

The delegates listened with close attention to the speeches by representatives of the trade unions of the Soviet Union, the People’s Republic of China and the countries of people’s democracy who spoke about the grand achievements of the working people in these countries in building the new life, in ensuring a steady rise in the material and cultural level of the peoples who have cast off the shackles of capitalist slavery. The

delegates wholeheartedly approved the statement made by the head of the Soviet trade union delegation to the effect that the Soviet trade unions, educated in the spirit of proletarian internationalism, will, in the future too, actively support all measures taken by the WFTU for strengthening international trade union unity, will fraternally co-operate with all trade union organisations affiliated to the Federation, strengthen and extend the bonds with the working people of all countries without exception.

Peace, its preservation and consolidation, is the main condition for ensuring the well-being of the peoples. The alliance of the working class with other sections of the population is being effected within the framework of the world peace movement. The working class makes the most effective contribution to the cause of peace by constantly consolidating the unity of its ranks. The trade unions are taking an active part in the fight for peace and international security. In this struggle, which is becoming more and more militant, they, acting on behalf of the broad masses of the working people, are developing their own activity. No small contribution to the big successes won by the camp of peace and democracy in the matter of easing the international tension has been made by the multi-million masses of organised working people selflessly participating in the struggle for peace.

Further all-round activation of the working people in the fight for peace, their ever wider and ever more organised participation in the campaign of the World Peace Council for a peaceful settlement of controversial international questions, the solidarity and unity of the peace forces and the sharpening of the vigilance of the people in relation to intrigues of the enemies of peace

will frustrate the aggressive designs of the incendiaries of a new war.

The decisions of the Third World Congress of Trade Unions—the great assembly of the unity and solidarity of the working people—will show the pathway to a higher phase of the united struggle of the working people in all countries for well-being, for peace. The alliance of the working class of all countries in the struggle against the warmongers, for the preservation and consolidation of world peace and for the happiness of the working people will grow stronger and become indestructible.

ELECTION SUCCESS OF FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY

The French Communist Party has won more more election victories. In by-election on October 11 a Communist candidate polled 1,902 votes and won the seat of General Councillor in the Eure Department (Pont-Audemer). In the 1951 election he polled 939 votes. In the rural areas of this electoral district the number of votes polled by the French Communist Party increased 3 and even 4-fold.

In addition, two Communist candidates were elected to the municipal councils in Aiguillon and Barbaste (Lot-et-Garonne Department).

MEASURES FOR IMPROVING AGRICULTURE IN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

The Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania and the Political Bureau of the Albanian Party of Labour recently adopted a number of measures aimed at strengthening agriculture and the entire national economy, at further improving the life of the working people.

The decision on measures for improving the well-being of the individual peasants and co-operative members provides for abolition of grain quotas and delivery of other products from plots with small yields. All households which had no cattle and sheep by the beginning of 1953 are freed from meat and wool deliveries for three years and wool deliveries are reduced by 50 per cent from the personal subsidiary plots of cooperative members. The quotas for grain, rice, hay and olives have been reduced and state procurement prices raised. The measures envisaged in the decision pave the way for the further development of agriculture, for improving the well-being of co-operative members and individual peasants and for improving supplies of food for working people-in town and country, and for regular supplies of raw materials for industry. The decision of the Government in relation to a number of tax measures frees the co-operatives and individual peasant households lacking draught animals from the arrears of taxes accumulated up to the end of 1952. Taxes on tillers possessing draught animals and on the husbandries of working people in the towns are reduced 75 and 59 per cent respectively. In addition, the Government has decided to cut prices for a series of farm implements. The decisions concerning

the state quotas for agricultural and animal husbandry products are designed to encourage the working peasantry to increase output of farm and . animal husbandry; they also envisage measures for ensuring an upsurge in agricultural production and for ensuring state stocks of grain, beans, rice, meat, wool, eggs, etc.

Measures are also contemplated for encouraging small private trade.

The decisions adopted by the Government and the Central Committee of the Party of Labour call for the extension of trade between town and countryside and in this way contribute to drawing the peasant masses into the work of socialist construction, to strengthening the worker-peasant alliance –the basis of the people’s democratic system.

FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF CONTROVERSIAL INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Nationwide Referendum in Defence of Peace in Canada

On September 12, the Canadian Peace Congress launched a nationwide referendum for a peaceful settlement of controversial international issues. The referendum is being held in all provinces.

On September 27, the Toronto Peace Council held a mass meeting in the Massey Hall to popularise the referendum. The meeting was attended by 1,500 people. The main speech was made by Dr. Endicott who analysed the international situation and spoke of the possibilities for a peaceful settlement of all controversial international issues and of the need for the Canadian people to take action in favour of the Great Power talks.

He called on the audience to take an active part in carrying out the referendum.

Libbey Park, Secretary of the Toronto Peace Council, who reported the first results of the referendum in the city, said that 93.9% voters had expressed themselves for a peaceful settlement of the controversial international issues.

Meeting of Praesidium of National Peace Council in Hungary

A meeting of the Praesidium of the National Peace Council in Hungary, held on peace movement in the country and adopted a resolution which states:

Never before has the need for solidarity and

vigilance on the part of the peoples been so urgent as it is now. It is necessary to prevent the imperialists from unleashing a new war in Korea, to prevent the USA from extending the war in Viet Nam, to prevent Germany from becoming a new centre for war. We must see to it that the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies take their seats in the United Nations. It is necessary to fight in a way that will compel the imperialists to give up threatening humanity with such nightmare weapons as the A-bomb and H-bomb. It is impossible to tolerate the fact that the West is raising artificial barriers against beneficial trade with the East.

The resolution called on the peace committees in the country to hold meetings in all districts and towns and in all the districts of Budapest on November 22-29. "Peace evenings", in country and town and in the main enterprises, which will elect delegates to the district peace rallies, will be held during October.

Signature Campaign in Guatemala

The National Peace Committee in Guatemala has launched a campaign for 150 thousand signatures to an appeal calling upon Guatemalans to defend the sovereignty of their country against foreign interference and to take action for a conference of the five Great Powers for the purpose of easing the international tension.

The campaign was preceded by a meeting sponsored by the Peace Committee and attended by representatives of all political groups, including the government parties. The meeting was addressed by

Antonio Crus Franco, Chairman of the Guatemala National Peace Committee, by representatives of the Women's Union of Guatemala, the Party of Revolutionary Action, the General Confederation of Working People, the Youth Union and other progressive organisations.

Against Imperialist Yoke in Morocco

In connection with the recent serious events in Morocco, the Communist Party of Morocco addressed a memorandum to the Secretariat of the United Nations.

Exposing the terror of the French authorities the memorandum says: "Having deposed the Sultan, the French Government wants to remove all the obstacles in the way of its policy which serves the interests of the mine-owners, industrialists, traders, serves the interests of the colonisers, the interests of the minority—adventurers, feudal landlords and obscurantists; thus, it reveals its desire to prevent our people from regaining their sovereignty". The memorandum proclaims the immediate demands of the people.

"An end to the police terror in Morocco; freedom for political prisoners, the return to the country of Sidi Mahomed Ben Youssef and all deportees and exiles;

"immediate granting of democratic freedoms and, in particular, trade union rights, legality for the national parties, freedom of the press;

"abrogation of all measures which infringe the sovereignty of Morocco;

"the formation of a national government consisting of genuine representatives of the people of

Morocco”.

MEETING, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF BULGARIA

A recent meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria discussed and unanimously adopted a decision on measures for the further development of agriculture.

The decision points out that gross agricultural output has exceeded the pre-war level and continues to grow. The co-operative system in the countryside is developing and gaining strength. Average grain and technical crop yields are rising year by year.

The decision also states that the further increase in crop yields and in productivity of animal husbandry is now the basic task of agriculture. It lays down a number of serious measures aimed at achieving a further upsurge in agriculture and animal husbandry in the next few years and pays specially close attention to the development of animal husbandry.

POWERFUL PEASANT ACTIONS IN FRANCE

The discontent of the peasants in France with the policies of the Laniel government has grown considerably of late. Despite opposition on the part of some big agrarians in the leadership of the National Agrarians Federation, and despite the mobilisation of big police forces by the government, powerful peasant actions took place in particular on October 2 in 17 Departments of central and south-west France.

In accordance with the decisions adopted by the peasant meetings thousands of barricades were erected on the main highways in these Departments resulting in the stoppage of traffic for a whole day. The Mayors of the peasant communes declared a strike, while peasants withdrew their deposits from the savings banks.

500 barricades were erected on the high-ways in the Puy-de-Dome Department, over 300 in the Creuse and Haute-Vienne Departments respectively, 200 in the Deux-Sevres Department, etc.

In many places the peasants gave a resolute rebuff to the police forces. Despite the fact that the police resorted to tear-gas the peasants in Givry (Saone-et-Loire) restored their barricades eleven times. In the Puy-de-Dome Department the peasants won the release of a number of people who had been arrested during demonstrations.

Numerous, meetings took place on October 12. A meeting attended by 6,000 odd peasants near Poitiers put forward the following demands: annul the meat tax,

stop importing agricultural products, cut the excessive profits of the middleman, raise the purchasing power of working people in order to help sales, eliminate the widening discrepancy between prices for agricultural products and manufactured goods.

UNITY AND PEACE FOR GERMAN PEOPLE! Jan Drda

On October 11, in the hall of the Palace of Industry—the biggest public hall in Prague—there opened a Congress for a peaceful settlement of the German problem. More than 5,000 delegates representing the working people in all parts of the Republic discussed this question which is of decisive significance for peace in Europe and for the extension of friendly relations between the peoples of Czechoslovakia and Germany. The nationwide response evoked by the Congress, the speeches of the delegates representing all strata of the population, and, finally, the interest displayed by peace supporters in the European countries who sent their representatives to the Congress—all combined shows how deeply the people of Czechoslovakia and the peoples of other countries in Europe feel that a united, democratic Germany, in which the German people would be able to live and work freely and peacefully, is essential for their peaceful and happy future.

The great initiative displayed by the Soviet Union in upholding peace, its selfless and persistent struggle for a peaceful solution of the German problem, its lofty proposals which aim at ensuring peaceful development for the people of Germany—all are an inspiring example for peace champions in all countries of the world.

The delegates closely followed the report made

by Viliam Siroky, Prime Minister of the Republic of Czechoslovakia, who spoke about the ways for the peaceful settlement of the German problem, about the initiative displayed by the USSR in upholding peace and on the historic significance of the Soviet proposals. The representatives of the peace movement from the Soviet Union, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Western Germany, France, Great Britain, Holland, Denmark, Austria, Luxemburg and the representatives of the World Council of Peace took an active part in the discussion, thereby demonstrating that, despite differences of views, the question of a peaceful future for the German people closely unites the peace-loving peoples of the world.

The people of Czechoslovakia, represented at the Congress by 5,000 delegates, industrial workers, peasants, workers in the realm of science and art, teachers, doctors and clergymen—demonstrated the serious concern felt by every honest citizen of Czechoslovakia in connection with the German problem. Republic. A metal-worker from the V. I. Lenin Works in Plzen who took part in the European Workers' Conference against Remilitarisation of Germany, a young woman-teacher from the border region, Slovak and Czech poets, a world-famous scientist, an elderly Slovak Bishop, and a young peasant woman from an agricultural co-operative—each in his own way, profoundly and convincingly told the Congress that chauvinism and national enmity are alien to our people, that the fearful lesson of the Hitler invasion has not blinded us with hatred and has not undermined our respect for the peace-loving honest Germans.

The working people of Czechoslovakia regard it as their great moral duty to help the German people in

their just struggle for a united, peace-loving Germany, against the imperialist clique, against the Adenauer revanchists and militarists who have become shameless American hirelings and who are bartering the vital interests and even the lives of Germans. Czechoslovak peace supporters will spare no effort in order to bring home to all citizens the significance of the German problem and to draw them into the ranks of the active fighters for its peaceful solution. Our ever growing and sincerely friendly relations with the German Democratic Republic testify that the people of Czechoslovakia are fully determined to do all in their power to establish close friendship between the peoples of Germany and Czechoslovakia. The victory of the glorious Soviet Army over Hitler fascism brought us a new life and opened up the broad vistas of a happy future for our peoples. But for the German people, too, this historic victory signified the pathway to a new life and happiness as is evident from the example of the German Democratic Republic. We must build this new life in close co-operation with and by constantly strengthening the friendly ties between our two peoples.

Tempestuous, tumultuous applause resounded every time the delegates spoke of their friendly feelings for the peace-loving German people, of their admiration for genuine German culture, We saw how this moved the foreign delegates and above all the delegates from Western Germany who for the first time saw this mass expression of friendship of our people for the people of Germany.

German citizens residing in Czechoslovakia told the Congress how the German population in Czechoslovakia regard the problem of Germany, their attitude to our People's Democratic Republic. A moving and inspiring

speech was made by Wilhem Wentzel from Usti-on-Labem who said:

“To Mr. Adenauer and those with him who shed crocodile tears about the ‘unfortunate’ Germans in the German Democratic Republic and in our country I say: “None of them, Mr. Adenauer, want to be ‘liberated’ by you. The best thing you can do is to liberate the German people from your presence and take with you all the Nazi generals and the SS hordes you have already cultivated. Take them with you across the ocean to your patrons and the German people will be grateful to you for this”.

The most inspiring and moving moment was when Gustina Fucik came to the rostrum to read the message of the Czechoslovak people to' the people of Germany:

“We want to have as a neighbour a united and democratic Germany, people with whom we can live in the same good and friendly relations as with the German Democratic Republic. We are confident that the working people in Western Germany do not want to be involved in a military catastrophe. They are uniting against the Adenauer clique and against all warmongers. We are confident that they will resolutely manifest their will in the fight for a peace-loving, democratic and unite Germany, for peaceful co-existence with its neighbours and with all the peoples of the world”.

Yes, such is the belief of all honest citizens in Czechoslovakia. This is not a belief which blunts vigilance, it is a militant belief abounding in creative energy, a belief which is strengthened by the support which the Soviet Union gives us, with its might, its consistent peace policy and its selfless friendship and aid. It is a belief strengthened by the consciousness of the constantly growing peace movement and might of

the world peace camp. The Czechoslovak peace congress was a splendid demonstration of this militant confidence and at the same time a demonstration of friendliness towards all Germans who prefer a peaceful existence, an existence abounding in creative work, to ruin and the flames of war. With this confidence all citizens of Czechoslovakia have closely rallied round the people's Government whose policy fully corresponds to the aspirations of the people. And let there resound throughout Germany and throughout the world the words spoken by Antonin Zapotocki, President of the Czechoslovak Republic, at the reception of the big peace partisans' delegation which included all foreign guests at the congress:

“Assure your compatriots, your peoples that the Czechoslovak Republic, the Czech and Slovak peoples want nothing so much as to avert war, preserve peace and by means of creative effort to secure the blossoming of their country, to maintain friendly relations, economic, trade and cultural ties with all peoples and states on the basis of the principle of an “equal among equals”, mutual respect for freedom, independence and state sovereignty. I assure you that our sole desire is, by means of our policy and our labour, to help strengthen. peace and friendly co-existence of all nations”.

IIIrd WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS

The IIIrd Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions opened in Vienna on October 10. The keynote of the Congress is “Unity—the decisive force of the working people!”, “We are class brothers, we have common interests, let us rally and fight for our well-being, freedom and peace!”.

The Congress is attended by over two thousand delegates, observers and guests representing 85 million working people. Greetings and declarations aligning themselves with the Congress have been received from trade union organisations of 96 countries: 74 national trade union centres, 16 of which are not affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions, and 245 separate branch and local organisations, of which 91 are not affiliated to the Federation.

Opening Speech by Giuseppe Di Vittorio

The Congress was opened by Giuseppe Di Vittorio, Chairman of the World Federation of Trade Unions, who stressed that this great Congress is unprecedented in the history of the international trade-

union movement, being open in a brotherly way to all representatives—delegates, observers and guests—to all trade union organisations irrespective of their orientation.

Another feature of the Congress, said Di Vittorio, is that, together with the delegates elected by trade unions, it is attended by a considerable number of delegates elected directly by working people in factory, village and office.

The honourable task of our Congress, its historic mission, continued the speaker, is to show the way for transition to a higher stage in the united struggle of the working masses of the world for well-being and for peace.

We address the working people of all countries, of all organisations and all lands and, extend to them the hand of friendship, we say:

Brothers, our interests and our destinies are one and the same. Let us unite and this will enable us jointly to change the situation in every country and throughout the world, enable us to secure better conditions of life and labour, to maintain peace and advance society as a whole to a higher stage of well-being, social justice and human civilisation.

To those who preach hatred we counter-pose friendship and economic and cultural exchange between the nations. To those who advocate war we counter-pose the lofty demand of peace. We reply with the effective solidarity and fraternity of the working people of the world to those who would like to isolate the working people of the capitalist and colonial countries from their Soviet brothers and their brothers in the other countries. taking the path of Socialism. To those who would like to make oppression and exploitation,

poverty and barbarism eternal we counter-pose the highest demands of life, freedom and the progress of human society.

Outstanding figures of the international working-class movement, delegates from 34 countries, representatives of international democratic organisations, of the World Council of Peace were elected to the Presidium of the Congress. The Congress approved the following agenda:

1. Report on the work of the World Federation of Trade Unions and next tasks of 'the trade unions for strengthening unity of action of the working people in their fight for a higher standard of living and for peace. (Rapporteur Louis Saillant, General Secretary, Trade Unions).

2. Tasks of the trade unions in the fight for economic and social development, in defence of national independence and democratic freedoms in the capitalist and colonial countries (Rapporteur Giuseppe Di Vittorio, Chairman, World Federation of Trade Unions).

3. The development of the trade union movements in the colonial and semi-colonial countries (Rapporteur Ruslan Vijadjastra, Deputy Secretary General of SOBSI, Indonesia).

4. Financial report by Auditors of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

5. Election of leading bodies of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

The report on the first item of the agenda was made by Louis Saillant, General Secretary of the

Federation.

Speech by Louis Saillant

At the outset Louis Saillant stressed the tremendous significance of the World Federation of Trade Unions for the development of the working-class movement in all countries. The very birth of this united, democratic international trade union organisation was the outcome of many years of struggle by the working people for unity of their forces on both a national and international scale.

He then dwelt on the vital changes in the international situation and the trade union movement since the second World Congress of the Federation in Milan in the middle of 1949.

Louis Saillant quoted extensive factual material showing that the notorious “Marshall Plan” had led to further impoverishment of the working people in the capitalist countries, to a higher cost of living, to a heavier tax burden, greater unemployment, intensified exploitation of working people and to growing profits for the capitalists. On the basis of official statistics Louis Saillant showed that the cost of living in 1953 (taking the 1948 level as 100) rose in Austria, 99 per cent; in Finland, 57 per cent; France, 45 per cent; Britain, 31 per cent; Norway, 35 per cent; Denmark, 23 per cent, etc.

Taxation in the USA has soared 12-fold compared with the 1937-38 level, in France it was 260 per cent and in Britain 200 per cent against the 1938 level.

In the USA taxation amounts to 30 per cent of

the national income, in France 39 per cent and in Britain 42 per cent.

According to official data 12 West European countries had 2,959,000 unemployed in 1948 and 4,300,000 in April 1953, a 45 per cent increase.

In Australia, Canada, Japan and India the number of fully unemployed increased more than 100 per cent between 1948 and April 1953.

He then spoke about the development of the working-class movement, the growing struggle of the working people for their demands and their stronger unity.

Strikes and all forms of mass demonstration have become more frequent and at present the struggle of the workers for their demands is taking place not only in a few separate countries, it has spread to all capitalist, colonial and semi-colonial countries. The solidarity of the proletariat has become more pronounced and active. In this new splendid struggle the international working class is using new means of struggle and substantially deepening its class consciousness.

Our Congress, said the speaker, is taking place at a time when the working people are fighting more actively and extending unity of action in the struggle against poverty and those responsible for this state of affairs.

The reactionary governments, the industrialists and splitters have not succeeded in holding back the development of the struggle and the unity of the working people.

After stressing the growing leading role of the World Federation of Trade Unions in the working-class movement, Saillant noted its world character.

The fact that in the World Federation of Trade

Unions, representatives of trade unions from the capitalist, colonial and semi-colonial countries meet with representatives of the trade unions from the socialist countries, where the working people hold the reins of state power, gives our trade union organisation its world-wide, universal character.

Louis Saillant dwelt on the brilliant economic and social achievements of the USSR, the People's Republic of China and the other countries of people's democracy, and on the steady rise in well-being in these countries, on the advance made by the trade unions in the countries of the socialist camp.

Saying that the fact that representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are not allowed to take their place in the United Nations signifies an impermissible infringement of the rights of the people of China, Louis Saillant declared that the WFTU demands that this naked act of injustice be ended immediately.

Saillant then dwelt in detail on the struggle waged by the trade unions for higher wages and against unemployment. He stressed the need to intensify this struggle and link it with the struggle against the soaring prices and cost of living, with the struggle against the closing of enterprises and for agrarian reform.

In the section of the report "Struggle of working people for peace—the main task of the trade union organisations" Louis Saillant pointed out that an alliance between the working class and other sections of the population is being effected within the framework of the world peace movement.

He criticised the trade unions in some countries which keep aloof from the peace movement, which, he said, clearly testifies that the leaders of these unions do

not understand the vital role of the trade unions and underestimate the services rendered by the World Council of Peace to the peoples of all countries.

This, however, does not mean, Louis Saillant went on, that the peace movement and trade unions should merge. It means that the trade unions should develop their own activity and display their own initiative in the struggle for peace when acting on behalf of the broad masses of the working people.

The WFTU must help the trade union organisations to explain the role of the unions in the fight for peace. The Rules of the WFTU say that we must fight not only against war but also against the factors that give rise to war.

Today the trade unions should take part in the campaign for securing a peaceful settlement of the international problems.

Louis Saillant summoned the peoples to display vigilance so as not to allow violation of the truce agreement in Korea and to ensure just peace negotiations in Korea and Asia.

Touching on the German question Louis Saillant pointed out that millions of people Saillant pointed out that millions of people in Western Germany are resisting the Paris and Bonn military agreements. We must, he said, form a united international front of the working people and their trade unions for joint struggle against ratification of the Bonn and Paris agreements. Our Congress must solemnly call on all the working people and on all trade unions in the European countries to unite their efforts in order to forestall such aggravation of the danger of war.

Louis Saillant stressed further that the establishment of unity of action of the working people

and promotion of trade union unity constitute the chief task of the WFTU. Our fight for unity, he said, should lead to the formation of a single trade union in each enterprise; a single national trade union federation for each trade and each branch of industry; a single national trade union centre for all the trade unions of the given country and a single world trade union organisation.

Dwelling on the need to fight for unity of action Louis Saillant recalled that recently the Italian General Confederation of Labour and two other national trade union organisations jointly directed the brief general strike for higher wages and against dismissals. What is possible in Italy, he said, must become possible in other countries.

Louis Saillant also noted the successes achieved in the fight for unity of action and trade union unity in Guatemala, Chile, India, Indonesia, Tunisia and in a number of other countries.

We are heading, said Saillant, not towards a weakening or narrowing of our trade union movement. We are marching confidently towards extending all our activity and our entire organisational system. Day by day we are strengthening the international solidarity of the working class.

Discussion of Report by Louis Saillant

Discussion of Louis Saillant's report commenced on October 11. The first speakers were V. M. Gutierrez, General Secretary of the United Confederation of

Working People of Guatemala, Zuppka, representative of the Czechoslovak delegation, and the Finnish delegate L. Yunttila. Then came Herbert Warnke, a member of the German delegation, which includes both representatives of the working people of the German Democratic Republic and Western Germany. In the interests of a peaceful settlement of the German problem; he said, we must overcome the dismemberment and forge unity of action of the German working class in joint struggle by the working people of Western Germany aid the German Democratic Republic. Warnke stated that the formulation of a common programme for all trade unionists in Germany is perfectly feasible.

Than Ngum, Burmese delegate, **V. Casanova**, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Trade Union Centre of Chilean Working People, and **Hassan Sanmugat**, member of the working people the General Council of the Ceylon Trade Union Federation dwelt on the struggle waged by the working people in their countries for joint action and also on the successes achieved in the struggle.

Speech by N. M. Shvernik

At the evening session on October 11 a speech was delivered by **N. M. Shvernik**, leader of the Soviet trade union delegation, who was warmly welcomed by the delegates. N. M. Shvernik pointed to the growing prestige and influence of the World Federation of Trade Unions among the toiling masses—a growth which stems, above all, from its selfless struggle for the vital

interests of the working people. The Soviet trade unions fully approve the activity of the World Federation of Trade Unions and its leading bodies, since it is aimed at consolidating the unity of the working class in its fight for a higher standard of life and better conditions of labour, for ensuring trade union rights and democratic freedoms, for national independence of the peoples and for world peace.

N. M. Shvernik described the rise in material conditions of the working people in the USSR and the work done by the Soviet trade unions.

As a result of the successes won with the active participation of Soviet trade unions, which fight daily for higher labour productivity and for widespread dissemination of the advanced methods of the innovators, the well-being of the population of the Soviet Union has been advanced and finds expression in the rising nominal and real wages of workers, the engineer-technical personnel and office employees and also in the higher incomes of the peasants.

Since 1947 six price reductions have been effected in the Soviet Union. For the same amount of money spent in 1947 the working people can buy now 2 1/2 kilogrammes of white bread instead of 1 kilogramme, 2.4 kilogrammes of meat, 2.4 kilogrammes of butter, 2.3 kilogrammes of macaroni, 2.2 kilogrammes of potatoes and 3 kilogrammes of fruit. As a result of the systematic price reductions and of the growth of real incomes of the working people, the Soviet people are eating better and better, the demand for high quality foods and industrial goods is growing. Simultaneously with the growth of real wages the money earnings of the working people are rising and in recent years have increased roughly one and a half

times.

The Soviet state spends billions on free cultural and utility services for the working people, on education, public health, social insurance, vocational training and on improving the skill of youth and on other benefits and allowances. Real income per worker and office employee in 1952 was 68 per cent higher than in 1940.

N. M. Shvernik spoke about the extensive state housing programme in the USSR, about the growing allocations for social insurance which in the past year exceeded almost 2.5 times the pre-war 1940 appropriations. The network of rest homes, sanatoria and health resorts in the USSR is growing, a big network of creches and kindergartens, summer sanatoria and medical institutions for children is functioning. The Soviet state devotes close attention to further development of education, the basis for the cultural growth of the people.

N. M. Shvernik also described the advance and the brilliant prospects for the further development of agriculture in the USSR.

N. M. Shvernik said that the Soviet trade unions are straining every effort to develop the creative initiative of the workers, engineer-technical personnel and office employees in order to carry out with honour the vital task of satisfying the everyday needs of the people.

N, M. Shvernik then turned to questions of unity of the working class in all countries. He said that the preservation and consolidation of world peace and the raising of living standards, defence of freedom and the independence of the peoples demand that the unions affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions

persistently strive for strengthening the unity of the working class in all countries. Comrade Shvernik denounced the disruptive, anti-people's and anti-working class activity of the American Federation of Labour and the Congress of Industrial Organisations. The aim of the provocations of the enemies of the working class is clear, Comrade Shvernik said. They want to enmesh the workers in lies in order to deepen the split in the trade union movement and to sow enmity and mistrust among the working people.

The Soviet trade unions educated in the Spirit of proletarian internationalism will in the future too, actively support all measures taken by the World Federation of Trade Unions to strengthen international trade union unity.

We shall, in the future too, N. M. Shvernik said, fraternally co-operate with all trade union organisations affiliated to the Federation and strengthen and extend the bonds with the working people of all countries without exception.

The Soviet trade unions stand for strengthening friendly relations with the working class and trade union organisations of the USA, the British Trades Union Congress, with the trade unions of the Scandinavian countries, Canada, Australia, Western Germany and the General Council of Trade Unions in Japan.

Comrade Shvernik emphasised that the Soviet trade unions are vitally interested in peace and unanimously support the peace-loving foreign policy of their Government.

This policy is based on the firm belief that a way can be found to settle controversial and unsettled issues by peaceful means on the basis of mutual agreement between the states concerned.

All aggressive designs are alien to the Soviet Union. The Soviet people want to live in peace with all nations; they have stand for the always wanted and want now economic and cultural co-operation with them.

The Soviet Union will, in the future too, steadfastly conduct its peace-loving policy both in the interests of its own people and the interests of all mankind.

The discussion at the session on October 12 was opened by **Espino**, representative of the working people of Cuba.

Liu Nin-i, representative of the working class of People's China, told the delegates of the splendid achievements in rehabilitating and building the national economy of the country. The standard of living and the cultural level are rising steadily in the People's Republic of China. Earnings of factory and office workers in state enterprises increased 60-120 per cent in 1952 compared with 1949. Dwelling house construction is expanding; schools, hospitals, clubs and Palaces of Culture are being built and the system of social insurance extended. The working people of China regard it as a vital international duty to contribute to the cause of strengthening international unity and solidarity of the working class of the world.

Alain Le Leap, Secretary-General of the French General Confederation of Labour, dwelt on the forms of unity of action of the working people. Numerous united action committees were formed during the August strikes in France and are being formed now.

We stand for a single trade union in the enterprise, said Le Leap, for a single national confederation, for a single world trade union organisation. It is in this direction that we are conducting our explanatory and organising work among the working class of France.

W. Klosiewicz, chairman of the Central Council of Polish Trade Unions, described the successes won by the people of Poland in building Socialism. Touching on the resurgence of German militarism, which constitutes a serious danger to peace, Klosiewicz declared that this danger can be averted. The workers of Britain, France and Belgium, united in a single front, have, in their striving for peace, common aims with the workers of Poland and Czechoslovakia and the working class of Germany.

The appearance on the platform of Se Hi Na, head of the delegation of the All-Korean Federation, of Trade Unions, was warmly cheered. He spoke of the heroic struggle of his people against {he foreign enslavers and of the selfless labour in restoring the war devastated national economy. The working people of Korea, he declared, express profound gratitude to the working people of the Soviet Union, China and of the People's Democracies for their support and assistance.

Delegate **Moraru**, on behalf of the working people of Rumania, expressed a desire for greater effort by the WFTU in the sphere of strengthening unity of the working people, for exchange of the experiences gained by the working people in different countries in their struggle and for closer contact between the leading bodies of the WFTU and the national trade union centres.

P. Josef, representative of the Council of the

Non-European Trade Unions of Transvaal, said that in South Africa unity is being established in the struggle for better conditions and against race discrimination.

The first speaker on October 13 was **Ram Karranu**, the delegate of the working people of British Guiana. He said, we, who live in slavery, took with pride and admiration at the successes of the Soviet Union, People's China and the People's Democracies, successes achieved in such a brief period. They give us courage and the will to continue the struggle.

Nguyen Ken Hao, head of the delegation of the General Confederation of Labour of Viet Nam, said that despite the war the People's Government of Viet Nam is doing everything to raise the standard of living of the working people. It has taken measures to establish an 8-hour day and to ensure democratic rights for the working people.

Sujiri, representative of Indonesia, stressed that the WFTU is giving great support to the working people of his country, particularly in their struggle for unity.

On October 14 the speeches by representatives of the working people of Lebanon, Spain, Japan, Mexico and other countries brought the discussion of the report by Louis Saillant, Secretary-General of WFTU, to a close. 57 delegates spoke in the discussion.

Summing up the results of the discussion Louis Saillant said that the speeches by the delegates testified to the strength and maturity of the world trade union movement. He suggested that the Congress should address an open letter to the trade unions not affiliated to the Federation urging them to effect unity of action.

On October 15 the delegates heard a report by Giuseppe Di Vittorio, President of the Federation, on the tasks of the trade unions in the struggle for

economic and social progress, in defence of national independence and democratic freedoms in the capitalist and colonial countries.

The Third World Congress of the Trade Unions is continuing.

IN COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES

WORKS BY CLASSICS OF MARXISM-LENINISM IN GREEK AND BULGARIAN LANGUAGES

The Publishing House of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece has put out Volume 20 of V. I Lenin's works in the Greek language.

There has also appeared the first volume of Marx's "Capital" and Volume 12 of J .V. Stalin's works.

The Publishing House of the Communist Party of

Bulgaria has put out Volumes 29, 30, 31 and 32 of the works of V. I. Lenin in an edition of 20,000 copies each. The Bulgarian translation is based on the IV Russian edition.

PLENARY MEETING OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF BELGIUM

A-meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belgium, held in Brussels on October 3-4; discussed a report by Comrade Edgar Lalmand, General Secretary of the Party, entitled “The national question in Belgium and struggle in defence of independence” and a report by Paul Libois, member of the Central Committee, on “The work of the Communists in the sphere of culture.”

Comrade Lalmand emphasised that the struggle for national independence and national sovereignty is now the basic content of the national question in Belgium. He pointed out that the preservation and consolidation of unity in Belgium and a close alliance of the working people—Walloons and Flemings—is a basic means in the struggle for national independence.

In conclusion, the meeting adopted a resolution which reads in part:

“The Central Committee points out that present conditions g division between Flemings and Walloons, which would inevitably be aggravated by the establishment of federalism, can only bring injury to Belgian unity and the essential solidarity of the Belgian working class.

“The Central Committee points to the need for complete equality for the Flemings and Walloons,

particularly in the sphere of administration, language and culture. Today, as always, all Belgians—Flemings and Walloons—in face of the growing danger will draw their ranks still closer in joint struggle for their common homeland, their common heritage and destiny.

“Faithful to proletarian internationalism, to the Soviet Union, which is the mainstay of peace and independence for all nations, true to the memory of their comrades who heroically fell in the struggle against the Nazi occupationists, the Communists will be in the van of the struggle and by their example draw all patriots into the great fight for peace, independence and freedom”.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, LABOUR-PROGRESSIVE PARTY, CANADA

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Labour-Progressive Party, held recently in Toronto, heard and discussed the report submitted by Leslie Morris, member of the Executive Committee, Morris summed up the results of the work done by the Party during the recent general election. He pointed out that the 7 points of the Labour-Progressive Party's election programme remain the basis for the Party's activity. Tim Buck, General Secretary, took part in the discussion.

In a statement published after the meeting the Executive Committee announced that the Vth Congress of the Party would held in March next year. Public discussion of the Party's Programme Programme “Canadian Independence and People's Democracy” will precede the Congress. The Executive Committee reported that Tim Buck's speech and the resolutions will

appear in the November issue of the Journal “National Affairs”.

FOR A HIGH LEVEL OF PARTY EDUCATION. MEETING OF PARTY ACTIVISTS IN SOFIA

A recent meeting of Communist Party activists in Sofia discussed questions of Party education. A report on the results of the past study year in the Party's education network and the tasks of the Party organisation in the city during the current study year was delivered by Comrade Misho Zahariev, secretary of the Sofia Committee of the Party.

The meeting stressed that the Communists and non-party people are now displaying more interest in theory.

In the 1952 study year 92.3 per cent of the members of the Party and nearly 18,000 non-party people in Sofia engaged in study. About 75 per cent of the leading workers in production and several thousand workers in the realm of science and culture raised their ideological-political level in the links of the Party education network. Many non-party people studied in different links of the education sponsored by the Fatherland Front and the Dimitrov Youth Union.

Questions connected with improving the quality of the Party education were the centre of attention for the Party activists. The discussion disclosed that despite definite success, the Party's education and propaganda of the Marxist-Leninist theory are not up to the requirements of the practical tasks of socialist construction. The dogmatic approach to the study of theory—an approach which is alien to Marxism-

Leninism—has not been overcome. Theoretical questions are not adequately linked with everyday political and economic tasks. There have been instances of oversimplification, vulgarisation and distortion of Marxism-Leninism. The number of comrades studying Marxism-Leninism independently is still too small.

The reasons for these shortcomings lie in the incorrect selection of students in some education links, an underestimation by Party leaders of by many members and leaders of independent study as the basic method of mastering Marxist-Leninist theory, and in the still inadequate theoretical and methodological training of the tutors.

Utilising the experience of the previous study year the Party organisations have ensured a better selection of students and experienced tutors. In addition to the members the Party study network will embrace nearly 31,000 non-party people. There has been a big improvement in the composition of the tutors.

The meeting took a number of measures aimed at eliminating the shortcomings and at raising the quality and ideological-theoretical level of the Party education and propaganda work.

PARTY MEETINGS IMPROVE ACTIVITY OF COMMUNISTS

The general Party meeting plays an ever bigger role in the life of our Party organisation. It helps to improve Party work, enriches its political content and mobilises the members for systematic work among the personnel of our enterprise.

The agenda of the meeting is, as a rule, discussed at the bureau meeting. The bureau appoints a special commission to prepare the report. If the report is devoted to work in the enterprise the commission thoroughly studies the situation on the spot. When the report is ready it is submitted to the bureau and then delivered at the general meeting.

The general meeting of the Party organisation, devoted to fulfilling the production plan for the first half year by our enterprise and to the tasks of the Party organisation on ensuring further fulfilment of the plan can be cited as an example. After the commission appointed by the bureau had been briefed, its members had a number of talks—both with the Party and non-party workers,—with Party group organisers and active trade unionists. They discussed with them the tasks of fulfilling the plan, the attitude of the personnel to mechanisation and technical improvements, the possibility of raising productivity of labour. Special attention was devoted to social conditions. They investigated the work of the canteen, the housing conditions of the workers and what should be done to improve them.

Having collected the material the commission embodied it in the report which it submitted to the bureau. The bureau made some corrections and drafted a decision containing the recommendations of the commission and the bureau.

Nineteen members, including workers, foremen, group organisers and a representative of the management, took part in the subsequent discussion.

Why was the discussion so lively? Because three days prior to the meeting members of the bureau talked with the secretaries of shop organisations of the Party

and acquainted them with the preparations for the meeting. The secretaries of the shop organisations worked thoroughly with the group organisers who held brief meetings of their groups, and informed the members about the forthcoming meeting and its agenda.

It became the practice after the meeting to supply those comrades who had been allocated definite tasks with excerpts from the decision. But evidently it will be more correct if we give every activist the full text of the decision. In this way we shall give the comrades the opportunity to study the entire complex of tasks raised in the decision.

Often the comrades present at the meeting suggest that certain questions be placed on the agenda and discussed. For example, at a recent meeting it was suggested that the work of the factory organisation of the Youth Union be discussed in the near future.

The weak point of our meetings is the absence of all-round criticism. For example, comrades criticise the management but they have not criticised the bureau of the Party branch. Our meetings help to bring into the inner-Party life of the branch many comrades who formerly were not active.

Piotr TALEK
Secretary, Bureau of Party
branch in Wroclaw Machine-building

Works.

INCULCATING REVOLUTIONARY VIGILANCE IN THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF
ALBANIA. Sadik Bokaj, Alternate Member, Central Committee, Albanian Party of
Labour

In its day-to-day work of the Albanian Party of

Labour is guided by the Marxist-Leninist teaching, by the great ideas of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin.

Since the day of its founding on October 8, 1941, our Party has traversed a glorious path. It grew and became tempered in bitter struggle both against the external and internal enemies. During the war our Party headed the heroic struggle of the people of Albania against the German and Italian fascist occupationists; in the postwar years it ruthlessly exposed the intrigues of the Belgrade fascists in Albania, smashed the Trotskyite agency headed by Xoxe, which sought to deprive our people of freedom and independence. At present the Party of Labour, headed by its Central Committee, is confidently leading our people along the pathway of building the new life.

It is common knowledge that during recent years the people of Albania under the leadership of their Party and thanks to the selfless aid of the great Soviet Union and the People's Democracies have made remarkable progress both in developing industry and agriculture and cultural upbuilding. Striking testimony to this is the fact that already in 1952 industrial output was more than five times greater than prewar.

However, our successes alarm our enemies who subject our country to constant attacks. This applies in particular to the Belgrade and Rome rulers and the Greek monarcho-fascists who, carrying out the orders of their American imperialist masters, are constantly infiltrating into our country spies and saboteurs, trying to arrest our peaceful construction and to prepare the way for launching war against the people of Albania.

Along with infiltrating spies and saboteurs the neighbouring capitalist states engage in numerous acts of provocation and sabotage on our borders, on land,

sea and in the air. In the space of one year alone, over 180 provocations were organised on our borders.

The intensified undermining activities from without have encouraged the hostile elements inside the country who have stepped up their struggle against the people's democratic state. Of late not a few spies, saboteurs and elements squandering public property have been unmasked.

All this shows that for us the enhancing of revolutionary vigilance is an urgent task.

Our Party has always educated and is now educating its members and the entire people of Albania in the spirit of constant revolutionary vigilance in relation both to external and internal enemies, in relation to the defeated but not yet uprooted bourgeoisie. Not for a single minute does it relax its struggle against the saboteurs and spies, against those who squander and steal public property. Our Party is conducting as it always has done, a particularly resolute struggle on the ideological front.

Raising revolutionary vigilance means first of all safeguarding the purity of the Party ranks. Hence, our Party devotes special attention to this matter.

The purity of its ranks is preserved by our Party not only by strict observance of the principle of individual selection while admitting new members but also by means of systematically ridding the Party of the hostile elements and time-servers who wormed their way into it.

The work of verifying and exchanging membership cards, carried out during 1950-52, pursued precisely this aim. As a result, some 4,500 were expelled from the Party as being unworthy of the high title of Party member. For a period of two years (1950-

51) admittance of new members was temporarily stopped.

The considerable work carried out during the verification and exchange of membership cards gave the branches and the members much experience in the matter of sharpening revolutionary vigilance and safeguarding the purity of the Party. But the work already carried out does not mean that the Party organisations can now rest on their laurels and presume that now, after the verification and exchange of membership cards, the Party ranks have been cleansed.

The VII Plenum of the Central Committee, held last May, was specially devoted to the state of the political and organising work of the Party and to measures for improving it. One of the most important tasks which the Plenum placed before the Party and the working people as a whole was the need for the utmost revolutionary vigilance, for safeguarding the purity of the ranks of the Party, the need to regard the Marxist party as a fortress the doors of which are open only to honest and worthy men and women.

The Party constantly teaches that in selecting cadres special care and political vigilance are needed. The facts show that the enemy, in an endeavour to cover up his black past, gives the impression of being a “real worker” in order to penetrate into the leadership and seize responsible posts in the Party and Government. For this reason the VII Plenum of the Central Committee specially stressed the need for greater revolutionary vigilance in selecting and allocating cadres, particularly on the vital sectors of socialist construction.

In addition, the Plenum sharply criticised the shortcomings in ideological work and stressed

particularly the need to strengthen revolutionary vigilance in this sphere.

Of extremely vital significance for enhancing revolutionary vigilance is assimilation of the Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin theory, study of the history of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, of the experience of building Socialism in the USSR, the decisions of the XIX Congress of the CPSU and profound study of the works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism.

The materials of the XIX Congress of the CPSU, which provided the background to the entire work of the VII Plenum, were of tremendous help to us. They placed in the hands of our Party and of the people of our country a weapon, enabling us constantly to sharpen revolutionary vigilance. They equipped our Party with additional knowledge, with renewed strength and energy, rendering it still more efficient in the fight for realisation of the programme and tactics of the Party, in the fight for fulfilment of the first Five-Year Plan.

In the future too the Albanian Party of Labour and the Albanian people will persistently strive to sharpen their vigilance and ruthlessly expose the intrigues of internal and external enemies, will constantly strengthen the economic and military might of our homeland and guard our unity as the apple of the eye. This is one of the basic tasks of every member of the Party, of every patriot: this is one of the indispensable conditions for our further success.

The working people of the Korean People's Democratic Republic are working hard to ensure speedy construction of the devastated and damaged power plants. Work is underway on the reconstruction of the Supun hydro-electric station, the biggest in Asia, which, had been bombed time and again by enemy aircraft. The work-team under Kim Rin Gu fulfils the daily norm by 180 per cent and more. The electrical engineers are using local resources. By the end of August the workers of the power station collected some 300 tons of scrap, ferrous and non-ferrous. Study at the electrical engineering school attached to the power station is progressing satisfactorily. The student body this year is double that of previous years.

The work of restoring the other power stations is in full swing. Speedy rehabilitation of the power units calls for a large quantity of ceramics and porcelain. In view of this close attention is given to restoring the ceramics plant in Chguil and the Phyongyang Porcelain Works.

FRIENDSHIP MONTH WITH USSR IN NETHERLANDS

The “Netherlands-USSR” Friendship Society has launched a friendship month with the USSR. The official opening which took place in Amsterdam on October 3 was attended by over 4,000 people. The hall was decorated with the flags and state emblems of the Netherlands and the USSR.

The writer Toyne de Vries, Chairman of the society, made a speech in which he called on the members to extend friendly ties and cultural relations with the peoples of the Soviet Union.

ILLITERACY ABOLISHED IN LIBERATED DISTRICTS OF VIET NAM

During the French occupation the working people of Northwest Viet Nam were subjected to oppression and exploitation. There was nearly 100 per cent illiteracy. As a rule there was only one elementary school in an entire district with about 40 children attending, mainly landlords' children.

After the liberation of Northwest Viet Nam a large number of people's schools were opened in many districts including those inhabited by national minorities. In many places all children of school age and youth are now studying.

At present, in keeping with the policy of the Government in relation to the national minorities, 54 schools have been opened for the working people in the Thai Nguyen district alone. In the Kao-Bang Province a school has been opened for raising the political level of leading workers in the hill regions.

REACTION HOLDS SWAY IN PARAGUAY

The Chaves reactionary dictatorship has established a reign of fierce terror and brutal exploitation of working people in the country. According to "La Vanguardia" "the persecution, poverty and dictatorship have given rise to emigration on a scale unprecedented in the history of Paraguay. In Argentina there are now some 500,000 Paraguayans and approximately another 70,000 in Brazil. This enormous mass of people was forced to leave the country because of the humiliation to which they were continually subjected". As far as the economic situation is concerned, says the newspaper, "it can be summarised briefly: on the one hand there is the handful of new rich who are indifferent to the plight of the people, and on the other, the masses of peasants, workers and middle strata of the population who are doomed to starvation, disease and the threat of extinction due to lack of food".

BUSINESS ACCOUNTING IN ENTERPRISES OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA.

Atanas Dimitrov Alternate Member, Central Committee, Communist Party of
Bulgaria

The nationalisation of industrial enterprises and banks carried out in Bulgaria in December 1947 brought about a radical change in the economic structure of the country. All the commanding branches of the economy passed into the hands of the working people. Public ownership became the economic basis of the people's-democratic system. Thus the essential economic conditions were also created for taking the country along the socialist path of industrial development.

The paramount task advanced by the first Five-Year Plan (1949-53) for the development of our economy—the laying of the economic and cultural foundations of Socialism—necessitated full-scale introduction of business accounting.

*

Business accounting is the socialist method of management aimed at ensuring the steady growth of socialist accumulation, which is the basis for an upsurge in the national economy and for systematically raising the standard of living' of the-working masses. This method obliges each enterprise economically and rationally to use the funds, equipment and materials placed at its disposal by the Government in order to fulfil and overfulfil its production assignment. Business accounting is the enemy of

mismanagement and extravagance, it is a means of ensuring the maximum mobilisation of the internal resources of the enterprise for socialist construction.

A business-accounting enterprise in the framework of the general system of planned national economy is an independent economic unit with its own bank balance and account; it has the right to conclude agreements and obtain credits; it enjoys operational independence and independence in relation to property.

Business accounting is a medium which allows for more successful combination of the interests of society as a whole with the personal interests of the working people. The working people are educated in the spirit of a socialist attitude towards public property, heightening their responsibility for the work of the enterprise, inculcating an attentive attitude to machinery, raw materials and auxiliary materials and quality of production.

Business accounting contributes to a steady increase of labour productivity, economy of labour and funds, steady reduction of unproductive expenditure and hence, systematic reduction of production costs, which is one of the vital economic-political tasks of the socialist enterprises.

A special "director's fund" was created to which 3-5 per cent of the planned profits and 30-50 per cent of the surplus profits of the enterprises were added. These means are used entirely for improving the cultural life and well-being of workers and office staff of the enterprises.

With a view to creating the conditions for inculcating business accounting the Party and Government of the Bulgarian People's Republic adopted a number of important measures.

The currency reforms carried out in 1947 and 1952 consolidated the finances of the country. In 1951 the banking system was reorganised. Effective control over the work of the enterprise by means of the leva was introduced, thus enhancing the role of the bank as a state organ controlling the work of the business personnel. Norms for circulating capital in the state enterprises were defined and order brought into the financing of the enterprises. The question of sinking fund replacements and correct use of same was solved.

A special "director's fund" was created to which 3-5 per cent of the planned profits and 30-50 per cent of the surplus profits of the enterprises were added. These means are used entirely for improving the cultural life and well-being of workers and office staff of the enterprises.

Thus, for example, the director's fund of the Ernst Thaelmann industrial enterprise amounted in the past six months to 703,400 leva. Of this sum there was expended: on bonuses for shock-workers 162,799 leva; on individual aid to workers 8,758 leva; on maintenance of the factory night sanatorium and on improvement of health protection measures 53,735 leva; on improvement of canteen meals 37,857 leva; on physical culture and amateur theatricals 115,234 leva, on the upkeep of the radio transmitting centre, posters, books for the library, collective visits to film shows and theatrical performances 49,429 leva, etc.

The introduction of business accounting opened up big possibilities for fulfilling and overfulfilling production plans. Business accounting helps in raising and improving the skill of both the technical personnel and the workers, helps in every way to improve economy in the enterprises. Conditions have been

created for better utilisation of the experience of the stakhanovites, for maximum development of the creative initiative of the working people, for further development of rationalisation and innovation, for systematic improvement of technique and acceleration of production processes.

Eloquent proof of this is the fact that whereas in 1951 the number of rationalisation suggestions amounted to 10,200, in 1952 they exceeded 15,000, and that more than 55 per cent were submitted by workers. In 1952 alone the national economy gained over 100 million leva from rationalisation of production. At present labour productivity—the most vital condition for lowering production costs—has reached an all-time high.

For example, the rationalisation suggestion made by Boris Khristov Vylev yielded the state-owned “Progress” enterprise in Plovdiv an economy of 66,6356 leva. Boris Vylev received a reward of 1,475 leva. In addition he received a reward from all the other enterprises which adopted his suggestion.

Due to the higher labour productivity, saving of raw materials and auxiliary materials and to better utilisation of machinery and equipment the total sum saved through lowering production costs in the course of the Five-Year Plan amounted to 2,810 million leva. By the end of 1952 the national income had doubled compared with 1939.

Hence, business accounting in industrial enterprises becomes a vital factor for successful building of Socialism in our country, for raising the material and cultural level of the working people.

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The plan for the development of the national economy of Bulgaria for 1953— the first year of our second Five-Year Plan envisages a further powerful advance of the economy and culture along the pathway of Socialism and a further rise in the standard of living of the working people.

To ensure successful solution of these tasks we must reinforce business accounting in the enterprises and extend it to the shops, sectors and work-teams in order to mobilise all our internal resources. In this connection valuable experience is provided by the personnel of the Ernst Thaelmann enterprise. Under the guidance of the Party the trade union and youth organisations in the enterprise conducted broad explanatory work among the workers for the purpose of popularising the production plan which calls for a 19 per cent increase in output compared with the previous year. As a result of the mass agitation and political-educational work 360 suggestions were submitted by workers and technicians, most of which were utilised in production. The outcome of these developments was that the personnel of the enterprise pledged to fulfil the production programme ahead of schedule. The revised plan has become the programme around which all the subsequent work of the Party organisation in the enterprise is centred.

The Party organisation ensures adequate verification of the work of the enterprise. The Party bureau analyses the process of the fulfilment of the plan by the enterprise as a whole, by the separate sectors and work-teams and even by individual workers. All questions of Party work aimed at safeguarding the enterprise against a possible lag and at ensuring fulfilment of the state plan are decided on the basis of

this analysis.

The production plan for the first six months was fulfilled ten days ahead of schedule. Labour productivity rose 12.25 per cent compared with 1952. Production quotas were overfulfilled on the average by 16 per cent. The average wage rose ten per cent for workers.

The patriotic initiative of the personnel of the Ernst Thaelmann enterprise aimed at fulfilling the production plan was widely taken up. It gave a fresh impetus to the socialist emulation.

The results of the work of this enterprise testify that there are vast reserves in the enterprises which can and must be disclosed and utilised.

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Our socialist system enables us to ensure a further development of shop and internal-shop business accounting, which will give every enterprise fresh opportunities for ensuring fulfilment of production plans on time and ahead of schedule.

Strengthening the system of business accounting in all production links of the enterprises calls for serious work. In the first place it is necessary to improve the internal planning in the enterprise. The plan for output, labour, production costs, etc., must be correctly calculated for every shop and production sector. We must have complete production records which correctly reflect the fulfilment of the plan for separate items. We must acquaint the workers with such things as production costs and calculation and, on this basis, place before every worker the concrete question of economising materials, fuel, etc. This will improve the

work of the enterprise as a whole, ensure more and better-quality output, higher wages and a rise in the material and cultural standards of the working people.

Remuneration for labour was introduced in many enterprises of the Ministry of Light Industry also on the basis of quality of output and economy of material.

The Party organisations in the enterprises, effecting their right of control over the business work of the management, are making a closer study of production questions, without, however, interfering with managerial functions and without substituting the management, and directly influence the solution of the tasks of introducing and strengthening business accounting.

Soviet experience teaches us and the experience acquired by us during the first Five-Year Plan confirms once again that this splendid socialist method of running the economy is of special significance for the successful building of Socialism, for raising the material and cultural level of the working people.

**WHAT LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE HAS SHOWN. John Gollan Member,
Political Committee, Communist Party of Great Britain**

The main business of the 52nd Annual Conference of the Labour Party, which took place at Margate from September 28th to October 2nd, was to debate the new draft election programme "Challenge to Britain", which had been produced by the Party's Executive Committee along with a new statement by the Executive on foreign policy.

"Challenge to Britain" is a disastrous programme based on the conception of the continuance of the cold war and the defence of capitalism. It rejects any further measures of nationalisation, rejects East-West trade, calls for a continuation of the ruinous arms burden, the development of colonial exploitation, an increased trade war and the "temporary" sacrifice of living standards by the people to achieve these aims.

This policy has already shown its utter bankruptcy. As a result, "Challenge to Britain" was condemned in the pre-Conference discussion by the local Labour Parties which tabled over 360 critical amendments to it and 410 other resolutions for the Conference.

The essence of these amendments was a demand to end the cold war, to open up on peaceful basis

negotiations with the U.S.S.R., end the American domination of Britain and U.S. restrictions on East-West trade and secure peace in Korea and the admission of People's China to the United Nations. On home affairs these resolutions and amendments called for a programme of nationalisation, an advance in social standards and a reaffirmation of socialist principles within the Labour Movement.

The number and character of the amendments and resolutions are proof of how the Labour Party leadership is out of touch with the feelings, desires and demands of its rank and file.

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The main discussion centred around the vital issues of foreign policy, nationalisation and social standards.

Throughout the Conference the Executive was consistently challenged in a way it has not been challenged for years. And the outstanding new feature of the Margate Conference was that this challenge came not from the so-called Bevanite group but from a number of some of the most important trade unions and from a majority of the constituency Labour Parties. This is a change of the utmost significance for the future development of the Labour Party in Britain. It was a continuation in the Labour Party Conference of the struggle waged by the progressive trade unions in the Trades Union Congress some two weeks before Margate.

The Executive resolution on foreign policy was issued only on the eve of the Conference and no amendments to it were allowed. For the first time it officially committed the Labour Party to the demand for

a meeting of the heads of the Great Powers to examine measures for easing world tension. At the same time, however, it declared its continuing support for the American war alliance and N.A.T.O. Bitterly anti-Soviet on the German question, it nevertheless expressed concern at the resurgence of reactionary nationalist in West- Germany and urged that there should be no German rearmament before further efforts have been made to secure the peaceful reunification of Germany.

It openly criticised the Dulles-Rhee policy in Korea but supported the “neutralisation” of Taiwan (Formosa). It supported the reactionary British colonial wars in Malaya and Kenya.

While the right-wing leaders still advanced the hoary anti-Soviet slanders, the Conference was dominated by the threat of revived German militarism arising out of the Adenauer election, the critical situation in the Far East because of U.S. policy and the new threat represented by the U.S.-Franco military pact signed on the eve of the Conference. An emergency resolution moved by the Amalgamated Engineering Union and supported by other progressive unions and constituency Labour Parties, condemning the U.S. agreement with Franco, was adopted unanimously.

The discussion on the Executive’s foreign policy statement was noteworthy for the efforts of the delegates to respond to the new international situation. The changes in policy in the Executive’s resolution were denounced as inadequate. Delegates demanded in their resolutions, amendments and speeches an end to the cold war, an end to all restrictions on East-West trade, and the freeing of Britain from U.S. domination.

These resolutions were defeated on a show of hands and the Executive statement on foreign policy

was adopted. Despite repeated efforts by the delegates; no amendments were allowed. One had simply to vote for or against.

When the Conference dealt with the programme “Challenge to Britain” the discussion centred around the vital issue of nationalisation and various amendments which called for an advance in social standards.

Delegates told the Executive that the greatest realists of all were the pioneers of the Labour movement who demanded fundamental social change. Time and again the call was made for the Labour Party to halt the present policy of support for capitalism and reaffirm the socialist aims for which the movement was founded.

A powerful group of trade unions, including the foundry workers, engineers, electricians, boilermakers and others tabled an amendment calling for the nationalisation of vital sections of the engineering and shipbuilding industry. Various other resolutions from unions and constituency parties demanded the nationalisation of the chemical and arms industry and the nationalisation of land. Critical of existing nationalisation measures, the powerful National Union of Railwaymen demanded increased workers’ participation in the nationalised industries.

In effect, the discussion became a challenge as to whether the Labour Party was to follow a militant, working-class, socialist policy or continue along the lines of class collaboration.

Every conceivable argument and trick was used to defeat this challenge. The right-wing trade union leaders, who wield big block votes in the Conference, such as Arthur Deakin of the Transport and General Workers Union, deliberately hinted at the

possibility of the withdrawal of the unions from the Labour Party if the policy of extended nationalisation were adopted. The right-wing labour leaders claimed they supported nationalisation “in principle”, but that adoption of these proposals would mean chaos, disorganisation, and bureaucracy; that the movement hadn't the forces to run industry, and so on. These are the typical anti-nationalisation arguments of the Tory enemy. The platform packed the discussion with men of its views, despite an uproar in the Conference.

In spite of all this, these great issues were pressed to the vote and the various nationalisation measures received votes varying between 1 3/4 million to just over 2 million against the Executive vote of 4 1/2 million to 3 1/2 million.

On social questions the debate centred largely around the issues of education, pensions and housing. Despite all the talk of the Welfare State introduced by the Labour Government, pensions are on a starvation level. Despite the Executive's initial opposition, the Conference forced the leadership to agree to a demand for higher pensions. The Executive was also defeated on its proposal to maintain the present structure of education, which would preserve the exclusive educational privileges of the rich and the Tories. The delegates were also sharply critical of the inadequate housing proposals in the programme.

The struggle over the relationship of the trade unions and the Labour Party raises important questions for the future of the British Labour movement. Behind this struggle is the vital issue of the challenge to the right-wing policy of class collaboration by the left progressive forces. It should be recalled that 89 trade unions are affiliated to the Labour Party on a

membership and vote of just over 5 million. The local Labour Parties, based on Parliamentary constituencies, have a membership and vote in the Conference of just over a million. In these local Labour Parties the majority of the Conference delegates support left policies. The dominant right-wing leadership of the TUC have been to the forefront in advocating a policy of class collaboration with the Tories. They have been threatening the Labour Party leaders for their inability to crush the leftward 'fij' moves in the local Labour Parties.

All this has been seized on by the capitalist press which, recalling the speeches of Deakin and others, talks about the possibilities of a split between the industrial and political wings of the movement. The right-wing calls for "unity" of the movement in the face of the threats of a split are, in reality, a demand for the capitulation and surrender of the left forces.

The new feature of the Margate Conference was the emergence of a powerful group of important trade unions with a vote of around 1 1/4 million, including the engineers, electricians and railwaymen, which, in alliance with the majority of the constituency Labour Parties, are challenging the right-wing policies. It is this that the right-wing leaders fear and here they are confronted with a dilemma. They can foresee the time when this expanding group of -progressive unions, allied with the left forces in the constituency parties, might well win a majority in the Labour Party Conference.

This dilemma was reflected in the conflict which developed between O'Brien, the fraternal delegate from the TUC to the Labour Party Conference, and Arthur Deakin. In his address, O'Brien made a veiled reference to the need to reconsider the relations of the trade

unions and the Labour Party. He was in favour of a Labour Party consisting only of local constituency sections, leaving the TUC to concentrate on industrial matters. This, he said, would leave the TUC free to deal with the Government of the day and it would be less “embarrassed” in dealing with a Tory Government.

This proposition was fiercely denounced by Deakin and Jack Tanner, TUC President, in spite of the fact that Deakin himself had _ spoken of the possibility of withdrawal two days previously. The reason for the denunciation is simple. A Labour Party composed only of constituency parties would be a Labour Party without the huge block votes of the right-wing dominated unions, it would be a Labour Party in which the eventual triumph of militant views would be assured because already the majority of the constituency parties- have challenged the right wing-in some form or another.

So far the right wing trade union leaders at this Conference succeeded in getting a change in the Labour Party Constitution in order to give Herbert Morrison a place on the Executive and thus strengthen their position.

In addition, the Conference worthy for the position of the Bevanite leaders. This year again they were elected with still greater majorities to the constituency party seats on the Executive and this is a reflection of the way in which the Labour rank and file desire to show their challenge to the right wing. But as members of the Executive the Bevanites sat on the platform as silent “prisoners” while the great debates on the vital issues went on. The real challengers in these debates were the progressive union spokesmen and the rank and file Labour workers in the main.

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What are the main lessons to be drawn from the Margate Conference?

The main aim of the right wing will be to claim that Margate has settled all outstanding questions, that the election programme has been adopted and that the nationalisation controversy and the question of foreign policy have been settled.

But it would be wrong to see this alone and not see what is new and developing. Demands for radical changes in the foreign policy of the Party were made by many rank and file delegates and in numerous amendments and resolutions of local organisations of the Party, and this will encourage every fighter in the movement to go forward in the struggle to free Britain from the U.S. grip, to campaign for Great Power talks, the admission of People's China to the United Nations and the halting of German rearmament.

The nationalisation issue is not dead: on the contrary, the fight goes on and will develop. The new thing about Margate was the emergence of the alliance of progressive trade unions and the constituency parties fighting for militant policies. This also will grow and develop and is the key to the transformation of the situation within the Labour Party.

In all this the Communist Party the Daily Worker have played a great role. The fight waged by Communist workers in the workshops and in the trade unions is bearing fruit. But the great issue of the fighting unity of all progressive forces, including the Communists, remains the key factor in making the Labour movement the decisive force in Britain rallying all progressive

people around it for peace, national independence and social advance.

The great task now is to work for militant struggle by the masses for peace and wages and to bring down the Tory Government.

On foreign policy the vast majority of the nation wants a peaceful settlement of outstanding international problems.

The Communist Party also has the task of a great renewed campaign in the Labour movement for its basic programme "The British Road to Socialism". All the discussions at Margate from the rank and file showed a searching for a real Socialist programme. "Challenge to Britain" is a programme of disaster which arouses not a spark of enthusiasm in the Labour Party. The real long-term solution to Britain's problems, the way forward to political power for the British working class is contained only in "The British Road to Socialism": this is what we must show to the British people.

Before the Conference the Communist Party issued a manifesto with a programme to unite all sections of the Labour movement in the struggle for their common aims. The bans and purges cannot break the links of comradeship between the Communist Party and all progressive sections of the Labour movement in this common struggle. Unity is the great need, unity in struggle-of all sections of the Labour movement behind a positive policy of which the struggle at Margate was an expression. This is the way of advance to end the present divisions and win the way forward to the aims of peace and Socialism.

RISING STANDARD OF LIVING IN GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Supplies of foodstuffs and consumer goods to the population of the German Democratic Republic are improving month by month. Consistent realisation of the new course advanced by the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and approved by the Government of the Republic as well as the imports of food from the USSR and the countries of people's democracy have enabled the Republic substantially to increase stocks. Compared with the second quarter, sale of butter during July-August increased 14.7 per cent, sugar 25.8 per cent, fresh and canned fish 37.6 per cent, margarine 52.4 per cent and edible oil 200 per cent.

The conditions of the working peasantry have improved considerably. This is seen from the example of the Erfurt region, where the reduction in the quota deliveries of agricultural products, effected in accordance with the new course of the Government, has gained an extra income of more than 55 million marks for the peasants of the region.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN NATIONAL DISTRICTS OF CHINA

Every year is a year of further progress in public education in the People's Republic of China. The progress is most pronounced in the regions inhabited by national minorities. The Communist Party and the People's Government are giving day-today help to the national minorities to enable them rapidly to overcome the cultural backwardness inherited from the past.

The school network is growing steadily in the national districts of Kwangsi province. The newspaper "Kwangsijihpao" reports that whereas in 1951 the number of elementary schools in the national districts more than doubled compared with 1950 and the number of pupils increased more than threefold, in 1952 the number of children attending elementary schools was more than seven times the 1950 figure. The number of secondary school pupils has also risen considerably in this period. Recently, reports the newspaper, the people's Government has allocated over 8,100 million yuan for the further extension of the school network in the national minority areas.

CLASSES ON STAIRHEADS

Children in France have begun the school year in particularly difficult conditions—there is an acute shortage of school premises and teachers. In Paris alone over 500 “temporary” classes are located in sheds of the school yards, barracks and even... on stairheads. In a school in Versailles classes are also held on the stairhead. Hundreds of schools are overcrowded, with 50 to 70 and more children in a class. 90 boys study in one room in Villeparisis (Seine-et-Marne Department). In Beaunotte (Cote d’Or Department) classes are taken by the clerk of the municipality because the authorities refused to open a school and pay the salary of a teacher.

Construction work on dozens of school buildings has been stopped due to the lack of funds. In Clichy (Seine Department) classes take place in a shed because the school has no roof. The dozens of dilapidated schools are a constant threat to the life of the children.

A fight is being conducted throughout the country for

a better system of public education. Parents' associations and committees are being formed and, with the active support of elected representatives and Communist activists, are demanding that the authorities build new schools, repair the old buildings and provide facilities and teachers for opening the school year immediately. "Schools before guns!"—this is the slogan of all honest Frenchmen.

FACTS EXPOSE...

Shacks for Norwegians and New Houses for Americans

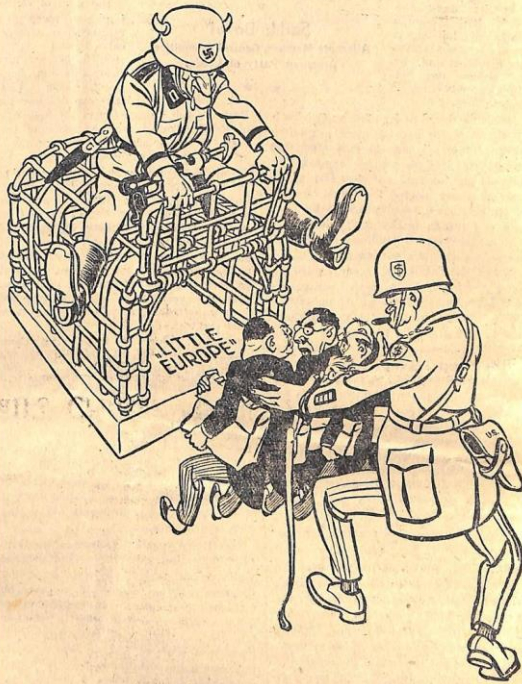
A number of big blocks of buildings, with comfortable apartments for the staff of the armed forces of the Northern zone of the Atlantic aggressive bloc has been completed near Oslo. The cost of building the NATO settlement which will house foreigners—mainly American officers—ran into 7.8 million crowns, while the number of homeless citizens and Norwegians living in shacks is steadily increasing. The latter have appealed to the Government many times and always receive the reply: "No money".

ANOTHER AMERICAN TRAP Drawing by J. Novak

The “Political Community” of the six states—France, Western Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxemburg—designated “Little Europe—is a cloak concealing old American schemes to subordinate the West European states to the interests of reviving the German “Wehrmacht” and intensifying preparations for a new war.

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(Press item)



ANOTHER AMERICAN TRAP

Drawing by J. Novak

the

POLITICAL
NOTES

Secretary
Benson and
Farmers

Scenes that recalled the frontier stockades of the days when the United States was waging its wars of extermination against the Red Indian tribes were witnessed the other week in the little town of Augusta, Wisconsin.

A speaker's platform, erected in a field, was circumscribed by a high stockade. Beyond this wooden wall, at a distance of 15 feet, was another stockade reinforced with steel posts and surmounted with barbed wire. Squads of armed police patrolled what one reporter described as the "no man's land" between the stockades. These "extraordinary precautions", as the New York Times described them, were taken by Mr. Benson, Secretary of Agriculture when he addressed a meeting of 50,000 Wisconsin farm folk.

Why is the American Minister of Agriculture in such deadly fear of ordinary American farmers and their wives? The explanation is that instead of the heaven on earth promised them by the Republican Party during the Presidential election, farmers are suffering grievously from the cold war policy pursued by the Government.

Farm income has slumped heavily this year, in some places, such as Texas and Oklahoma, due to the severe drought, elsewhere because of the crisis in marketing farm products. Compared with last year's prices American farmers are getting 13.6 per cent less for cotton, 8.9 per cent less for wheat, 33.7 per cent less for cattle and 67 per cent less for potatoes. These are average prices, which means that for many, especially for the small farmers, the price slump has proved disastrous. Commenting on the slump in potato prices the Wall Street Journal cynically commented: "Many of the 1.7 million potato growers scattered throughout the 48 states are losing their shirts this year". It is reported

that in the state of Maine about 20 per cent of the potato crop will be left in the ground, since the farmers have 10 prospects of disposing of it.

With such an abundance of farm products one would think that the consumers would benefit from correspondingly lower prices. But in the USA food prices are at the highest level ever recorded, and the prospects are that they will soar higher still.

For between the farmer and the masses of working people in the towns stands the big monopolies who rob both grower and consumer. Due to the Government's policy of militarisation of the economy and the consequent crushing tax burden, the high prices and lagging wages, per capita consumption is decreasing; the standard of living is being forced down. Decline in the home market is accompanied by a serious decline in export of farm products. Even official figures, obviously understated, admit a 30 per cent fall in total agricultural exports. Cotton exports show a decline compared with last year, for wheat and tobacco exports the decline is 36 and 13 per cent respectively.

But that is not the end of the story. The empty purses of the farmers prevent them from buying the machines, implements and even the clothing that they need. Department stores specialising in selling farm clothes report that sales are down 30 per cent this year. The unbought stocks of these goods are piling up higher and higher, and the monopolies in whose hands their production is concentrated are sacking workers wholesale.

Is it surprising, then, in these circumstances, that the farmers are angry, resentful and mistrustful of Minister of Agriculture Benson whom they rightly regard

as the friend of the robber monopolies! From behind his stockade, his barbed-wire entanglements and squads of armed police. Benson has but one solution—a bankrupt's solution—to offer American farmers: grow less, cut down the acreage sown to wheat, maize, cotton, potatoes, tobacco and other crops. In this way the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (the man who, one would think, should be interested in increasing output of mass consumption goods, especially in a country where millions are hungry and semi-hungry), openly calls for an all-out campaign to deprive people of bread and reduce millions more to poverty. Is this not a grim condemnation of the policy of the ruling circles of the USA, the policy of militarisation of the country, of impoverishing the masses, of unrestrained plunder of the working people.

Jan MAREK

WHITEHALL'S CRUISER "DEMOCRACY"

The British Government, already waging colonial wars in Malaya and Kenya, has taken draconic measures

against the people of British Guiana, the British colony in South America; the already very restricted Constitution has been suspended, the Prime Minister deposed, emergency powers granted to the Governor and all meetings banned.

Why have the “democrats” in Whitehall trampled so brusquely and so ruthlessly on elementary democratic rights in their South American colony?

Last April the people of British Guiana, a country about the same size as Great Britain but with a population of about half a million, held their first election on the basis of universal adult suffrage. To the horror of the British sugar planters, the vast majority of the electorate voted for the People's Progressive Party, headed by Dr. Jagan, which won 18 of the 24 seats in the House of Assembly. Dr. Jagan, in accordance with the Constitution, became Prime Minister. But his democratically elected Government found itself hemmed in with all kinds of restrictions which prevented it from realising the programme with which it won the election. And so the People's Progressive Party, launched a nationwide petition called the “Patriotic Appeal for Amendments to end to the British Governor's right of veto, the abolition of the reactionary State Council's the upper Chamber, which is appointed by the Governor, and the withdrawal of the Governor's three nominees from the House of Assembly. The Party also demands the nationalisation of the big sugar plantations owned by foreign capital.

Conditions of super-exploitation prevail on the plantations and in the sugar factories. Women and young girls are forced to work long hours for extremely low wages. The small farmers and their families are in a state of bondage to the big companies.

Strikes fought by the workers for better conditions had the full backing of the People's Progressive Party. After a 25-day strike, Dr. Jagan's Government introduced a Bill to force the sugar companies to recognise the workers' trade union. The Government wanted to get the Bill passed as quickly as possible.

But the planters regarded with horror these elementary democratic measures in defence of the working people's rights. Frantic messages were rushed to the Colonial Office in London. The reactionary press, always ready to oblige, erupted streams of slander against the People's Progressive Party, began to shriek about a "Communist threat". The barrage of slander was succeeded by the traditional Whitehall recipe for dealing with the colonial peoples; warships and troops were rushed to the scene.

As the London Daily Worker commented the imperialist interests "want to achieve by bombardments what they failed to achieve at the ballot box". It is an open secret that the "tough policy" adopted by the Colonial Office against the people of British Guiana was instigated by the American State Department. But neither Whitehall, nor Wall Street, by their show of force and draconic measures, can intimidate the people of British Guiana and their People's Progressive Party. In their valiant struggle they have the support and sympathy of public opinion, of all honest people of the world.

John Smith

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