

Workers of all lands, unite!

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

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



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CONTENTS

STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN WELLBEING OF POPULAR MASSES IN COUNTRIES OF CAMP OF DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM	5
SUCCESS OF PEACE SUPPORTERS IN BRAZIL.....	11
NATIONAL PLEBISCITE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS ..	11
DECISION OF JAPANESE PEACE COMMITTEE.....	13
MOVEMENT AGAINST RATIFICATION OF BONN AND PARIS TREATIES GAINING MOMENTUM IN FRANCE	14
MOVEMENT IN ITALY AGAINST MILITARISATION OF WESTERN GERMANY.....	17
PATRIOTS IN BELGIUM REJECTING MILITARY AGREEMENTS.....	18
PRICE REDUCTIONS IN POLAND	19
NEW SUCCESS OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN ITALY	21
FOR STRENGTHENING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY	22
FOR RAPID RISE IN STANDARD OF LIFE OF WORKING MASSES. BOLESLAW BIERUT, CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY	26
FURTHER TASKS OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION IN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY. MATIAS RAKOSI FIRST SECRETARY, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HUNGARIAN WORKING PEOPLE'S PARTY	46
REALISATION OF DECISIONS JUNE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM	47
RISING LIVING STANDARDS OF WORKING PEOPLE	51
BASIC QUESTION OF FURTHER ADVANCE—DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE	54
TASKS OF NEW STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT	59
USSR—BULWARK AND HOPE OF PEOPLES OF ARABIAN EAST IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDPENDENCE. KHALED BAGDACHE GENERAL SECRETARY, COMMUNIST PARTY OF SYRIA AND LEBANON	67
RISING LIVING STANDARD OF PEASANTRY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.....	74
PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY IN BULGARIA..	76

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, PARTY OF LABOUR OF GUATEMALA...	77
FRESH EVIDENCE CONFIRMING US GERM WARFARE IN KOREA AND CHINA.....	78
IN THE TRAP OF HIS OWN MAKE. DRAWING BY J. NOVAK.....	82
POLITICAL NOTES.....	83
AMERICAN CANNON-FODDER HUNTERS' IN PAKISTAN	83
NO TIME FOR ART	86

STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN WELLBEING OF POPULAR MASSES IN COUNTRIES OF CAMP OF DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM

The Communist and Workers' Parties in the countries of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism regard concern for the wellbeing of the people, for all-round satisfaction of their constantly growing material and cultural requirements as a duty of paramount importance.

For all Communist and Workers' Parties the activity of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union serves as the model and example of genuine motherly concern for the wellbeing of the people and everyday solicitude for their needs and requirements. During the 36 years of Soviet power the USSR has achieved an unprecedented flowering of its material and spiritual forces. During the past 28 years industrial output in the Soviet Union rose 29 times. The successes in the development of heavy industry have created the necessary conditions for a steep upsurge in the production of mass consumption goods. Today the Communist Party and the Soviet Government, along with ensuring a high rate of further developing heavy industry, has advanced the task of accelerating development of branches of the national economy which directly serve popular consumption. The decisions of the Central Committee of the CPSU and of the Soviet Government, which envisaged measures aimed at ensuring, in the near future, a further advance in agriculture, the light and food industries and Soviet trade, are moving documents giving the Communists in all countries an example of how to struggle for the interests of the people, for a still happier life.

These really magnificent documents represent a majestic programme for ensuring an all-round satisfaction of the requirements of the working people, a programme which scrupulously takes into account the most varied needs, requirements and interests of the workers, collective farmers, intelligentsia, of all Soviet people engaged in the in the inspiring labour of building Communist society.

From the experience of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union the Communist and Workers' Parties in the countries of people's democracy learn how most correctly and consistently to apply the objective economic laws in the interests of the people, for raising their well-being.

The people's-democratic system has indisputably proved its vitality, its immense superiority over the capitalist system. This system ensures for the working people freedom from exploitation and crises, from unemployment, hunger and poverty. This is the gain of the peoples who have shaken off the rule of the bourgeoisie and landlords and firmly taken their destiny into their own hands.

Working for the realisation of the policy of industrialisation and of socialist transformations in agriculture, the working people in the People's Democracies have won great labour victories, with the result that all necessary conditions have been created for a radical improvement of their living conditions. Building of Socialism in all countries of people's democracy is accompanied by a steady increase in real wages for factory and office workers. In Poland, for example, the real incomes of the working people not engaged in agriculture increased in the years of people's power by 36 per cent and in Bulgaria 38 per

cent compared with prewar. As a result of the agrarian reforms the wellbeing of working peasants has improved substantially; their incomes have also risen. In addition vast sums are allocated in the countries of people's democracy for public health, public education and for cultural development. Thus, in Czechoslovakia allocations for social and cultural requirements of the population exceed several times the prewar figure, increasing 81 per cent since 1949; appropriation for public health rose 37 times since 1950.

People's China has also registered great successes in improving living conditions for the working people. The great agrarian reform which gave the peasants 47 million hectares of landlord lands decisively improved their wellbeing. In 1952 the real wages of workers in China were 60-120 per cent above 1949.

In the German Democratic Republic the new course of further development was followed in October last with a price reduction and lowering of income taxes, which in 1954 will raise the real incomes of the population by roughly 3.5 billion marks.

The successes recorded in socialist construction by the working people of the countries of people's democracy with the fraternal and selfless aid of the Soviet Union, and the present rate of development of their production forces have created conditions for further substantial improvement in the wellbeing of the masses.

Industrial output of the European countries of people's democracy is now more than 2-5 times the prewar level; heavy industry developed at a particularly rapid rate.

Alongside the continued development of heavy industry, which is the basis of the socialist economy,

the countries of people's' democracy advance today as their most important task—accelerated development of agriculture, the light and food industries.

The Communist and Workers' Parties in these countries have of late taken a number of important measures the aim of which is radically to improve the life of the working people. They proceed from the fact that for the maximum satisfaction of the constantly growing material and cultural requirements of the people it is necessary, above all, in conformity with this aim, to ensure correct proportionate development of the national economy, to remove the existing disproportions and regulate capital investments. Therefore, capital investment in agriculture and in the light and food industries in the People's Democracies has been substantially increased.

As a result of these measures production of all kinds of mass-consumption goods will shortly considerably increase, their quality improve, trade largely extend and real incomes of the population in town and country rise.

Greater sums will be allocated for further improvement of public health, social insurance; communal transport and other services. House construction has been greatly extended. Substantial retail price reductions for food and manufactured goods were recently effected in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Bulgaria with the result that the purchasing power of the population has considerably increased.

Particular attention in the People's Democracies is given to raising the output of agriculture which plays the decisive role in ensuring food for the population and raw materials for the light and food industries. With this aim in view capital investments in agriculture are being

sharply increased (in Rumania, for example, capital, investments in 1956 will exceed more than twofold the sum allocated in 1953) and production of tractors and other agricultural implements and mineral fertilizers extended. The correct tax policy, higher procurement and purchasing prices, credits and expansion of trade on the peasant market—all increase the material incentive of the co-operative and individual peasants in raising agricultural production and give greater stimulus to its further development.

The realisation of the tasks designed to effect an all-round and rapid increase in the wellbeing of the working people in the countries of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism impose a great duty on the Communists in these countries. The Communist and Workers' Parties instruct Party organisations to strengthen the utmost their bonds with the masses, to promote education of the masses and to daily conduct large-scale political and organisational work, to display militancy and initiative, tirelessly to consolidate the alliance of the working class with the working peasantry, resolutely to fight against the distortions of the Party policy, persistently to overcome all obstacles and difficulties, the resistance of vacillating elements, direct opposition and sabotage of the enemies of the people.

Carrying out their policy, which fully corresponds to the interests of the people, the Communist and Workers' Parties of the countries of people's democracy rely on the enthusiastic support of the million fold working masses in town and country. The measures taken in these countries which aim at radically improving the wellbeing of the working people further consolidate the people's-democratic system and its

basis—the alliance of the working class and the working peasantry,—deepen the love of the working population for their homeland, still closer rally the people around the Communist and Workers' Parties and promote the successful realisation of the national-economic plans. These measures facilitate the further strengthening of the fraternal alliance and mutual co-operation of all countries in the camp of peace headed by the Soviet Union. The successes attained by the countries of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, the solidarity and inviolable unity, the constant improvement in the wellbeing of the peoples in these countries testify to their persistent and genuinely peaceful desires and greatly contribute to the cause of strengthening world peace. The countries of the socialist camp are becoming an increasingly stronger centre of attraction and a brilliant example for working people throughout the world.

The superiority of the socialist path of development over the capitalist path are immense, and irrefutable. The progressive people throughout the world extend their sympathies to the working people of the countries of the democratic camp who are working with creative enthusiasm for the realisation of their lofty aims: construction of the new society, creation of a joyous and happy life for the popular masses.

SUCCESS OF PEACE SUPPORTERS IN BRAZIL

National Plebiscite for Peaceful Settlement of International Problems

The national plebiscite for a peaceful solution of all outstanding international issues is being successfully conducted in Brazil.

The demand for a peaceful solution of the controversial issues was upheld by shipyard workers on Conceicao Island (Rio de Janeiro), bakery workers of Niteroi, cinema employees in Recife, the workers of many enterprises and also by the student congress held in Para State.

Of fifty municipal councillors in the Federal District, including members of the presidium and leaders of different factions in the Municipal Chamber, forty three published a statement voicing support_ in the campaign for a peaceful settlement of international issues. The statement calls on the people “to support the campaign for mutual understanding and peaceful solution of international problems”. The signatories include Castro Meneses, Chairman of the municipal council, member of the Workers’ Party; Maseda Costa, first Deputy Chairman, member of the Social Democratic Party; Indio do Brazil, second Deputy Chairman, member of Social-Progressive Party and others.

The National Civil Servants Congress, recently held in Curitiba (Parana), resolved to send a telegram to Uno

in which if expressed its hope that Uno would spare no effort in relaxing the international tension.

A special commission was set up in Petropolis to conduct a campaign in favour of the peaceful settlement of disputed issues. The commission includes outstanding public figures of the town.

DECISION OF JAPANESE PEACE COMMITTEE

The 8th conference of the Japanese National Peace Committee was held in October. The main item on the agenda was the working out of a new programme of action for the peace movement in Japan. The programme consists of three points: to launch a movement for a peaceful settlement of international issues, to strive to bring about a relaxation of the tension in Japan and throughout the world, and to work for unity of the peace forces in the country. The conference also adopted an “Appeal to the People” calling on them to unite still closer in their struggle for peace.

The Standing Committee of the National Peace Committee decided to launch a mass movement to urge the Diet to invite to Japan a delegation of the Red Cross Society of China and a delegation of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference. A resolution was also passed urging the people to strive for the right of representatives of people’s organisations of Japan to visit freely the Soviet Union, the People’s Republic of China and the Korean People’s Democratic Republic.

The conference resolved to convene in Tokyo a Japanese People’s Congress for Peace and the Settlement of International issues on December 8-9.

MOVEMENT AGAINST RATIFICATION OF BONN AND PARIS TREATIES GAINING MOMENTUM IN FRANCE

Ever broader sections of the French people are joining the powerful campaign against ratification of the Bonn and Paris treaties by the French National Assembly. This campaign has grown in scale following the National Conference on "The German question", held in Paris on November 8.

Peace rallies in increasing numbers, attended by thousands of delegates, are being held in many parts of the country. The appeal to convene a peace rally in the Seine-et-Marne Department was signed by nearly 500 elected delegates of different political views.

The working class plays the decisive role in building up the great unity of all national forces in fighting the danger threatening France. In the enterprises the struggle assumes varied forms. The workers of the big Fives-Lille iron and steel works and the dockers in Nice, for example, held a half-hour strike. Opposition to the treaties has been voiced by the entire personnel of the Raffinerie du Midi plant in Avignon.

A particularly broad movement against the military treaties has developed among the war veterans, among the participants of the Resistance Movement, former exiles and victims of the war. At the moment over 30 departmental sections of the French Union of War Veterans, which unites all war veterans organisations has expressed opposition to the treaties. In the countryside preparations are underway for numerous peasant peace rallies to be held under the slogan of the struggle against the Bonn and Paris treaties.

This broad popular movement is meeting with profound response also in parliamentary circles. A number of meetings held in Paris were addressed by members of Parliament from all parties who denounced the “draft on the “European Army”. It is significant that the Council of the Republic (the second Chamber of French. Parliament) rejected the very principle of the “European Army”.

Many more facts could be cited, testifying to the growing strength of the French people’s resistance to the Bonn and Paris military treaties. These actions are widely commented in the press. “One can toy with the idea of a European Army in salons, anterooms and anywhere else where people lose their soul and character”, writes the newspaper “Combat”, “but this idea cannot be played up among the people..”.

“It would be sheer folly for us”, writes “Rassemblement”, organ of the RPF, “to plunge headlong into the abyss of the so-called European Army only because the Russians are against it”. In a long article published in the newspaper “La Tribune des Nations”, Professor Bernard Lavergne again points to the extreme danger for France of the rearming of the Bonn revanchists. Bernard Lavergne convincingly shows that Adenauer is already preparing to violate the Bonn and Paris treaties although they have not yet been ratified by a number of countries. “Recently”, he writes, “I learnt from most reliable sources that everything is ready—officers, soldiers and military technique—for the creation within a matter of three months, in violation of the treaty, corps (and not divisions) formed exclusively of Germans, The United States has consented to Germany violating, even now, the future treaty”.

During the recent foreign policy debates in the French National Assembly, many deputies admitted that ratification of the Bonn and Paris agreements is incompatible with the sovereignty of France, stressing the great danger of these agreements for the security and independence of the country. In his speech, Deputy Gilbert de Chambrun, a Progressive, showed the significance of the Franco-Soviet treaty as the best guarantee for France in face of the danger that has arisen on its Rhine border.

The people of France are determined to frustrate the realisation of the aggressive designs of the pulling US circles and their Bonn accomplices and to prevent the ratification of the Bonn and Paris agreements.

MOVEMENT IN ITALY AGAINST MILITARISATION OF WESTERN GERMANY

A statement released by the Italian Peace Committee points out that numerous protest meetings against the militarisation of Western Germany and against the so-called “European Defence Community” have taken place in Italy in the past few days.

A big rally held in Milan was addressed by Emilio Sereni, member of the World Peace Council. Peace supporters in Rome and Turin are displaying vigorous activity. Meetings held in Cagliari, Siena, Teramo and Arezzo also denounced the arming of Western Germany.

PATRIOTS IN BELGIUM REJECTING MILITARY AGREEMENTS

During the debate in Parliament on ratification of the agreement concerning the so-called “European Defence Community” the patriotic organisations held a protest demonstration against the ratification of this agreement.

Though the streets were cordoned off by the police a delegation headed by war veteran Allard penetrated to Parliament and expressed on behalf of the demonstrators a resolute protest to Deputy Lefevre, Chairman of the Social-Christian Party, against the plan to ratify the “European Defence Community” agreement stressing that the Belgian people were particularly hostile to the “Community”.

During the debate a number of Deputies urged postponement of the discussion on the ratification of this agreement. Communist Deputy Terfve pointed out that the referendum held in the Belgian enterprises clearly showed that the majority of the working people were against the “European Army”.

PRICE REDUCTIONS IN POLAND

The Government of People's Poland recently resolved on a reduction of price for some goods. The decision points out that the retail prices for foodstuffs manufactured goods will be cut as from November 15 with a view to further improving the life of the population and raising its purchasing capacity.

Prices for white bread and bread item will be cut 12 per cent on the average sugar 13.5 per cent; confectionery and chocolate 10 per cent; artificial honey 20 per cent; tinned fruits 15 per cent on the average; tinned vegetables 25 per cent on the average; fish and fish products between 5 and 25 per cent; tinned meat 10 per cent; tinned fish 10-15 per cent; tea per cent, etc.

The price for soap will be reduced 10 per cent; coal 10 per cent: textile goods 10-3 per cent; ready-made clothing 10 per cent on the average; stockings 12.7-30 per cent, certain brands of footwear 10-15 per cent; haberdashery 15 per cent; furniture 10-15 per cent; cement 10 per cent, etc.

Prices for agricultural machines have been considerably reduced. For exam prices for reaping machines are down 40 per cent, sowing machines 40 per cent, winnowing machines 30 per cent, etc.

The decision points out that the price reduction will save 4,500 million zloty annually for the working population.

The working people, at mass meetings held throughout the country, wholehearted approved the policy of the Polish United Workers' Party and the

Government People's Poland which aimed at improving the wellbeing of the working people.

NEW SUCCESS OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN ITALY

During recent weeks provincial and communal council by-elections were held in number of provinces of Italy.

In almost all the provinces the Left-wing Parties polled more votes than in parliamentary election held on June 7, whereas the Christian-Democratic Party and its allies lost votes.

The representatives of the democratic forces won a victory for the first time in two out of three communes in the Messina province elections on November 8. The absolute majority of the electorate in the Malvagna commune voted for the joint Communist-Independent list; the democratic unity (Communists, Liberals and Independents) of the Roccella Valdemone commune polled 812 votes against the 283 votes received by the joint Christian-Democratic-Monarchist list.

On November 15, 63 per cent of the electorate in Civita Castellana (Viterbo province) voted for the joint list of Communists, Socialists and Independents. Mascali (Catania province) the Christian Democrats lost 632 votes compared with the June 7 elections. In the Ancona by elections for the provincial councillor candidate of the left-wing parties list polled 61.01 per cent of the votes, whereas in the 1951 elections this list polled 57.89 per cent. The percentage of the votes polled by the Government parties dropped from 42.11 per cent in 1951 to 38.39 per cent.

FOR STRENGTHENING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Broad sections of world public opinion have become increasingly aware of the need to examine the main problem of the day—the problem of lessening international tension vital for consolidating peace and international security. Therefore, all honest people throughout the world genuinely concerned in preserving and consolidating peace display an ever greater interest in the idea of a Foreign Ministers' meeting and are convinced that such a meeting would greatly contribute to the settlement of controversial international issues.

On November 3, the Government of the Soviet Union addressed another Note to the Governments of the three Western Powers for such a meeting. The Note proposed a meeting of Foreign Ministers of Britain, France, the USA, the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union to consider steps for lessening the international tension and, with the participation of the Foreign Ministers of Britain, France, the USA and the USSR, to discuss the German question _including all proposals made in the course of the preparations for the meeting.

This proposal which corresponds to the interests of all peace-loving peoples the world over met with the heartfelt approval of varying sections of the world public. Not only the progressive circles but many prominent figures in the bourgeois countries see that the Soviet Note paves the way for an effective meeting. It is the reason why the reactionary ruling circles in the West did their utmost blatantly to distort the Soviet proposal.

The statement, made by **V. M. Molotov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, at the press conference on November 13, completely exposed the false pronouncements of the enemies of peace which aim at frustrating such a meeting.

V. M. Molotov stressed that the Soviet Note of November 3 raised questions the solution of which would be of signal importance for strengthening peace and international security. Denouncing the assertions that the Soviet Union has allegedly no desire for a meeting he underlined that it had of late three times proposed a Foreign Ministers conference to the Governments of the USA, Britain and France.

However, the Governments of USA, Britain and France refuse to consider the question of reducing international tension and seek to subordinate the discussion of the German problem to the aim of accelerating her remilitarisation and not to that of re-establishing Germany's unity on a peaceful and democratic basis.

V. M. Molotov declared that it would be wrong to present the matter in a way which would lead to the assumption that the proposal to examine the question of easing international tension signifies an attempt to bring about an immediate settlement of all burning questions both in the West and East. It would be wrong to tie down the conference beforehand since it itself should decide what decisions could today facilitate the easing of international tension.

In conclusion V. M. Molotov said that at present it is impossible to get away from the main problem of the day, it is impossible to get away from the question of lessening international tension, of strengthening peace and international security.

All true supporters of peace and international cooperation greet V. M. Molotov's statement with deep satisfaction. The press of the countries of the democratic camp gives its full support to the Soviet proposals. The Chinese newspaper "Jenminjihpao" stated that People's China fully shares the viewpoint of the Soviet Government on the question of such a meeting.

Welcoming V. M. Molotov's statement the Polish paper "**Trybuna Ludu**" writes that a meeting of Foreign Ministers must have for its aim a lessening of international tension. The German newspaper "**Neues Deutschland**" points out that the proposals of the Soviet Union correspond to the will of millions of people who want a life of peace.

The Hungarian "**Szabad Nep**" considers V. M. Molotov's statement at the press conference as a fresh and significant display of initiative on the part of the Soviet Government which shows the way out of the stalemate brought about by the US policy.

The Soviet proposals on a meeting of Foreign Ministers are also prominently featured by the democratic press in the capitalist countries. Peace-loving peoples, writes the French paper "**l'Humanite dimanche**", received V. M. Molotov's statement with the same goodwill as they received the latest Soviet Note.

The comment of the "Atlantic" press, which toes the Washington line, was very different indeed. Notwithstanding V. M. Molotov's statement at the press conference clearly explains the Soviet proposals the aggressive circles again resorted to their old methods of twisting and distorting the facts. They are again harping on the old theme that the Soviet Union has put forward

“unacceptable conditions” for convening the meeting and insist on a simultaneous examination of all (!) disputed problems.

All this shows that the Western rulers do not in fact want an effective conference to, examine the question of easing international tension. It is not fortuitous that they hastily declare the idea of a Foreign Ministers’ meeting as “swept away”. The stand taken by the aggressive circles become crystal clear in the light of the fact that precisely now when conditions exist for such a meeting the West has raised a hullabaloo on the occasion of the Bermuda meeting of the three heads of the Western powers. This three-power separate meeting, far from lessening, will tend to aggravate the international tension. This is clear from the fact that it will discuss, as was reported by many bourgeois newspapers, remilitarisation of Germany and the formation of the notorious “European Army”.

The attitude of the ruling circles in the West on the question of a meeting of Foreign Ministers clearly shows that these circles, contrary to the will of all peace-loving people, have no intention of abandoning their policy of aggravating the international situation and are preventing relaxation of the international tension.

FOR RAPID RISE IN STANDARD OF LIFE OF WORKING MASSES*. Boleslaw Bierut, Chairman, Central Committee, Polish United Workers' Party

I.

The past five years (the five-years that have passed since the 1st Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party.—Ed.) abounded in marked economic and political achievements facilitating the consolidation of the foundations of the socialist system in the People's Republic of Poland and in events of prime importance such as the endorsement of the Constitution, the general election to the Sejm and the general election of new bodies of state power on the basis of the new Constitution. Today we must sum up and evaluate the results of our work, creatively develop the directives for a period of the next few years and clarify our tasks which can be carried out only in the event of full mobilisation of the forces of the Party and the working masses. Hence, we propose convening a Party Congress in January 1954.

The Political Bureau suggests that the Central Committee take as the basis for the pre-Congress discussion: 1) the theses on "Successes attained in carrying out the Six-Year Plan and the basic economic tasks for 1954-55". They outline the general course of economic policy for the period remaining before the

* From Report by Comrade Boleslaw Bierut at the IXth Plenum, Central Committee, Polish United Workers' Party, October 29-30, 1953.

completion of the Plan. 2) the theses on “Tasks for development of agriculture in 1954-55 and concrete measures for the upsurge of agricultural production”. These theses lay down clear goals for securing an upsurge in agriculture within the next few years and measures for achieving this aim.

Since these documents, in my view, are sufficiently detailed and clear I think it my duty to dwell mainly on the characterisation of the chief line of these directives. Their aim is to define our tasks and to direct our efforts in a way that will ensure further development of our national economy and a rapid rise in the living standards of the working people in town and countryside.

We have entered the last quarter of the fourth year of our Plan. We call our Six-Year Plan that of industrialisation of Poland, the plan for laying the foundations of Socialism.

We considered industrialisation of our country as the first vital prerequisite for laying the foundations of Socialism. Today, after several years of great and selfless effort of the working people, we already have a firm and unshakable basis for the new, socialist economy in all branches of the national economy excluding agriculture. This is a big historical and solid achievement of the Polish working class and the working people in town and country.

We have but a nine-year record of rehabilitation of our war-ravaged country and simultaneously of increasing our productive capacity on the new technical basis. During this brief period we have created a new industrial base in the country. The volume of industrial output per annum (in overall value) has grown 3.6 times and, if calculated per capita, even 4.7 times compared

with industrial output in capitalist Poland. What does this comparison testify? It testifies to the unusually rapid rate of the growth of the productive forces in our country, to the fact that these forces have achieved a considerably higher level during a relatively brief space of time. It testifies that People's Poland has made a big stride forward in industrialisation in the past few years.

The general economic theses for the pre-Congress discussion cite figures illustrating the results achieved by the Polish working people in industrialising the country. I shall not analyse these figures but confine myself to stating the fact that the slogan of raising more rapidly the living standard of the working people in town and country can now be advanced as our major political-economic task precisely because its realisation on an ever-increasing scale is today possible thanks to our achievements in industrial development. Already today we have the essential, equipped with modern technique and sufficiently powerful industrial base ensuring a more rapid rate for improving the material and cultural conditions of the working class than hitherto.

The fact is no less significant that Poland and the other People's Democracies can rely on the powerful economic potential and friendly aid of the country of victorious Socialism, unlike the Soviet Union which economically could rely for years only on its own strength.

Summing up the results for a period of almost four-years' work on the realisation of the Six-Year Plan the theses state that industrial output as a whole and output of heavy industry, which is the basis for development of the national economy, are growing at a rate unprecedented in the history of our country.

Let us recall how seriously prewar Poland lagged behind in industrial output compared with countries such as Italy and France. At present People's Poland has exceeded Italy not only in the volume of industrial output per capita but also in gross output of industry. As for France we are approaching her level of industrial output per capita (our present level is roughly 92 per cent of her industrial output level per capita), and we will, undoubtedly, exceed her very soon in this respect.

II.

What then have we in view when we set as our chief task the rapid rise of the living standard of the worker and peasant masses in our country? Does this mean that we want to restrict ourselves to the level which has already been attained in the national economy and to consuming all that we can turn out with the existing means of production without any concern for the future? Clearly, such an understanding of the task would not only be incorrect but would not even make sense.

The superiority of the Socialist system consists not only in the fact that it ensures new unprecedented rates of development of the productive forces in society and a powerful upsurge of cultural life, but, above all, in that it places in the centre of all social problems and tasks concern for the human being, for his material and spiritual requirements. It is precisely from this point of view that we must tackle the task of ensuring a rapid rise of the living standard of the working people.

A more rapid rise of the living standard of the working people, will, undoubtedly, facilitate the achievement of greater successes in all spheres of the national economy and will be a new powerful stimulus

for summoning the efforts and for enhancing the creative initiative of the masses. This is closely connected with the struggle for the complete fulfilment of the goals of the Six-Year Plan.

The lag in agriculture has become a brake along this pathway. Another obstacle is the uneven development in certain spheres and sections of the national economy.

It is precisely the need to observe correct proportions in the development of the national economy, in conformity with the tasks of the Six-Year Plan, that now demands the concentration of forces on those economic sectors the bringing of which to the level of the remainder is the necessary prerequisite for a more rapid increase of the living standard of the worker and peasant masses.

We shall in the future, too, devote all our efforts to industrialisation of our country, to strengthening the defence capacity of the people's state, to further improving our technical base, our productive forces and our production capacities in all branches of the national economy. At the same time we must concentrate more effort on those sectors of the national economy which, for varying reasons; have so far lagged behind, failed to keep pace with the rapid development of the advanced branches of the economy despite the fact that their significance and their influence on direct satisfaction of the requirements of the masses are of particular importance.

Consequently, the point is to ensure the rapid development of these branches of our national economy and to concentrate our efforts on the following tasks:

1. To raise the general level of agricultural production, which means: to raise considerably crop yield by means of better and more rational cultivation

of land and wider use of modern methods of agro-science; to increase output of animal husbandry by further raising the head of livestock and improving the quality of the stock; to facilitate the growth of output of agriculture and animal husbandry by providing additional economic stimulus, increased aid from the state, popularisation on a wider scale of practical knowledge and by means of more intensified training of highly skilled cadres for agriculture; to improve leadership of the development of agricultural production on the part of the central and local organs of power;

2. To meet the growing demands of agriculture in the sphere of capital construction and, in particular, to ensure aid in reconstruction of farm buildings and above all for accelerating development of animal husbandry in the producer co-operatives, individual farmsteads and state farms; to effect this it is necessary correspondingly to extend state aid in the form of credit and seriously to increase material supplies;

3. On the basis of wider mechanisation radically to re-organise the work of the state and county machine and tractor depots with a view to improving agrotechnical services, raising the quality of land civilisation and increasing the area cultivated by the machine and tractor depots, and also with a view to making available, on a wider scale than hitherto, the services of the machine and tractor depots to the individual peasant households on favourable terms to the latter;

4. Substantially to develop in the near future those branches of the machine building industry which cater for the needs of agriculture, that is, to ensure a rapid growth in the output of harvester combines, tractors, agricultural machines and implements in order substantially to increase the scale and ensure all-round

mechanisation of field work; to speed up the reconstruction and ensure increase in the output of those branches of the chemical industry which supply agriculture with mineral fertilizer, chemicals for combating agricultural pests, etc.

5. To narrow the gap between growth of output of the means of production and growth of output of consumer goods by substantially increasing output of the light and food industries, and small-scale co-operative and local industry with a view to ensuring better supplies of goods of mass consumption to the working people in town and country lacking which it is impossible to effect a substantial and rapid rise in the living standards of the working people; simultaneously, it is necessary to extend adequate aid to individual handicraftsmen;

6. Considerably to improve the quality of the manufactured goods, vigorously and resolutely to combat waste, bad work, as well as careless and extreme negligence, from the point of view of public interests, displayed by many industrial and handicraft enterprises: in relation to their duty of constantly raising the quality of output and adapting it to the needs and requirements of the consumer;

7. Radically to improve the work of the state trade apparatus by extending the network of shops, stores, warehouses, public restaurants and canteens, and improving their work; to ensure a substantial improvement in serving the consumer;

8. To effect the policy of steady reduction of prices for consumer goods on the basis of the continued growth of production and labour productivity arising from technical progress, economy of materials and reduction of production costs;

9. To revise the construction programme for the near future with a view to ensuring a substantial increase in building more workers' housing estates and dwellings and, simultaneously, to getting the local organs of power: to display greater concern for the upkeep of existing dwelling houses and considerably to extend and carry out systematic repairs in both towns and villages; to this end it is necessary to strengthen the repair and house-construction enterprises and to improve and increase supplies of necessary building materials.

10. To improve the work of the enterprises, the city and suburb transport network and to further extend the network of schools, education and medical establishments, to develop sports facilities and increase the number of rest homes, sanatoria and cultural establishments for the broad masses of the working population.

III.

In order to realise these tasks we must bring into action and correctly distribute the necessary forces and reserves, using all the means at our disposal for a fresh wide-scale offensive on the entire front of our national economy. We already dispose of such forces and reserves, we dispose of the necessary means in order by developing our advance towards Socialism, to raise to a higher level, in the first instance, the extremely lagging agricultural production.

To do this it is necessary, in particular, to bring into action all the reserves which obtain in the small commodity individual peasant economy and, by means of a simultaneous development of producer co-

operatives and state farms, to ensure a substantial growth of agricultural output—both plant cultivation and animal husbandry in the whole of agriculture, that is both, in the socialised and individual economies.

Back in June 1952 the VIIth Plenum of the Central Committee discussed this question, emphasising that the extreme lag of agricultural production, compared with the rapidly growing requirements of the population, seriously retarded the development of the national economy as a whole.

The directives of the VIIth Plenum, notwithstanding their undoubted significance and correctness, have not, unfortunately, resulted in a radical improvement in the work of raising the level of agriculture and to a serious concentration of the forces of the Party organisations on these tasks.

The reason for this was that we did not draw all the necessary conclusions from the analysis of the decisions of the VIIth Plenum concerning the practical realisation of the worker-peasant alliance; while the subsequent campaign aimed: at strengthening the economic bonds between the working class and the peasantry, with a view to raising the productivity of the millions of scattered individual peasant farms, proved obviously inadequate. Moreover, this campaign was not accompanied by an all-round mobilisation of forces and means—material, organisational, manpower, etc.,—without which it is impossible seriously to improve the situation in such a vital and complex field of our work.

Wherein lies the essence of the matter?

Firstly, in that that it is necessary indefatigably to improve the effectiveness of the worker-peasant alliance. This must be done by activating the small holders by rendering them everyday aid in raising the

productivity of their farms, in concretely protecting them from kulak exploitation. It must be done by strengthening the bonds with the middle peasants, by concern for the needs of all the working peasantry, in the sphere of public health, education and culture.

At the same time it is essential that the working class should perfect its skill to lead the worker-peasant alliance and that it should more fully grasp the essence of the present class struggle in the countryside. We must multiply our efforts in the matter of rendering the working peasant serious political aid and aid in production, in the matter of strengthening the village with cadres from among the workers, in bringing the organs of the state power and, in the first place, the people's councils, closer to the peasant masses, in combating bureaucracy, favouritism, and in eliminating various shortcomings and difficulties encountered by the working peasantry.

Secondly, the task is to enhance and promote the economic stimulus and material interests of the working peasants in raising agricultural production within the framework of economic contact between town and countryside, regulated by the state, and, simultaneously, to combat capitalist tendencies of kulak elements in agriculture.

Thirdly, the task is substantially to help agriculture with capital investments and thereby to facilitate intensification of agricultural production by the small-commodity farmsteads as well as by the co-operative and state farms.

Fourth, the task is to aid the million-fold masses of the small and middle peasants to overcome the century-old backwardness and conservatism in labour methods, and in tilling the land which yield poor crops because of

the backward and primitive methods prevailing in plant cultivation and animal husbandry.

Fifth, the task is substantially to improve the leadership of agriculture at all levels by sending more cadres to the countryside and raising the political level and professional skill of the workers occupying leading posts in various sectors of agriculture.

There are still substantial production reserves latent in the economy of the small and middle peasants. An important means for utilising these reserves to the full is enhancing the material interestedness of the working peasants in growth of market produce. The draft theses on the tasks in developing agriculture in 1954-1955 a number of stimuluses in this respect aimed at enhancing the material interestedness of the working peasant in ensuring a steady increase in produce for the market.

If we calculate the gains accruing to the countryside as a result of effecting the principle, according to which obligatory state deliveries are not raised with increased production, as a result of larger credits, of extension of the contracting system and the amendments to this system in favour of the producer, it will be found that the countryside's income in 1954 will grow by approximately three billion zloty, according to preliminary data.

It is obvious, however, that this growth of the countryside's income will play its full role of material stimulus in increasing the market produce, only if it is accompanied by increased supplies of goods required by the countryside. This refers to agricultural machines, fertilizers, building materials, household goods, etc.

The leadership of the CPSU has recently given us a brilliant example of how to carefully elaborate, in an all-round manner and in detail, the programme of work

for all Party, state, economic and Soviet links at all levels in order to ensure a steep advance of output in agriculture and animal husbandry. In the USSR—the country where agriculture is most mechanised and equipped with the most up-to-date technique—this task pursues the aim of ensuring an abundance of agricultural produce at the new and highest stage—at the stage of building Communist society. The decision of the Central Committee of the CPSU concerning the measures aimed at ensuring further development of agriculture and animal husbandry in the USSR must become the basis and a guiding directive for every {arty and state functionary in fulfilling the tasks which our Party also advances in this sphere.

We have already created a sound technical basis in the form of state machine and tractor depots, the number of which exceeds 400 and which dispose roughly of 16 thousand tractors (in terms of 15 h.p.). They serve the peasant producer co-operatives, helping them in production. We need not only further to increase the number of the state machine and tractor depots, but also seriously to improve their work, the organisation of their work so that they could, in practice, successfully fulfil their tasks which are exceptionally important for socialist construction in the countryside.

The political task of Party organisations and the personnel of the state machine and tractor stations is to acquaint the unorganised peasant masses with the experience and achievements of the exemplary co-operatives, to promote most simple forms of co-operation between the co-operative and the other peasants of the locality as well as among the peasants themselves on the basis of the aid of the machine and tractor depots.

The development of agricultural producer co-operatives, characterised by the impressive figure of 8 thousand, has this year registered further success and assumed greater scale. This year three thousand new cooperatives have been formed, the membership in the earlier organised co-operatives has grown, their economy further consolidated and developed, collective animal husbandry has been extended and the head of cattle, pigs and sheep is rapidly increasing both of the collective farms and the stock owned by the co-operative members. A considerable number of the earlier formed collective farms have not only become stronger organisationally and economically; they can already take pride in the results achieved, can with due credit manifest them to the working people of the country. Last year thousands of individual peasants visited our advanced producer co-operatives and drew from their visits the necessary conclusions by taking the pathway of collective farming. In the autumn of last year and the first six months of the current year this resulted in a certain organisational activity of the movement for producer co-operation.

The development of collective farming in agriculture is a great revolutionary victory not only for the advanced masses of the working peasantry, but also for the working class, a victory for the alliance of the workers and peasants. Today we can boldly say that nothing can stop this historical turn in the Polish countryside, a turn affecting the entire life and habits of hundreds of thousands of rural inhabitants. This turn will be increasingly felt and assume a greater scale because it will be more and more aided by the creative processes of economic development now underway in our entire national economy, as well as within the co-

operative movement itself. It goes without saying that this will take place provided we correctly and actively direct these processes.

The draft decision on the tasks in the sphere of agriculture envisages broad and all-embracing aid of the state in ensuring the further development of the producer co-operatives. It is obvious that side by side with the aid provided by the state, side by side with the constant and active aid of the working class the main lever for transforming life in the Polish countryside and simultaneously for effecting a radical transformation of agriculture is and will continue to be the growing activity of the major peasant masses—the small and middle peasants,—their growing political consciousness and intensified struggle against kulak exploitation and survivals of bourgeois ideology.

By securing sufficient and all-round aid to the producer co-operatives we shall thereby contribute to strengthening their contact with the village, to the growth of their prestige, and to the gradual drawing into them of the working peasantry of the entire countryside.

IV.

We know that despite the considerable, almost twofold, increase in output of consumer goods in the course of the four years of the Six-Year Plan it as yet falls to meet the growing requirements of the population.

The output of many manufactured mass consumption goods is inadequate. The assortment of goods is often not varied enough and unsatisfactory. Frequently and justly the population complains about

the poor quality, durability and finish of a number of goods. It is impossible to fulfil the task of ensuring a more rapid rise in the well-being of the population without eliminating these shortcomings, without substantially increasing the output of consumer goods, without effecting a change and considerable improvement in the assortment of these goods, without a decisive turn in the struggle for higher quality and durability manufactured goods.

These tasks are outlined in the draft general economic theses. This draft envisages, on the basis of means of production, accelerated output of consumer goods. In 1954-55 the growth in tempo of the "A" and "B" groups will, as a whole, be equal.

One of the tasks facing us is to ensure a quantitative increase in output, as well as improved quality and greater variety of foodstuffs.

To ensure a rapid rise in the wellbeing of the working people it is necessary to effect a corresponding change in allocation of the material means and substantially to increase capital investments for developing agriculture and enhancing its production capacity, for developing industry producing consumer goods, for house building and cultural development, for extending the network of cultural and public institutions. Taking the overall annual come as 100 the share of accumulations in the national income since 1950 will be respectively for 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953 —27.2 per cent, 28.1 per cent, 26.9 per cent and 25.1 per cent, 26.9 per cent. The envisaged figures for 1954 and 1955 are 21.2 per cent and 19.8 per cent.

In the course of four-years' work on the realisation of the Plan the national income has increased along with the growth of production on which it directly

depends and by which it is determined. The general level in the increase of the national income in 1950-53 was 61 per cent as against 1949. This testifies to a big improvement attained in living standards, health service, social insurance and culture in the country as a whole, as a result of the successes registered in the course of the realisation of the Six-Year Plan.

However, the rate of increase in the national income was lower than that stipulated in the Plan for the period given. This lower rate is due to the considerably smaller increase in agricultural production, as compared with the planned figures, which surpassed the 1949 level only by nine per cent in the past four years, whereas according to the Plan agricultural production should have increased roughly by 30-35 per cent in the given period. The excessive lag in development of agriculture was also responsible for non-fulfilment of the tasks of raising the incomes of factory and office workers in the form of wages, and those of the peasants in the form of increased incomes derived from their farmsteads.

In order to accelerate the rise in the standard of living of the working masses we must, along with the efforts aimed at increasing agricultural production and production of mass consumption goods, reduce the share of accumulations in the distribution of the national income and eventually to raise the share designed for consumption.

In the next two years the envisaged changes in the structure of capital investments will be as follows:

Capital investments in agriculture and forestry will rise 45 per cent in 1955 as against 1953; in developing industries turning out goods for mass consumption, 38 per cent; in housing construction and public utilities, 26

per cent; and in constriction of social and cultural institutions, 34 per cent.

This signifies that these changes will benefit agriculture, forestry, the industries producing mass consumption goods, housing and municipal construction, as well as the construction of social and cultural institutions; and the share of investments for these purposes will considerably increase. Capital investments in production of the means of production will comprise 40.4 per cent of overall capital investments in 1955 as against 46.7 per cent in 1953.

Taking into account the achieved level of development of heavy industry and also the envisaged reduction in construction costs by at least 7 per cent within the next two years, it should be noted that this level of capital investments in heavy industry corresponds to the main requisites essential for carrying out the tasks of the Six-Year Plan in this sphere of the national economy and ensures its further development. Thus, as is evident from this analysis, we maintain the general line of industrialisation, and, simultaneously, considerably accelerate construction in branches of the national economy which directly cater for the population.

V.

The tasks of the Party in effecting leadership of the class struggle in the countryside and ensuring an upsurge in agriculture are closely linked with the main question of ensuring correct relations between town and country. These relations are defined by the principle of a firm unshakable alliance of the working class with the bulk of the working peasantry under the leadership of

the working class, by relying on the poor peasantry and by effecting the political isolation of the kulaks. This is the chief principle of our programme in the period of socialist construction.

The worker-peasant alliance was the main political base of our social revolution, the guarantee of all our social and political transformations and is now the basis of our people's power. Without consolidation of the alliance of the working class with the small holders and middle peasantry it would be impossible to build, Socialism in the conditions prevailing in our country.

A serious error arising from the misunderstanding of the essence of the worker-peasant alliance consists in the one-sided attitude towards the peasant who is viewed only as supplier or seller of agricultural produce, and in underestimation of his role as producer.

The main shortcoming of some of our Party activists in the matter of realising the worker-peasant alliance is that traces of the influence of Luxemburgianism and Social Democratism on the peasant question have not as yet been overcome and eradicated. There are people who do not as yet see the revolutionary forces of the peasantry and the similarity of the interests of the workers and peasants on the main issues such as strengthening of people's power, further elimination of kulak exploitation and dependence on the kulaks, further growth of the wellbeing and culture of the working peasants by ensuring an increase in their agricultural production and guiding small-commodity economy onto the path of socialist economy.

The main weakness lies in our inability to differentiate between the peasantry in the course of the day-to-day realisation of the worker-peasant alliance and, in particular, in our inability to rely on the

poor peasants, to mobilise their own forces in the struggle for economic and political isolation of the kulak, and for practical and concrete elimination of kulak exploitation, for resolute alienation of the middle peasants from the kulak, in order to illustrate on concrete facts all the economic gains which accrue from the people's democratic system to the small holders and the middle peasants, the regulating role of the people's state defending the main and vital interests of the working peasantry in contrast to the illusory gains promised by deceitful bourgeois propaganda and its advocate—the kulak.

The prevalent manifestation of opportunism in Party work in the countryside is the ignoring of the class struggle, political blindness in relation to kulak activity and exploitation in the countryside. The kulak knows to extend and vary the forms of his exploitation wherever the Party organisation is passive, he knows how to use the deviations from the Party policy in the countryside to corrupt and subordinate to his interests the bureaucratic links of the state and Party apparatus whenever the latter blunt their revolutionary vigilance. The kulak can veil his exploitation in the form of “aid” and hold himself up as benefactor of the poor peasantry whenever the Party organisation pays no attention to the peasants and leaves them to their fate.

A bureaucratic attitude towards the poor and middle peasantry on the part of the state apparatus, accompanied by the temporary inactivity and lack of control on the part of Party activists is in itself already a trump card for kulak exploitation.

It should be stated that not all of our Party organisations are up to the standard required in leading the class struggle, particularly in the countryside. In

many instances the Party activists are guilty of one-sidedness in their practical approach to major problems of the class struggle and to the tasks facing the Party, a matter which is alien to the Marxist-Leninist method. Evaluating the work of the Party conferences held in June the Political Bureau pointed to this one-sidedness, and indicated the danger arising from “narrow” restricted “practicism” which loses sight of the very essence of the class struggle, leads to emasculating Party work of its political content and to a weakening of its militant spirit.

The working peasantry must be helped; we must explain to them what is meant by co-operative organisation, what are its aims and what it brings to them: they should be helped in organising co-operatives in their villages. Such aid is invaluable to them only if it awakens their initiative, when they are sure that it does not run counter to the voluntary principle and if it is a real help and not commandism.

Consolidation of the worker-peasant alliance, struggle for a rapid upsurge of the living standard of the working masses in town and country are a powerful stimulus to consolidation of the strength and solidarity of our national front—the front of struggle for peace, for the Six-Year Plan, for complete victory of Socialism.

FURTHER TASKS OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION IN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY. Matias Rakosi First Secretary, Central Committee, Hungarian Working People's Party

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Working People's Party, held on June 28, 1953, adopted a number of decisions aimed at improving leadership by the Party, at consolidating further the bonds between the Party and the masses, at strengthening the leading role of the working class and consolidating further the worker-peasant alliance. These decisions threw light on a number of urgent problems of socialist construction in our country as well as on vital new questions and the new tasks arising from them.

According to these decisions the basic prerequisites of the general line of the Party and its practical work lie in improving the situation inside the Party, methods of Party leadership, work among the cadres and ideological work, in realising the economic tasks of the new period and in establishing correct relations between Party and state leadership.

The main task of our economic policy is substantially and steadily to raise the living standard of the population and the working class in the first place and to improve the social and cultural conditions of the working people. Simultaneously we shall go on, at a

* From a report by Comrade Matias Rakosi at Plenum of Central Committee, Hungarian Working People's Party, October 31, 1953.

slackened rate, with the policy of socialist construction, which invariably continues to be the general line of our Party. Accordingly, it is essential to slow down the tempo of industrialisation and, in the first instance, the rate of development of heavy “industry, to revise the plans for development of the national economy and consequently the plan of capital investment. At the same time it is necessary to increase capital investment for agriculture, to raise the output and productivity of agriculture.

The realisation of these goals strengthens the influence of our Party, enhances the prestige of the working class and its leading role in the worker-peasant alliance and consolidates the latter. The four months experience since the adoption of the decisions shows that the line of the Central Committee charted in these decisions proved fully correct and purposeful.

Realisation of Decisions June Central Committee Plenum

It can be said without exaggeration that never before since the founding of our Party have the members of the Party disclosed, on such a scale and with such profundity, the shortcomings or discussed the methods of Party leadership and ways of rectifying these shortcomings: The new goals outlined in the Central Committee’s decisions and their discussion have stirred all Party members. The discussion of the decisions and the decisions themselves gave rise to a fresher, healthier atmosphere and a new spirit of bold, sharp criticism and self-criticism—not only in the ranks

of the Party but in many places among the non-party people. Not infrequently the leaders of elected bodies came out with sincere self-criticism, openly disclosed shortcomings in Party work and got down to eliminating them. It can be said that the decisions of the Central Committee have led to improved Party work and also to improved relations between the Party and the working class, between the Party and the peasant masses.

At the same time we are already alive to the fact that the self-criticism indulged in by certain Party workers is of a formal nature, that this criticism is not followed by rectification of the disclosed and that after self-critical speeches such Party workers repeat their old mistakes, again ignore both the suggestions and we objections voiced at meetings of the Party committee or the bureau, in many instances arbitrarily adopt decisions, etc. Here and there questions of inner-Party democracy, of criticism and self-criticism are regarded as a temporary campaign but not an organic, inalienable part of our Party life. We were also able to see for ourselves that although the Committee gave added vigour to Party life in many Party organisations, at the same time, it led to the fact that some Party organisations shrank into their narrow confines. This resulted in slackening of political work among the masses and in Party organisations devoting less attention to questions of production.

The decisions of the Central Committee of the Party stressed that Party work must focus attention on the development of criticism and self-criticism, criticism from below and inner-Party democracy in the ranks of the Party. During the past few years criticism and self-criticism as well as questions of inner-Party democracy were not accorded due attention in the everyday Party

work, with the result that some of our comrades grew out of the habit of being criticised, particularly from below, by the rank-and-file of the Party. They dropped out of the healthy, life-giving atmosphere of inner-Party democracy and of the methods of collective leadership. Now that these comrades are being criticised, that attention is drawn to their mistakes and a demand is made that they correct them some lose their head and confidence and go about their work without enthusiasm.

These comrades forget that bold criticism belongs to the best traditions of our Party and of all Communist Parties. We were not afraid to point out our mistakes and errors in 1945-46 when the hostile classes fought openly, when the outcome of the struggle was not yet determined, and when the enemy took advantage of our self-criticism and acknowledgement of our mistakes, saying that the “Communists themselves admit that they have committed mistakes”. Our enemies failed to realise that we openly talked about our errors because we were fully resolved to overcome them. We are following the pathway of our great teacher, Lenin, who said:

“The attitude of a political party towards its own mistakes is one of the most important and surest criteria of the seriousness of the party and of how it fulfils in **practice** its obligations towards its **class** and towards the toiling **masses**: To admit a mistake openly, to disclose its reasons, to analyse the conditions which gave rise to it, to study attentively the means of correcting it—these are the signs of a serious Party; this means the performance of its duties, this means educating and training the **class**, and, subsequently, the **masses**”.

The Central Committee of the Party acted in the spirit of this Leninist counsel when, in its June decisions, it boldly disclosed our mistakes, analysed the causes that gave rise to them and elaborated necessary measures to remedy them. The sincerity and profundity of the criticism and self-criticism of the Central Committee convince the Party, the working class, the peasantry and all the working people that the Central Committee does not close its eyes to the shortcomings, that it sees the mistakes and finds ways and means for eliminating them. Such fruitful, creative criticism and self-criticism adds to the prestige of the Party, consolidating the relations between the Party and the working class, between the Party and all working people. Criticism and democracy must also be exercised in the state organs and in the councils if we want the working people to look to them with confidence and respect.

The discussion of the decisions of the Central Committee in our Party evoked greater interest in ideological questions. However, ideological and theoretical work in our Party are exactly the fields where improvement is slowest. Work on the realisation of the decisions of the Central Committee aimed at eliminating the lag in ideological and theoretical work of the Party has just begun.

Realisation of the Central Committee's decisions imposes exceptionally serious tasks on the trade unions and the Union of Working Youth, which have made only the first steps towards the implementation of these decisions.

In short: the June 98 decisions of the Central Committee proved correct and effective in every respect. They have brought about an improvement and

strengthening of the bonds between the leading bodies and the Party masses, between the Party and the masses. The Party bodies have realised the significance of work among the masses and solicitude for the masses; the political and organisational unity of the Party has strengthened, enhancing the power of attraction of the Party and its militancy.

Rising Living Standards of Working People

We all know of the measures taken in furtherance of the Party and Government's decision to raise the standard of living of the population, first of all of the industrial workers. These include reduction of prices, improved house building, repair of dwelling houses, reduced taxes, lowering of delivery quotas, further development of agriculture, strengthening of producer co-operatives, improved social services and labour protection. The working people have greeted these measures with approval and satisfaction.

As a result of these measures real wages of industrial workers have considerably risen while the income of factory and office workers will increase in the second half of the current year by one billion forints. Further, the purchasing power of the factory and office workers rose roughly 700 million forints due to the lowering of the total sum of the state loan. The measures already effected will yield the factory and office workers and the peasantry a gain of 4900 million forints this year alone. Next year will bring the factory and office workers a gain of 3,000 million forints, the peasantry receiving a proportionate gain. On August 1

we embarked on an extensive house-building and repairing programme in Budapest and other industrial towns.

In conformity with these decisions of the Party and the Government we are now readjusting industrial production and capital investments. By doing this we ensure an increase in output of the light and food industries, that is, an increase in the amount of consumer goods, an improvement in their quality and, above all, a rapid advance agriculture. Consequently, the 1954 economic plan provides for a substantial reduction of capital investments in heavy industry and a more rapid development of the light and food industries. We need substantially to change the correlation between production of consumer goods and the means of production in favour of the former and to ensure that heavy industry produces a considerable amount of goods for mass consumption. We must speed up output of the branches of industry contributing to the development of agriculture.

Following the decisions of the Central Committee and the Government in relation to agriculture, measures were taken to ensure certain gains for the working peasantry. Most important of these result from the lowering of obligatory deliveries and abolition of arrears, from the decision to set delivery quotas for three years ahead. These measures heightened the enthusiasm of the working individual peasants, enhanced and deepened confidence in their own farmsteads. This is evident from the ever greater desire of the individual peasants to acquire agricultural machines, pedigree cattle and horses, to exchange ordinary seeds for selected seeds, and, mainly,; from the successful assimilation of reserve lands.

By mid-October 90 per cent of the 800,000 holds of the reserve land (with the arable land amounting to 643,000 holds) were leased for a period of five years. In many villages the demand exceeded the possibilities. Some 430,000 holds of the reserve land were leased to individual peasants. The renting of the reserve land is important testimony to the correctness of the decisions adopted by the Party and the Government.

The chief task of the agricultural producer co-operatives today is not to extend the territory of co-operatives or to increase their number, but to consolidate them, ensure higher crop yields and greater profitability. The struggle for strengthening producer co-operatives has proved that the idea of large-scale co-operative production is already deep-rooted in the countryside, that it has the backing of a growing camp of its adherents, numbering hundreds of thousands of peasants who have firmly taken the road of co-operation. However, this struggle has also revealed that in some places the voluntary principle in forming producer co-operatives was seriously violated, that in many cases the leadership of the producer co-operatives was undemocratic, that the machine and tractor stations cannot yet render producer co-operatives sufficient support and that frequently our procurement and purchasing bodies hinder rather than facilitate the development of the producer co-operatives. It was also revealed that the Party organisations in the producer co-operatives often fail in their duty and that the People's Councils and the state organs do not always sufficiently help this important and decisive factor in the socialist transformation of the countryside.

Basic Question of Further Advance— Development of Agriculture

The key and decisive positions in our national economy—industry, transport, banks, state farms and the greater part of our trade—are in the hands of the working class. Consequently, the basic economic law of Socialism also operates in our country. It is known, however, that small commodity production is still predominant in our agriculture, that this small-commodity production cannot ensure in equal measure a steady growth of the wealth, as socialist large-scale agriculture based on the highest technique.

However, the course of development of agriculture indicates that for a long time to come the production of peasants farmsteads will continue to be an important and vital factor. The need for greater satisfaction of the material and cultural requirements of our society, the interests of our socialist construction insistently demand that we ensure, by all means at our disposal, a higher output by peasant households, including the output of foodstuffs. Hence, we need to instil greater confidence of the individual peasants in their farms, to promote to the utmost their enthusiasm for production, to facilitate the growth of production and promote their interest in its necessary to provide them with all that is essential for this expansion—artificial fertilizer, plant protection means, farming machinery, selected seeds, pedigree cattle, in short, with everything necessary for improving crop yields on the individual peasant farmsteads.

We must promote greater interest on their part to expand production also by producing and supplying the countryside with goods needed by the peasants, which

they readily buy and which of late have been provided in insufficient quantities. The problem of ensuring an abundance of goods required by the peasantry compels us again to turn to the question of readjusting capital investment, since it is this regrouping in industry alone that will enable us to solve the problem of supplying the peasants with the goods they need. The regrouping of industrial production and of capital investments, stipulated in the decisions of the Party and Government, is closely linked with the problem of satisfying the growing material and cultural requirements of the entire nation and with our entire socialist construction, testifying thereby to the scope and impact of the results of the adopted decisions.

The fact that our country, along with the creation of the producer co-operatives, began to build Socialism in the countryside does not run counter to the Leninist policy which in conditions similar to those in our country points out: in every possible way to rely on the poor peasantry, to maintain alliance with the middle peasantry and fight against the kulak. Ever since the producer-co-operative movement began in the countryside we, in addition to the poor peasantry, rely, above all, on the co-operated peasantry who include a growing number of the middle peasants.

While developing the producer co-operatives, socialist agriculture we should always bear in mind that, in conformity with Lenin's slogan, the alliance with the middle peasantry plays an invariably important role in our policy. Consequently, it is necessary to maintain an alliance with them irrespective of their attitude towards producer co-operatives. In the spirit of the Lenin teaching which asserts that the working class rallies the middle peasant to its side by way of attentive attitude

to his needs, we also strive in every way to be mindful of the interests of our ally—the middle peasantry—in every way to satisfy these interests. The decisions adopted along this line consolidate the worker-peasant alliance, strengthen our influence and the prestige of our Party and consolidate our entire people's democracy.

The decisive part of the decisions of the Central Committee and the Government is that which stipulates that the slow-down in industrial development should be used for regrouping in a way which will enable us to support and develop agriculture on an incomparably greater scale than hitherto and consequently to increase production of foodstuffs. The slow-down in development of heavy industry will facilitate consolidation of the results achieved and elimination in our people's economy of disproportions which manifest themselves, above all, in the lag of agricultural production, in the retarded development of the light and food industries serving the cause of people's welfare, as well as in housing construction, etc.

The main question of our entire further development, the next decisive link which we must tackle with vigour, is development of agriculture. It is precisely this link, formulated: by Lenin, that will enable us to prepare for the transition to the next link, without which we cannot further develop. **It is the focal task of the day and for the next two or three years.** To this we must devote all our efforts.

A slow-down in development of heavy industry, consolidation of the results achieved and, at the same time, rapid and extensive development of agriculture constitute in their entirety one of the important features of the new stage which we began to work on

after the adoption of the decisions By the Central Committee and the Government. These tasks are new compared with the old ones, and their fulfilment signifies a serious change in our methods of socialist construction. The significance of the current plenary meeting lies, particularly, in the fact that it clearly points out that we have entered a new stage of socialist construction, which has as its focal point the rapid development of agriculture and the aim of which is steadily to raise the living standard of the working people.

The decisions rectify mistakes, modify the excessively high tempo, make our plans more realistic thereby facilitating their fulfilment. A slower rate of industrial development will enable our executives at long last to pay closer attention to internal affairs and set their enterprises in order, improve labour protection, the social conditions of the workers, the work of cloak-rooms, baths, canteens, etc. Further, it will enable them to induce greater care of machines, to ensure the uninterrupted use of the machinery, to organise work in a better way, improve quality, reduce wastage and thereby the cost of production, ensure that labour productivity becomes higher, and to economise in materials and electric power. In a word, we can concentrate on matters we could not give due attention to in the course of accelerated development during the past six years.

However, experience shows that there are some who are afraid of the new problems which arise from the regrouping, problems, which previously did not confront them and in solving which they have not as yet enough experience. They stubbornly persist in retaining their old conceptions, exaggerate the difficulties

accompanying the regrouping and work with little enthusiasm. Other comrades cannot understand the correctness and the expediency of the decisions because they are concerned only with their own sector of work, with their own branch of the economy and do not strive to see their tasks from the viewpoint of the entire socialist national economy.

There are, however, comrades who consider the slow-down in industrialisation and establishment of order in capital investments as a retreat, who regard the support given to agriculture and the peasantry as a Right-wing policy and the slower development of industry, which will enable us to undertake the rapid development of agriculture, as a deviation from the correct path of socialist construction. These views can be most harmful unless we combat them with all our vigour.

This policy which will raise the standard of living and improve the wellbeing of the working class engaged in socialist construction and of the entire working people; which will boost agricultural production and consequently provide more grain, meat; fats and milk, increase supplies of foodstuffs and raw materials for our socialist industry does not signify a retreat, but, on the contrary, a further advance. The fact that having developed industry to its present level of three times that of prewar, we are now turning to intensified development of agriculture, including production of foodstuffs, raising thereby the standard of living of the industrial workers, does not signify deviation from the road of socialist construction; it signifies but the necessary elimination of the disproportion arising from excessively rapid industrialisation, it signifies the only

correct pathway of continuing socialist construction at the present stage of our development.

Tasks of New Stage of Development

The June decisions of the enlarged Plenum of the Central Committee ushered in a new era in the life of the Hungarian Working People's Party, in the development of people's democracy in the country. Consequently, the tasks facing the Party are related to the present new phase of development—consolidation of successes achieved in the national economy and, on this basis, organisation of a rapid upsurge in agricultural production and in the production of foodstuffs. The development; strengthening of the bonds of the Party with the non-party working masses and consolidation of the unity of the Party, Government and the people are integral parts of all this.

Unity and solidarity of the entire working people will guarantee successful and rapid realisation of the great and new goals which the Central Committee has set before us.

In accordance with the decisions of the Central Committee and the Government the national economy must develop in 1954 in such a way as to reduce the sum of capital investments. The rapid development of agriculture requires that the proportion of the overall sum of capital investments in agriculture will be more than double in 1954 as compared with the 12-13 per cent in 1953. Next year some 70 per cent of the national income; instead of the 58 per cent in 1953, is to be allocated to meet the needs of the population. We

must see to it that the population is supplied with not only a greater quantity but also with better quality and a greater variety of goods.

We must do our utmost to ensure the successful fulfilment of the national economic plan for 1953 and adequately prepare for the 1954 national-economic plan so that the transition of the next year is effected smoothly, efficiently and without a falling in production. The greatest concern must be displayed in relation to the decisive sources ensuring a rise in the living standard of the people and in socialist accumulation, that is, reduction of production costs and higher productivity of labour. We need to improve the quality of the produce in both the light and food industry, in construction and in other branches. We need to maintain a rigid economy of materials, electric energy and funds. We must devote special care to generation of electric power; to the work of the coal industry and ferrous metallurgy. In the latter our main task is to improve the quality of the produce. The basic task in the coal industry is to fulfil evenly and month by month the assignments for 1954, A prerequisite for this is to ensure the necessary labour and to see to it that the workers who come to work in the coal industry stay there; it is also necessary to elaborate a detailed, long-term plan in the coal industry.

Upon the successful realisation of the Party policy and the Government programme depends, the first place, the further raising of the living standard of our heroically toiling working class and the material and cultural level of this class which is the leading force of our state building Socialism. The life of the working class has improved since the publication of the June decision of the Party and the new Government

programme. However, this improvement is as yet far from being satisfactory. The Central Committee must instruct the Political Bureau and request the Council of Ministers to work out measures which will facilitate further improvement of the economy, social and cultural life of the working class.

Taking due account of the existing possibilities of the national economy we need to improve material supplies for the working improve labour conditions, safety measures, the work of the industrial; social, cultural and sports institutions. We must set things right as regards wages and improve working conditions of the miners in the coal industry whose labour requires great physical effort and is vitally important for the national economy; similarly order must be established in the wage rates of low-paid workers. We need to secure correct relations between wages of workers of varying categories. We need of display still greater concern for the aged workers and above all to make better pension arrangements.

The state, trade union and Party functionaries, managers of factories, pits and enterprises must unflinching and in all circumstances ensure realisation of the increased revised Government programme for allocations on labour protection and social services. Let them day after day show solicitude for the working people, for their needs, for the satisfaction of their legitimate aspirations, for the satisfaction of their complaints. Fulfilment of the plan and concern for the wellbeing of the working people are indivisible! Such is the policy of the Hungarian Working People's Party and the Government of the People's Republic!

We must bring Home to every working man and woman and to every intellectual the fact that when we

regroup our entire economy and have it serve the cause of raising the wellbeing of the people it is especially important not only to maintain equilibrium in the output and quantity of production but also tirelessly to improve the quality of the produce, steadily to reduce production costs; elevate labour productivity, economise to the utmost on materials and fulfil and overfulfil the revised plans.

Relying on the rising production activity of the working peasantry we need to effect radical measures ensuring large-scale development of agriculture. Their main purpose is to solve the grain problem, raise crop yields; productivity of animal husbandry, secure ample supplies of potatoes and vegetables for the population, improve horticulture, ensure the further development of machine and tractor depots and improvement of the quality of their work. In order to ensure the solution of these vital questions it is essential that the Central Committee should this year discuss measures for the further large-scale development of agricultural production.

In the sphere of agriculture we need to ensure that the decisions of the Party and the Government are fulfilled with precision in the countryside. This refers both to producer co-operatives and individual households. We must see to it that the individual peasant gets all he needs to increase production and raise the productivity of agriculture. We must also ensure that when the peasant has met his commitments to the state he can freely, without any restrictions whatsoever, sell his surplus stocks on the market.

In the producer co-operatives we need also to ensure that all the privileges and measures aimed at stimulating higher production, adopted by the Party and

the Government for consolidating producer co-operatives, should be effected and that under their influence the wellbeing of the co-operative members would grow. We must see to it that: inner-co-operative democracy is not infringed and that this democracy is carried out in all spheres of life. We must oppose violations by the banks, purchasing organisations and Councils of the co-operative's autonomy, unlawful disposal of co-operative property, incorrect interference in the work of the co-operatives. We must bear in mind that in recent years industry has so sapped agriculture of labour that producer co-operatives, state farms and machine and tractor depots are experiencing a serious shortage of labour. Hence, we must spare no effort to facilitate the return of industrial workers, who had recently quitted agriculture, to the countryside.

The successful carrying out of the decisions of the Central Committee depends first of all on our Party and demands that we improve and strengthen our Party work in all spheres. Recent months have shown a definite improvement in inner-Party work. We must ensure this continued improvement, see to it that in the life of our Party we apply more consistently criticism and self-criticism; strengthen inner-Party democracy and adhere to the principle of collective leadership. We need, much more than in the past, to support, direct and control the activity of trade unions, the Working People's Youth Union, the Union of Democratic Women of Hungary, to give them every possible help in order that these mass organisations make a greater contribution to the realisation of the aims set by the Party and the Government. Hence, at the forthcoming election of the leading organs of the Party organisations we must elect first of all those of the Party's faithful

and capable comrades who have close contact with the broad masses of non-party people.

The successful carrying out of the decisions of the Central Committee also calls for improved work of the Party in leading, controlling and supporting the state organs. We need particularly to strengthen the work of the Party in the People's Councils since we feel more and more that due to weak work of the Party organisations we fail to render the People's Councils adequate help which partially accounts for the fact that the People's Councils are still far from meeting the just demands of the working people. In general we must see to it that the decisions of our Party are regarded, more consistently than in the past, as a guide to our state life.

A rapid improvement in ideological and theoretical work is particularly needed since, following the decision of the Central Committee, the interest in such questions has grown. The Political Bureau must now take measures, first of all, to elaborate and clarify theoretical and ideological questions related to the new phase in the life of our Party and people's democracy and the lack of a clear understanding of which hinders the carrying out of the correct policy of our Party.

The decisive link and key problem for our further progress is large-scale development of agricultural production. This task insistently, demands that our Party devote far greater attention to work in the countryside. Because of the prevailing types of economy in the countryside this activity of the Party has become extremely complicated and difficult, with the result that it was at times neglected. The successful carrying out of the measures taken by the Party and the Government in raising agricultural production depends, first of all, on the elimination of this neglect, on further

strengthening and improvement in the work of the rural Party organisations as well as those of the producer co-operatives, state farms and machine and tractor stations.

The decisions of the Party and the Government contribute to the further strengthening of the alliance of the workers and peasants. On the successful work of our rural Party organisations depends, largely, the translating of this possibility into reality.

Due consideration and consolidation of the results achieved and the working out of new problems arising at this new stage of our socialist construction necessitates the convocation of the next Congress of the Hungarian Working People's Party in April next year.

* * *

The June decisions of the Central Committee opened up a new stage in our socialist construction, set before us the aim of solving the new tasks by new means and new methods. These decisions demand that Party work should concentrate on greater concern for the working people. This concern for the wellbeing of the people is the law for our Party and Government. The task we have set ourselves in the interests of improving the wellbeing of the working people is a noble and popular task, evoking sympathy among the people. In order to fulfil these new tasks we need intense Communist vigilance, and must set an example in everything and display selflessness. The carrying out of the tasks of the new stage is facilitated by the fact that the Hungarian working people can today, as in the past, firmly rely on the aid of the mighty Soviet Union, on the friendly countries of people's democracy.

The policy of the Hungarian Working People's Party is that of the Hungarian working class. It is a policy of ensuring the material and spiritual advance of the working class, of the peasantry and of the entire Hungarian people, the policy of ensuring the flowering of Hungary, the policy of peace, national independence and strengthening and of national unity.

USSR—BULWARK AND HOPE OF PEOPLES OF ARABIAN EAST IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. Khaled Bagdache General Secretary, Communist Party of Syria and Lebanon

The Great October ‘Socialist Revolution exerted a decisive influence on the development of the Arab peoples. The year 1917 ushered in a new era of the struggle of the Arab peoples for freedom and national independence. From then on the imperialists could no longer freely act the master in relation to the destiny of the Arab nations without resistance on their part.

Having for centuries suffered from the yoke of the Ottoman Empire, deceived by the imperialist “allies”, who after World War I divided the Arab countries among themselves, the Arab peoples began to turn their eyes to the new world created by the October Revolution.

Following the victory of the October Socialist Revolution an increasing number of Arab patriots saw that the new Soviet Russia was a mighty bulwark in their struggle for national independence, for freedom and democracy. The call addressed to the peoples of the world for a democratic peace without annexation and contribution, for annulment of the secret imperialist treaties including also the Sykes-Picot agreement, secretly signed by Britain and France in 1916 with the support of the tsarist government and with the connivance of American imperialism, an agreement which perpetuated the division of Arabic and other countries of the Near East between the imperialists—all

these and many other great acts of the October Revolution met with profound response in the Arab world.

The historic appeal addressed by V. I. Lenin and J. V. Stalin to all peoples in the East on December 5, 1917, met with a wide response among Arab patriots engaged in struggle against the imperialists. The October Revolution greatly influenced the spread of the national-liberation movement which led to big anti-imperialist popular uprisings in Egypt (1919), in Iraq (1920) and in Syria (1922 and 1925).

Way back in 1920 the great Lenin said : "...the Russian model reveals to **all** countries something that is very essential in their near and inevitable future. The advanced workers in every land have long understood this, although in most cases they did not "so much understand it as grasp it, sense it, by their revolutionary class instinct".

Indeed, despite the weakness of the Arab working class and the virtually completely absent traditions of any organised working-class movement in the Arab countries the first groups of advanced workers and revolutionary intellectuals, directly influenced by the October Revolution, began to appear way back in 1922-24 first in Egypt, then in Syria and Lebanon. In difficult conditions of unbridled imperialist terror these groups began an open struggle under the banner of Communism, under the banner of Marxism-Leninism.

These groups laid the beginning for the great and increasingly sharper struggle for hegemony in the national-liberation movement of the Arab peoples—the struggle between the Arab proletariat, which grew in numbers and became increasingly more conscious, and

the Arab bourgeoisie whose big groups more and more frequently began to throw overboard the banner of national independence and democratic freedoms which the advanced organised detachments of Arab workers took into their hands and raised higher and higher.

The subsequent years witnessed numerous facts which demonstrated to the Arab nations that the victorious Socialist Revolution in Russia was a reliable, staunch and loyal ally of their national-liberation movement. The Soviet Government, joining the League of Nations with a view to using it for fighting the danger of war and fascist aggression, clearly declared before the whole world that its entry by no means signifies recognition of the system of imperialist mandates instituted by the League which served as a means for enslaving the peoples of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and other oppressed peoples.

The Soviet Union has always opposed the imperialist policy in the Near East. It has always sided with the Arab and other peoples of this region in their struggle against the imperialist yoke.

The historic victories won by the Soviet people under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in the Great Patriotic War against the Hitler invaders, the selflessness and patriotism of the heroic Soviet people, the solid moral-political unity of Soviet society, the economic and political might of the socialist system and its superiority over any other political system—all these factors forcefully manifested during the war dealt a mortal blow at the entire slander campaign of imperialist reaction against the socialist system, urging the broad masses in the Arab countries to turn resolutely to the land of the October Revolution.

For the first time in their history the Arabs saw a great power emerge victorious from the world war which pursued a policy not of deals with other powers for domination over the Arab and other nations but a consistent policy of defending the rights of all nations for national independence and self-determination, a policy of defending their rights to their oil and their national wealth. This Soviet policy is a consistent and principled policy based on the Marxist- Leninist teaching on the national question by which the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet has always taken the stand which fully corresponds to the national interests of the Arab nations.

Without the support of the Soviet Union Syria and Lebanon would not have secured the withdrawal of imperialist occupation forces from their country. It was precisely the proposals upheld by the Soviet Union that could have prevented the bloodshed and immense destruction in Palestine—the result of the US-British imperialist policy. Whereas the Soviet Union fully and unconditionally upholds the demand for the withdrawal of British troops from Egypt the US imperialists together with the British imperialists seek to occupy the Suez Canal Zone with a view to subsequently ousting their ally from this region. The Soviet Union has always been on the side of Iraq and Transjordan in their struggle for the evacuation of the British occupation forces. The Soviet Union is the sole great power which upholds the rights of Morocco and Tunisia for independence in Uno, whereas the US, British and French imperialists, notwithstanding the contradictions rending them, find a basis for agreement spearheaded against the Moroccan and Tunisian peoples.

Following the victory of the October Socialist Revolution, day-to-day experience convinced the Arabs that the very existence of the Soviet Union and its tremendous successes are a major factor for the constant strengthening of the positions of the national-liberation movement in the Arab countries, the major factor for the growing confidence of the Arab peoples in final victory in the struggle for independence.

Love for and gratitude to the Soviet Union, approval and support of the Soviet peace policy have become factors of prime importance in the liberation movement in all Arabic countries.

Having won a historic victory over Hitler fascism in World War II the Soviet Army saved the Arab countries also from war ravage and ruin. The Arab nations are fully aware that at present the US imperialists seek to turn their countries into a springboard for aggression against the Soviet Union. Hence, the reason why the aggressive war schemes which the imperialists strive to effect in the Arabian East encounter growing resistance in all Arab countries. The Arab peoples are more and more resolutely taking action for peace, against the machinations of the imperialist warmakers.

The US imperialists have been making strenuous effort in the past few years to knock together an aggressive military bloc of Arab and other countries in the Near East under the signboard of the "Middle-East command" ("mutual defence"), "North Middle-East bloc", etc. And if the imperialists have so far failed to realise these designs this is due above all to the resistance offered. by the Arab Peoples.

The Arab countries together with other Near-East countries possess some of the richest oil fields in the capitalist world. At the same time they represent a

region where Anglo-American antagonism—this virtual secret war—is acutely manifest.

The US imperialists want to oust Britain from its traditional positions in the Near East while the latter seeks to preserve them. The rivals stop at no crime to achieve their aims: coup d'états, assassination of political leaders, establishment of terror regimes, etc. Each of the imperialist groups strives to eliminate in the Arab countries every trace of democratic liberties and to install in power direct agents of foreign capital and reactionary feudalists. Consequently the national-liberation movement, the democratic movement and the peace movement in all Arab countries organically merge into a single all-embracing movement, uniting and drawing into the struggle the overwhelming majority of the nation.

The main wealth of the Arab countries—oil, electric power, railways, ports, banks, etc.—are, in the main, in the hands of foreign imperialists. As to the land, the bulk of it belongs to feudal elements and landlords. The existing, extremely poorly developed branches of the national industry encounter—exceptional difficulties arising from competition of foreign capital. The middle strata of the urban population and especially the small traders drag out a miserable existence and are constantly threatened with ruin. The workers and the toiling peasantry are doomed to suffering, poverty and oppression. In these circumstances we, Arabians, have but one path—the path indicated by Lenin and Stalin, the path of a broad national front which must unite the workers, peasants, middle strata of the urban population and large sections of the national bourgeoisie. This front will fight under the guidance of the working class for peace, national independence,

nationalisation of the wealth seized by the imperialists, for agrarian reform and democratic liberties, in short, for national and social liberation. The Arab peoples have taken this path.

The struggle waged by the working class in the Arab countries, evoked by the October Socialist Revolution, is no longer confined to such countries as Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon; it is developing into a general struggle and is rapidly spreading. The recent oil-workers strikes against the arbitrary rule of the US and British companies and for trade-union liberties, held last October in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, where Americans and Britons hold sway and resort to most cruel methods of terror, vividly show that the democratic and socialist consciousness of the working class is awakening in the most remote regions of the Arab world and that the working class is boldly marching forward in order to play its historical role, the role of leader of the national-liberation and democratic movement.

Boundlessly loyal to the lessons of the Great October Socialist Revolution and following the pathway of the great strategist of the Revolution—the glorious Communist Party of the Soviet Union—the Communist Party of Syria and Lebanon will tirelessly struggle to fulfil its duty to the people. It will raise higher and higher the banner of peace, national independence and democracy and work for uniting the broad masses into a national front of struggle against war, imperialism and its agents for complete victory of their just liberation struggle.

RISING LIVING STANDARD OF PEASANTRY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Government of the Czechoslovak Republic and the Communist Party have taken a number of serious measures aimed at rapidly and substantially improving the living standard of the working people.

Close attention is devoted to improving the wellbeing of the small and middle peasants. Purchasing prices for grain and other agricultural products, particularly the produce of the animal husbandry, have been raised by 24-46 per cent simultaneously with reduction of the state retail prices. This means that the peasantry will gain an additional 300 million crowns from sales of grain harvested this year alone.

The increased purchasing prices add to the incomes of co-operative members, small and middle peasants and raise the value of the work-day unit in the co-operatives.

Applying the experience of the Soviet collective farmers, co-operative members in Olesnik, Tyn Nad Vltavou region, have increased average yields of grain crops by 400 kilos per hectare and have fulfilled their state grain deliveries by 113 per cent. The higher purchasing prices for grain alone signify for the co-operatives additional incomes to the amount of 60 thousand crowns, thereby raising the value of each work-day unit by two crowns.

State credits for producer co-operatives have increased by one thousand million crowns already this year. The credits are also granted to individual peasants. By the end of 1953 agriculture will receive

another 600 caterpillar tractors, 50 harvester combines, many other new agricultural machines and a large quantity of mineral fertilizer.

PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY IN BULGARIA

On December 20 elections to the People's Assembly will be held all over the country. Broad masses of the working people are taking part in the preparations. District and local organising committees elected at mass meetings.

Mass meetings at which the working people nominate their candidates as people's representatives are being held throughout the country. With great enthusiasm the workers of the "Bulgaria" Factory, the Georgi Dimitrov Plant and other enterprises in Sofia nominated Vylko Tchervenkov as their first candidate of the Fatherland Front. Among the nominations put forward by the working people are members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Stakhanovites, leading workers in industry and agriculture, outstanding public figures scientists, workers in the realm of culture and fighters for peace.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, PARTY OF LABOUR OF GUATEMALA

A meeting of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Guatemala, recently held in the City of Guatemala, discussed the report by Jose Manuel Fortuny, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, on the situation in the country, on the threat of foreign intervention and on the creation of a united broad democratic front of struggle for progress and national independence. The meeting also heard a report by Bernardo Alvarado Monzon, Secretary of the Central Committee, on strengthening collective leadership and discipline in the Party.

In his report Comrade Fortuny put forward the task of strengthening the people's struggle against the growing threat of foreign intervention and pointed out that there was every possibility of creating a broad united mass front which would ensure an advance towards the realisation of the general programme of democratic forces, i.e. the realisation of agrarian reform, the protection and development of national industry, the struggle for lowering the cost of living, preservation of national independence and for peace throughout the world. The meeting unanimously approved the reports by Comrades Fortuny and Monzon. and issued a call to the people of Guatemala urging them to struggle for the creation of a united mass front to further the development of the democratic revolution and resistance to foreign intervention. The meeting also: amended the composition of the Agrarian Commission of the Central Committee, Party of Labour of Guatemala.

FRESH EVIDENCE CONFIRMING US GERM WARFARE IN KOREA AND CHINA

As Hsinhua News Agency recently reported, the Korean-Chinese side resolved to release the depositions of 19 captured US airmen in order to confirm once again the crime of the US government which conducted extensive germ warfare since the winter of 1951 with the object of exterminating the peaceful Korean population, the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers. Again in 1952 US aircraft, with similar intentions against the - peaceful people of China, penetrated deep into Chinese territory contaminating certain areas with bacteria infected missiles. As a prisoner of war Colonel Walker Mahurin, United States Air Force, testified that in the autumn of 1950 Colonel Teal (from the Headquarters, U.S.A.F.) revealed that the high military leaders such as General Bradley, the Chairman-of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Vandenberg, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Collins, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and Admiral Sherman, "the Chief of Operations of the Navy, considered that germ-warfare weapons were effective, and yet inexpensive and should be developed to take a place in the general field of weapons". Mahurin then related that in November 1950 he was despatched to Camp Detrick, Maryland, and of his visit to this big centre working on the production of bacteriological bombs. He himself was witness of an experimental explosion of one such bomb.

Lieutenant junior Charles Kerr, U.S.A.F., also a prisoner of war, stated that Major James McIntyer, a Training Wing Commander, in a lecture on the history of

the bacteriological weapon, delivered on March 20, 1952, said that prior to the Korean war the germ weapon was never employed on a large scale. When the US government found it could not win the war in Korea solely by means of the armed forces at its disposal it decided to-use the bacteriological weapon.

These testimonies confirm that the United States has long conducted systematic research, perfection and manufacture of this criminal weapon spearheaded against mankind.

Prisoners of war Colonel Frank H. Schwable, Chief of Staff of the US First Marine Aircraft Wing, Major Roy H. Bley, Ordnance Officer of the US First Marine Aircraft Wing; Colonel Walker Mahurin of the 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing, U.S.A.F. and Colonel Andrew J. Evans, jr, Deputy Commanding Officer, 58th Fighter Bomber Wing—all testified at different times that the United States had launched germ warfare in Korea in the winter of 1951.

Mahurin testified that resorting to bacteriological warfare the US Government “hoped that the peace talks might be influenced and that a satisfactory outcome might result”. US airman Charles Kerr, a prisoner of war, testified that the Americans believed that use of the bacteriological weapon would cause epidemics which would lead to lack of manpower both at the front and in the rear and might cause a lowering of the morale of the people to the extent that they would be ready to abandon the struggle.

In his testimony Mahurin cited factual data dealing with germ flights of US aircraft. He and two other US airmen—James Gunnoe and Bobby Hammett—pointed to the thorough selection of pilots for germ missions, particularly in China and the measures taken by the US

Command to conceal the facts of germ warfare. The pilots were instructed that in the event of a forced landing on the territory of Manchuria they should immediately release the bacteriological bombs and tell their captors that they had lost their bearings, and most important, never to mention germ bombs.

Vandenberg, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, arrived in Korea in November 1952 and made a personal inspection of all that was connected with germ warfare. Disillusioned with the results of his inspection tour he declared to the Command of the 5th Air Force that he wanted effective use of fighter-bomber aircraft for night germ flights.

In his deposition prisoner of war Colonel Evans, Jr., described how this sinister plan was carried out in practice.

The US forces resorted to numerous methods of disseminating bacteria and used many types of germ weapons against the Korean People's Democratic Republic and China. The U.S.A.F. Command included preparations for germ warfare as a major and integral part of the programme for training flying personnel.

Faced with the irrefutable proofs and moved by the generous treatment of POW's by the Korean-Chinese side the US airmen, when prisoners of war, confessed to the facts dealing with the germ war waged by the United States and exposed the plans of the US Government envisaging the use of the bacteriological weapon against humanity. The crimes committed by these prisoners of war deserved punishment but in view of the fact that they operated on the orders of their Command and were not mainly responsible for elaborating the plans, for launching the germ warfare and that they had fully confessed to their crimes the

Korean-Chinese side decided to be lenient and repatriate them.

IN THE TRAP OF HIS OWN MAKE.

Drawing by J. Novak

US Attorney-General and in his wake the “Un-American Committee” accused ex-President Truman of “covering up the Communists”. In reply “Truman said that he was No. 1 enemy of Communism and that it was he who introduced the “loyalty oath”. This hullabaloo throws light on the internal struggle of the reactionary cliques in the USA and their base methods in using the anti-Communist hysteria.

(Press item)



POLITICAL NOTES

American Cannon-Fodder Hunters' in Pakistan

For some time now the USA has shown specially great interest towards Pakistan, Increasing numbers of US military and civil officials more and more frequently visit Pakistan... only as tourists, of course. Vice Admiral Wright, Commander of the US naval forces in the Eastern sector of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean, appeared early this year in Karachi, for example, in order, as he put it, to enjoy the pleasures of the picturesque Pakistan landscape.

However, few people in the East believe in the innocent nature of these trips. The "Times of India" correspondent recently reported from Karachi that the visits of the US military brass to Pakistan are not, of course, undertaken merely for a game of bridge or a game of billiards and that the recent trip of some of, the big men in the Pakistan army to the "Atlantic" countries was not undertaken for a mere change of climate.

Pakistan, wrote the "New York Times" the other day, has an important military potential. It is one of the most populated of the Moslem states. Pakistan is known for its battle traditions. It is this that is focusing the attention of the transatlantic cannon-fodder hunters on Pakistan. Vice-Admiral Wright, himself a great tourist, eventually let the cat out of the bag saying that the United States wished to supplement the picturesque Pakistan landscape with military bases.

Washington's flirting with Karachi has a direct bearing on the aggressive designs of American imperialism in the Near and Middle East. This is not the first year that the "Atlantic" strategists nurture plans of knocking together a Middle East military bloc which, in the view of its makers, is to serve as an appendage of the aggressive Atlantic union. First it was designed as an organisation of the so-called Middle East Command which would include Turkey and the countries of the Arabian East. But the Arab states resolutely rejected the draft, following which the word "defence" was added to it. However, this manoeuvre also failed. The Arabs made it absolutely clear that if they did have to defend themselves against anyone at all, it was against the Western imperialists themselves.

The aggressors have now prepared a new draft of a war alliance on or near the borders of the Soviet Union. In order to conceal this fact the projected bloc has not been given any definite name. But despite the veil over the face of Pentagon's latest nursling it is not difficult to see what is behind it. The Pakistan newspaper "Andjam", writes that the projected alliance will be something in the nature of the "Balkan bloc" of Turkey, Greece and Yugoslavia, in which Pakistan is assigned a big role.

At present the US reactionary press is lavishing praises on the newly-hatched Islam Republic. The "New York Times" wrote an ode of praise in which Pakistan, together with Turkey, is lauded as the "best ally of the USA". Simultaneously, the enslaving American "aid"-machine was brought into play. Last summer the White House decided to ship a million "tons of wheat to Pakistan. Later, on October 9, the US weekly "U.S. News and World Report", which, in fact, is the

mouthpiece of the State Department and the Pentagon, hinted that the USA would ship annually 250 million dollars' worth of equipment for the Pakistan Army.

The US "grants" and promises thawed the hearts of the Pakistan rulers. Prime Minister Mohammed Ali called the Americans "real friends". Meanwhile these "real friends" pursued their own line. During recent weeks newspaper columns in the USA and in the Asian countries are filled with reports about the pending signing of a US-Pakistan military alliance. Incidentally, as hitherto, the fact of its secret negotiations with Washington. These facts clearly reveal the underlying reasons for the transatlantic trips of both Mohammed Aigyub-Khan, the Supreme Commander of the Pakistan Army, and Ghulam Muhammed, Governor General, as well as return visits of the highly-placed American officials. The "New York Times" writes that a visit to Washington by Ghulam Mohammed will be followed by official negotiations for signing a military pact.

The now contemplated incorporation of Pakistan into the orbit of the aggressive plans of the US imperialists give rise to legitimate alarm among the peace-loving nations of Asia, and India in the first place. As the newspaper "Hindustan Times" points out, it will signify involving in war the entire Indian sub-Continent. On November 15th Prime Minister Nehru of India stated that the reports of a projected US-Pakistan military pact give rise to serious anxiety in India. According to press reports the Indians clearly stated that any attempt on the part of the USA to arm Pakistan would be regarded as an unfriendly act in relation to India. The newspaper "New Times of Burma" recently wrote that the realisation of the plan of building war bases in Pakistan

would give rise to new sea Asia. Dwelling on designs in Asia this Pakistan is “merely a pawn in Washington’s game”.

The machinations of the aggressors evoke a growing feeling of indignation also among the people of Pakistan. The Communist Party of Pakistan wage a steady struggle for independence of its homeland. Resolute protests against the contemplated signing of a military agreement with the USA have been voiced by the Peace Committee in Karachi, the Eastern-Pakistan branch of the “People’s Moslem Jinnah League” and other organisations. The press in the West tries to pass over in silence the mounting anti-imperialist movement in Pakistan. It gives a detailed description of how an American ship carrying wheat was met by 98 camels with posters around their necks lauding the American “benefactors”. One can, no doubt, put any poster around a camel’s neck. But enraptured with this circus-like performance the monopoly press overlooks the fact that to stifle the voice of wrathful protest of the people of Pakistan against the enslavement of their country and turning it into an American war base—is a task which neither the imperialists nor their hirelings can now accomplish.

No Time for Art

“Liriki Sceni”, the only opera house in Greece, has been closed for five months as a result of the Papagos Government refusing to subsidise it. And, indeed, how can Athens rulers find money for the muse when the

known war expenditure of Greece totals 52 per cent of the budget.

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