

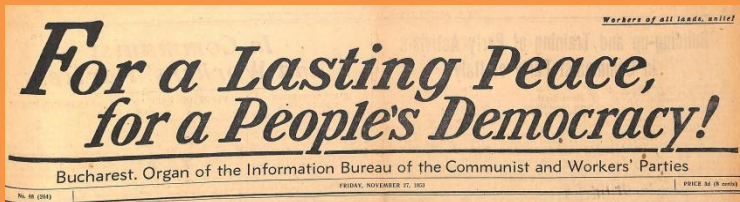
Workers of all lands, unite!

***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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MAIN PROBLEM OF OUR DAY

No question is more important and urgent today than that of easing international tension. This is the main problem of our day the solution of which is a matter of vital concern to the overwhelming majority of the world population.

Two lines, two outlooks stand out clearly on this issue: the line of the Soviet Union and other peace-loving countries which consistently and unswervingly strive to ease international tension, to preserve and strengthen peace and friendship among the nations, and that of the imperialist forces headed by influential US circles who do not want agreement with the peace-loving states, who stubbornly persist in their policy of frustrating peaceful co-operation among the nations, in their policy of intensifying international tension and the menace of a new war.

International tension cannot be lessened with sweet words alone, which are not backed by deeds. And the deeds of the ruling circles of the US, Britain and France expose them as enemies of international co-operation, as inciters of strife among the nations and of another war. While in words these circles talk about negotiations and agreements among the governments on unsettled problems, they in fact do their utmost to frustrate negotiations. They in advance make negotiations with the Soviet Union dependent on various "preliminary conditions" seeking, in other words, to impose such forms and such content for the negotiations that, even if they to take place, doom them to inevitable failure.

During the first half of this month alone the Soviet Union twice made proposals aimed at a peaceful settlement of all disputed international problems.

In its Note of November 3 to the Governments of the US, Britain and France, the Soviet Government proposed a conference of Foreign Ministers in order, first, that the Foreign, Ministers of the five countries—US, Britain and France, the Soviet Union and the Chinese People's Republic—discuss measures for ensuring relaxation of tension and, second, that the Foreign Ministers of the four countries—US, Britain, German problem and, linked with it, questions for ensuring the security of Europe.

This initiative of the Soviet Union was warmly welcomed by broad public opinion throughout the world. However, the bourgeois press in a number of countries, including the US, Britain and France, tried either to silence and conceal the Soviet proposals from the people of their countries, or to distort them and accuse the Soviet Union of lack of desire to negotiate outstanding questions.

At a press conference on November 13, V. M. Molotov, Foreign; Minister of the USSR, exposed these machinations of the enemies of peace and international co-operation, exposed the slanderous allegation that the Soviet Union is showing no desire to “get together” and produced facts testifying that the Soviet Union has always stood and continues to stand for easing international tension, for strengthening peace and security of the nations.

The German question is now one of the basic issues in international relations which call for immediate settlement. On its solution directly depends European security, the easing of the international tension. The Soviet Union urged an immediate discussion of the

German problem on the basis of national re-unification of Germany and the conclusion of a peace treaty with a democratic all-German government. This would correspond to the interests of all peace-loving states and also the interests of the German people themselves.

However, the Governments of the US, Britain and France have taken a different stand. Advocating in words discussion of the German problem they are, in practice, remilitarising Western Germany. and demanding that the Soviet agree in advance to the revival of German militarism. The reactionary forces of the US resort to all manner of intimidation and coercion in order to get the' countries affiliated to the aggressive North Atlantic bloc to speed up ratification of the Bonn and Paris military treaties, the enactment of which will make impossible the re-unification of Germany as a single state.

The solution of the Korean question is another issue upon which easing of international tension depends. The task now is to reach, on the basis of the armistice, agreement on such questions as the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea, on the national re-unification of the country and the securing of a lasting peace in this part of Asia.

It is impossible to speak seriously about settling vital international problems without first solving the question of the lawful and equal participation of the Chinese People's Republic in Uno, a question which should have been settled long ago. No one can deny that participation of the Chinese people in settling questions which would lead to lessening international tension is a matter of paramount importance.

The Soviet Union has, already for a number of years, persistently and insisently upheld the legitimate right

of the Chinese People's Republic to participate in the work of the United Nations Organisation, in solving all outstanding international problems. However, the reactionary forces, and primarily US influential circles, categorically reject these just demands each time motivating their refusal by various groundless arguments. But irrespective of the "arguments" they use to mask their refusal to co-operate with a great power such as China, honest people in all countries see no reason why a country with a population of over 500 million should be ignored, a country the government of which, for the first time in the history of China, is the genuine representative of the people resolutely defending the national interests of the people.

Nor can the settlement of this major problem of the day be considered in isolation from other important issues closely related to the maintenance and consolidation of world peace. The Soviet Government, for example, has pointed out time and time again that US aggressive circles continue to build war bases on the territories of other circles continue to build war bases on the territories of other countries, mainly in regions bordering on the USSR and the countries of people's democracy. Simpletons alone fail to understand that these war bases have nothing in common with the defence of the USA and are aimed exclusively at furthering aggressive designs.

A matter of vital importance for lessening international tension is reduction of armaments and, particularly the banning of the Atom and Hydrogen bombs and other weapons of mass destruction. The Soviet Union has repeatedly urged the unconditional prohibition of these weapons and called for immediate measures for effecting international control over the

implementation of the ban. However, the Soviet proposals were rejected. Seeking to deceive world public opinion the reactionary circles have advanced their so-called “Baruch Plan” in opposition to the Soviet plan of banning the weapons and mass destruction. This plan is based on the perverse suggestion, which runs counter to the principle of national sovereignty, that all the means of production of atomic energy should be placed in the hands of a special international body which would, in fact, be supervised by American military brass.

Clearly, the solution of all the above mentioned problems would really lead to easing international tension, to consolidating world peace. But the US Government and influential circles in Britain and France following its lead stubbornly refuse to consider these issues and persist in their adventurist policy of the “cold war”, the policy of aggravating international tension, persist in their feverish arms drive, the burden of which is borne by the working people of those countries. War hysteria is being whipped up and vicious slander against the peace-loving states disseminated in the United States and other capitalist countries in the interests of the American monopolies who are raking in fabulous profits from production of armaments and other war materials.

The policy of aggravating international relations pursued by the imperialist forces and their refusal to adopt the proposals of the USSR give rise to profound alarm for the future of the world among all honest people. This explains why the demand of the people that their governments settle controversial international issues has now assumed a world-wide scale.

The Session of the World Peace Council, that opened on November 23 in Vienna, expresses the aspirations and demands of the broad masses of the people in all countries in their struggle for peace and testifies to the great significance attached by all people of good will to the peaceful settlement of disputed issues. This Session is discussing vital problems such as the settlement of the Korean and German problems, the ban on the Atom and H-bomb as well as other weapons of mass destruction, reduction of armaments and other questions agitating the minds of all people. Frederick Joliot-Curie, an outstanding scientist and public figure, said that one of the chief tasks of the Session was to find the most effective means for settling international disputes and conflicts.

The indestructible movement of our day the peace movement; is strengthening and gaining momentum. Hundreds of millions of people are becoming more and more confident that if the desire exists ways and means can be found for a peaceful settlement of controversial and disputed international problems and that there is no controversial issue which could not be settled on the basis of agreement between the countries concerned.

All peace-loving people will fight with still greater confidence and resolve for ensuring the successful solution of the main problem of the day—the easing of international tension... The solution of this problem cannot be avoided!

SESSION OF WORLD PEACE COUNCIL

A Session of the World Peace Council opened on November 23 in “Dreher-Park”, Vienna. In addition to the Council members the Session is attended by numerous guests from different countries. Professor **Brandweiner**, Chairman of the Austrian Peace Council, greeted the gathering on behalf of the peace-loving progressive forces in Austria.

A lengthy opening speech was delivered by **Frederick Joliot-Curie**, Chairman of the World Peace Council.

Joliot-Curie's Speech

In the light the events of the past few months, he said, the international situation clearly proves that, apart from the common responsibility, certain countries and consequently their national movements bear a particular responsibility of great significance. This responsibility demands immediate action and its success may well prove to be a decisive factor for preserving and strengthening peace. The actions of the countries bordering on Germany against “European Defence Community” or against any other form of rearming militarist Germany, the actions of the countries of Asia and other countries interested in bringing about the settlement of the Korean problem and in ending hostilities in Vietnam,—all these actions particularly emphasise the responsibility of individual countries in the struggle for peace.

Joliot-Curie called on the peace supporters to conduct explanatory work on a wide scale, to expose the advocates of the “policy of force” who use the weapon they have brought to a high degree of perfection—the weapon of the “cold war”, the weapon of lies and slander.

He showed that the peoples, on the one hand, and the enemies of peace, on the other, look at the problem of negotiations from fundamentally different points of view.

In negotiations, he said, the peoples see a means of lessening and eliminating international tension, a means of putting end to armed clashes, a means of rendering possible and of securing disarmament.

The other side, while pretending that they want negotiations, say that they would begin to negotiate only on terms which would inevitably lead to the breaking down of these negotiations and would ensure for them a more reliable position of strength.

Stressing the great importance of the struggle of the peoples for a peaceful settlement of the German and Korean problems Joliot-Curie said: There is another vital problem which affects all mankind. This is the question of banning weapons of mass destruction and the question of disarmament. Very seldom had any other questions given rise to such debates or had been the subject of such active negotiations since the end of World War II.

The Peace Council has constantly devoted close attention to this problem and we know that world public opinion has enthusiastically approved the Stockholm Appeal. The desire for a ban on the weapons of mass destruction remains as strong as it was before.

Notwithstanding the fact that certain success has been registered in settling this problem it should be admitted that we can still see the clash of different conceptions and that the UN Disarmament Commission has not as yet come to any effective conclusion. The same arguments are being advanced to frustrate agreement on banning atomic weapons.

An analysis of the major events characterising the present situation, the speaker continued, testifies to the difficulty of settling concrete problems in an atmosphere of grave international tension.

Would not a meeting of representatives of the Five Powers which bear the main responsibility for maintaining and consolidating peace be the best means for easing international tension?

Let representatives of the five Great Powers meet and tell each other what they want and what they fear and, by discussing in general terms the problems, giving rise to differences throughout the world, remove suspicions and clear the tension.

I am of the opinion that one of the tasks that confront the present session is to find the most effective means for making this necessary meeting a reality.

To ensure the success of our work it would be expedient to discuss the three problems on the agenda, not in succession but together, since all of them are related to the basic problem, namely, to the problem of easing international tension.

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Following the speech by Joliot Curie, **Jean Laffitte**, General Secretary of the World Peace Council,

submitted for discussion a proposal relating to the agenda and procedure for the Session.

The Session unanimously adopted the following agenda:

1. Actions to be taken for solving international controversies and conflicts by agreements, acceptable to all (settlement of the Korean and German issues, a ban on the H-Bomb and all weapons of mass destruction, reduction of armaments etc.)

2. Proposal for holding a World Meeting in Defence of Peace.

In his speech **Pietro Nenni**, Vice-Chairman of the World Peace Council, stressed that the peoples want an honest settlement of the international issues and a genuine desire to reach agreement acceptable to all.

The danger of turning the cold war into a hot war, he said, is less now than 'was the case one or two years ago. However, nothing has yet taken place which could be regarded as a radical turn. Peace has not as yet been secured in Korea, the German question has not been settled, the arms drive has not been stopped and the USA persists in encircling the USSR with war bases.

Nenni dwelt on the need for struggle against the treaty on the "European Defence Community". It is necessary, he said, to launch a wide campaign against the creation of the "European Defence Community". In addition to the peoples of the six states concerned all peace-loving people in the world should take part in this campaign.

Pietro Nenni was followed by **Gilbert de Chambrun**, Secretary of the World Peace Council, who dwelt on the German question, by **D. N. Pritt**, President of the British Peace Committee, who outlined the aims and tasks in Britain, and by **Le Dinh Tham**, a representative of the

peace fighters in Viet Nam, who urged those present to launch a powerful campaign for a cease fire in Viet Nam and for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam question.

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The speakers on November 24 included **Mao Tun**, Chairman of the Chinese national union of Chinese writers, member of the World Peace Council, and **Han Ser Ya**, representative of the Korean people. They dwelt on the Korean question. **Tukusaburo Dan**, a delegate from Japan, stressed the great significance of the Japanese movement for friendship with China and the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

Ilya Ehrenburg, Soviet writer, described how the US ruling circles frustrate the settlement of the most vital international issues. These statesmen, he said, made a number of statements stressing the need for easing international tension. Simultaneously, however, these self-same statesmen have taken a number of measures which can only aggravate international tension.

Wilhelm Elfes (Western Germany), **Minnert-Kuling** (the Netherlands), **Hodinova-Spurna** (Czechoslovakia), **Govinda Sahai** (India) and delegates of other countries joined the earlier speakers in pointing out that their peoples are determined to support all measures aimed at lessening international tension.

The text of Professor Bernal's speech (Britain), who could not attend the Session, was read from the rostrum. His speech, as well as those made by the delegates of Poland, Austria, Rumania, Belgium, Greece, Turkey, etc., expressed the demand of the peoples to secure a reduction of armaments, the banning of weapons of mass destruction and the liquidation of war bases on foreign territory.

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Professor **Nafisi**, a delegate from Iran; **G. d'Arnousier**, Vice-Chairman of the Bureau of the World Peace Council; Professor **Alberto Cianca** (Italy); **Surkov**, Soviet writer; **Eugenie Cotton** (France); a well-known peace fighter; **Rosenwist** (Norway); Dr. **Andrea Andreen** (Sweden) and others spoke on November 25.

Exposing the false nature of the "peace" camouflage to which the US politicians are resorting the delegates point out that the US bases and its armed forces on foreign soil deprive other nations of their national dignity, violate their sovereignty, menace world peace and aggravate the international situation.

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The morning session of November 26 was addressed by representatives of the countries of Latin America, Africa, Near East, Spain, Portugal, Iceland, etc. The delegates of the colonial and dependent countries described the disastrous consequences of the US imperialist policy and the intensified struggle of the peoples in these countries for peace and national independence.

Balthasar Castro, Chairman of the House of Representatives of Chile, said that his statement in Parliament about his intention to take part in the Vienna Session of the World Peace Council and visit the USSR and the People's Democracies after the Session was greeted with tumultuous applause.

The meetings of the different commissions appointed by the Session were held ON November 26.

60th BIRTHDAY OF L. M. KAGANOVICH

November 22nd marked the 60th birthday of L. M. Kaganovich, faithful disciple of Lenin and Stalin's colleague, First Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. In the greeting to Comrade Kaganovich on the occasion of his birthday the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR note his services to the Soviet people as one of the outstanding organisers and builders of the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

The greeting reads that in all the posts he has held in Party and state w L. M. Kaganovich, with his unfailing energy has always devoted his entire strength and knowledge to the cause of building Communism in the USSR. The Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR wish Comrade Kaganovich the best of health and many years of life and further fruitful work the interests of the peoples of the Soviet Union and the building of Communism.

On the occasion of the 60th birthday of L. M. Kaganovich, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, taking into account his outstanding services to the Communist Party and the Soviet people, awarded Lazar Moiseyevich Kaganovich the Order of **Lenin**.

MEETING DEVOTED TO 35th ANNIVERSARY OF HUNGARIAN WORKING PEOPLE'S PARTY

November 20 marked the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Hungary (now the Hungarian Working People's Party). To mark this date a celebration meeting of the Budapest City Party Committee of the Hungarian Working People's Party was held. The meeting was attended by members of the Political Bureau, secretaries of the Central Committee, veterans of the working-class movement in Hungary, public figures and others.

A report was delivered by Erzsebet Andics, member of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Working People's Party. Having described the path followed by the Party Andics emphasised that it draws its strength from the knowledge that it is the Party of the working class, of the foiling masses, the Party of the Hungarian people

The strength of our Party, she said, lies precisely in the fact that it learns from life and the masses, that it constantly analyses the new events and developments, and creatively applies the teaching of Marxism-Leninism. Our example in this is the great teacher—the glorious Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The Communists and the entire people of the country celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Party at a time when they are firmer and more united than ever before,—concluded E. Andics. They celebrate this glorious anniversary at a time when a new chapter opens in the life of the Party and the country, at a time

when the Party and the people of Hungary are determined to carry out the new tasks, strive to work in a new way, apply a new style and new methods.

GROWING FRIENDSHIP OF CHINESE AND KOREAN PEOPLES

An Agreement on economic and cultural co-operation between the People's Republic of China and the Korean People's Democratic Republic was signed on November 23 in Peking as a result of negotiations held in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding,

It was agreed that the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Korean People's Democratic Republic would work for the strengthening and development of economic and cultural relations between the two countries on the basis of friendship, mutual aid, equality and mutual benefit, and would render each other every possible economic and technical assistance, maintain the necessary economic and technical co-operation and promote in every way cultural exchange between the two countries.

During the negotiations, the Communique states, vital political and economic questions pertaining to the People's Republic of China and the Korean People's Democratic Republic were discussed. Complete mutual understanding was reached to the effect that traditional and inviolable friendly relations between the peoples of China and Korea must continue to be strengthened and developed with a view to defending the vital interests of the peoples of the two countries and securing a stable peace in the Far East and throughout the world.

The two Contracting Parties are unanimous in the assessment of the situation in Korea after the signing of the armistice agreement. The signing of this agreement

and its subsequent unconditional implementation will; it is hoped, create favourable conditions for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. The Governments of the People's Republic of China and the Korean People's Democratic Republic are prepared to co-operate with all countries interested in the lofty cause of ensuring a peaceful re-unification of Korea.

They also exchanged views concerning the convening of a political conference. Both parties unanimously agree that a basis must be created for long-term economic and cultural co-operation between the People's Republic of China and the Korean People's Democratic Republic. The Central _People's Government of the People's Republic of China is particularly concerned with the economic rehabilitation of the war-ravaged Korean People's Democratic Republic. It decided to transfer, as a gift, to the Government of the Korean People's Democratic Republic all good and all expenditure borne by the Government of the Chinese People's Republic while assisting Korea between June 25, 1950, the day when the Government of the USA unleashed its aggressive war in Korea, and December 31, 1953.

With a view to granting additional aid to Korea the Government of the People's Republic of China also resolved to make a free gift of 8,000,000 million yuan to the Government of the Korean People's Democratic Republic within a period of four years, between 1954 and 1957, which should be used for rehabilitation of its national economy. The People's Republic of China will deliver to Korea various goods and equipment to the amount of this sum to ensure the rehabilitation of its industry and agriculture and improve the living conditions of the Korean people.

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During the signing of the Chinese-Korean Agreement on economic and cultural cooperation, **Chou En-lai**, Premier of the State Administrative Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Central People's Government, and **Kim Ir Sen**, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Korean People's Democratic Republic, exchanged speeches.

The signing of the Agreement, Chou En-lai said, is of great significance now that, the US government is sparing no effort to delay the convening of the political conference, to frustrate the explanatory work among the prisoners-of-war, conniving with the reactionary Rhee clique in whipping up war hysteria with a view to frustrating the armistice. It proves that the Chinese and Korean peoples are unanimous in their determination and willingness to devote every effort to complete implementation of the armistice agreement in Korea and to work for a peaceful settlement of the Korean question. It testifies to the fact that the Chinese people will continue to support the just cause of the Korean people until final victory is won.

Our agreement, continued Chou En-lai, reflects the powerful unity of the peoples of Asia. This force is a serious warning to the international clique of reactionaries who are vainly seeking to reverse the wheel of history and continue to strangle the movement of the peoples of Asia for their national independence. The peoples of Asia who have awakened and are awakening now will tolerate neither insults nor aggression. Those who will not learn this lesson will be beaten again in the future also.

The Chinese-Korean Agreement on Economic and Cultural Co-operation which has been signed today and the Communiqué on the results of the negotiations as well as the successful negotiations between the Soviet Government and the Government Delegation of the Korean People's Democratic Republic in September this year—all are eloquent proof of the genuine solidarity of the entire camp of peace and democracy headed by the Soviet Union, a solidarity which cannot be shaken by any slanderous statements of the imperialists' attempts to sow the seeds of discord.

In his speech Kim Ir Sen said:

The Agreement we have signed today relating to economic and cultural co-operation between Korea and China will still further consolidate and promote the traditional, inviolable and friendly solidarity between the peoples of Korea and China, broaden and strengthen long-term economic and cultural co-operation between the two countries and ensure the vital interests of the peoples of both countries. At the same time, it is of vital importance to the cause of peace in the Far East and throughout the world.

The Korean people constantly display unflinching vigilance in relation to the machinations and intrigues of the enemy, and with the aid of the Chinese people and democratic forces of the world consolidate the victory of the armistice in Korea. Observing the principle of non-interference - by foreign states and the principle of settling the Korean question by the Korean people themselves the people of Korea will even more resolutely fight for peaceful unification and inviolability of their homeland, for a stable peace in Asia and throughout the world.

BUILDING-UP AND TRAINING OF PARTY ACTIVISTS IN COMMUNIST PARTY OF ITALY. Pietro Secchia Deputy General Secretary, Communist Party of Italy

By September 30 the membership of the Communist Party of Italy reached the figure of 2,120,208 exceeding, for the first time, the membership of 1948, i.e. prior to the formation of the Italian Communist Youth Federation as a separate body which included a number of young members of the Communist Party. At present the Communist Youth Federation has a membership of 437,240 bringing the total of youth and adult membership of the Communist organisations in Italy to the figure of 2,557,448. During the current year the Party won 180,295 new members, including 60,725 recruited during the Stalin recruitment campaign.

The political successes of the Party during the past few years strengthen it both numerically and qualitatively. They led to an increase in the number of Party activists, to enhancing the efficiency of the cadres and the activity of the Party as a whole.

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What did we do, then, to facilitate the training and education of the Party cadres and Party activists?

Above all, ever since 1945 the Party under the leadership of Comrade Togliatti conducted the correct policy of reorganising the Party organisations into smaller units which has yielded positive results. At the same time the Party saw to it that there should not be an

excessive growth of organisational links and that the ties between the centre of the Party and its membership do not weaken.

In addition to setting up Party sections in practically every community (although even today there are communities in every province without a Party organisation) the number of sections has been increased so as to ensure the functioning of Party sections not only in every community but also in each large part of the community, and in every district in cities and towns. The Party section in the Communist Party of Italy is the body immediately above the Party branch. It consists of the factory and territorial branches.

The number of factory and street branches has also greatly increased. At present the membership of the Party branch does not exceed 70 thus giving every Communist an opportunity of actively participating in the discussion of all questions raised at Party meetings.

When the Party branches consisted of 100–200 and even more members it was difficult to ensure a genuinely broad discussion and consequently to effect collective leadership, since at a two or three hour meeting of 200 Communists only a small percentage of those present was able to take part in the discussion of the report given. On the other hand, up to 20 Communists or so are able to take part in the discussion at a meeting of a Party branch now consisting of 60 members.

In the past few years the party branches have been differentiated and recognised into branches of factories, plants, shops, branches of blocks of houses, etc.

In large enterprises with one or two-thousand Communists or even more it was practically impossible

for the leading Party functionaries to know all the members, to allocate tasks, to check on their fulfilment, and to draw every Communist into active participation in the work of the Party meeting and all the life of the Party. On the other hand, after reorganising the branches into bodies of some 60–70 Communists there are now, in every enterprise, at least a few and in some cases tens of branches led by their committees. Every branch committee is subordinated to a factory committee which ensures unity of leadership and co-ordinates the activity of all the branches in the enterprise.

With the formation of the street branches and branches for blocks of houses the Party enhanced its effectiveness, preparedness and ability to establish contact with the masses.

The Communist Party of Italy has now 97 federations, 283 zonal committees, 9,993 Party sections and 52,481 territorial and factory branches.

The increased number of the intermediate leading bodies stimulated the political initiative of the Communists, accelerated the training of cadres, enabled the Party to use more Communists in work both inside and outside the Party, thereby facilitating the development of the Party activists and all Party organisations.

Since 1948 the Party organisations, allowing the experience of the Communist Parties of other countries, have conducted the policy of dividing the membership of the Party branches into groups of ten Communists with a view to activating all the members. Each group is headed by a Party group organiser (the leader of the group) whose duty is to bring home to the Communists of his group the vital political questions of the day, to

invite them to branch meetings, to help them in their work and to query the reasons for their inactivity.

The number of Party group organisers creased from 63,637 in 1948 to 139,781 at the present time. We are still far from being able to provide a Party group organiser for every group of ten Communists, but a step forward in this direction has, undoubtedly, been made.

We tried and are still trying to see that the Party group organiser does not endeavour to do everything himself but draws into work the members of the group by giving everyone of them tasks, and does not become a substitute for the branch committee. The basic meeting in the lower Party organisation remains that of the Party branch, and the Party group organiser, in addition to his other duties, is required to ensure the presence of all members of his group at such meetings. The committee of the Party branch was and is the leading organ of the lower Party organisation.

However, it was difficult for the secretary and members of the branch committee personally to know 60-70 Communists, their life and work or to help them in their study and everyday activity. This task can be effectively tackled by the Party group organisers. Frequently it turns out that wherever there are as yet no group organisers, the branch and section committees do not know the comrades and in their work employ bureaucratic and administrative methods. The Party group organisers help in a big way in assessing and making proper use of every Party member. They help the branch and section leaders, enabling them to carry out collective leadership effectively.

It is our aim to mobilise all the efforts of the Party, to rally all members for work, for active participation in

the life and activity of the Party, in working out and effecting its political line.

To draw all Communists in the work we need, in the first place, to have more leading cadres of a medium level. We are determined to have, in addition to the members who already hold leading posts, at least one for every ten Communists who would be the most active among them not only within the Party, but also in the trade union, the peace movement, in the war-veterans' and all other mass organisations.

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The number of leading cadres in the Italian Communist Party now exceeds 400,000 omitting those members who hold leading posts in the mass organisations, trade unions, cultural and club groups, cooperatives, in the communal and provincial bodies, etc.

We have 2,925 Communists who are members of committees in the Federations, 62,657 section committee members, 182,272 139,781 Party group organisers, as well as a considerable number of propagandists, etc.

The leading bodies in the Federations periodically call meetings of Party group organisers with a view to, first of all, giving them guidance and advice in their propaganda, work and their practical political activity.

We, in our Party, regard as activists all active Party members even if they are not included in the leading bodies, such as the Party group organisers, for example. Our Party Rules do not provide for activists' meetings which are off-schedule and dictated by practical needs.

Activists' meetings are becoming a regular feature nowadays.

It is indeed not an easy job for the Federation committee to give guidance to 100-150 Party sections and to maintain direct contact with all the section committees, to say nothing about branches. Therefore, the necessity arises periodically to convene all the members of the section and branch committees. For some time past the bigger Federations (in Turin, Milan, Genoa, Bologna, Florence, Rome and Naples) practiced more or less regular activists' meetings to discuss Party decisions, help Party functionaries assimilate them and to see to it that they quickly reached the sections and branches and were digested by them.

These activists' meetings still have many shortcomings. They are attended by many Party members and, consequently, the latter have little time to speak on or discuss the report. However, these activists' meetings facilitated speedier and timely discussion as well as realisation of Party decisions and better political training of the leading cadres in the Federations, sections and branches.

We have, however, always emphasised that Party activists' meetings must not be a substitute for section and branch meetings. This danger exists and for this reason we have so far, in the conditions of the developing political struggle in our country, refrained from having regular activists' meetings included in the Party Rules, for we want to avoid a situation whereby discussion of vital problems would be confined solely to activists' meetings, and seek that it should later be continued in the sections and branches.

In many instances we find it expedient to follow a discussion of a given question in the Federation

committees with an immediate discussion of the same issue at the branch meetings. For example, sometimes a plenary meeting of the Central Committee is immediately followed, on the instructions of the Party Federations, by factory and territorial branch meetings. We believe this to be the correct procedure since otherwise every decision adopted by the Central Committee or the Party Leadership, every vital issue posed before the Party, would pass through all the organisational levels—regional committee meetings, meetings of the leadership in the Federations, of Federation committees, Party activists, leading section committees, and, finally, through all the leading committees in the branches—and a month or more would elapse before the Central Committee decision would be discussed in the branches.

We condemn the tendency to increase the number of general and committee meetings at various levels on the same question and attended by the same members. Supposing a decision of the Party has to be discussed on developing the struggle, for instance, against the “European Defence Community”. If a large number of Party members have to take part in the discussion of this issue first in the Federation Committee, then at a meeting of Party activists, in the section committee and eventually at branch meetings, it would mean that these comrades have to spend 4-5 evenings on discussing the same question at inner-Party meetings.

We strive to organise the activity of Party members in such a way that enables them to devote the greater part of their time to work outside the Party, in the mass organisations, among the non-Party working people or working people affiliated to other parties and to enable them to participate in public meetings.

Experience shows that we need to intensify the work of Communists outside the Party: at the enterprises, working-class meetings, in groups, in places where working people go for rest and leisure, in trade unions, in the co-operatives, municipal and provincial councils, in the mass organisations, as well as their activity in the organisations of our adversaries and amidst working people under their influence.

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In the sphere of training its active members and in the field of Party building the Italian Communist Party has always worked and works now for winning over the majority of the working people, for strengthening the unity of the working class and national unity, for consolidating and extending its alliances and for reinforcing the democratic organisations and the trade unions in the first place.

In order to further the activity of Party cadres and improve their training we have considerably extended in recent years the number of Party schools, both central and local. In 1948-50, we organised 30 central, 32 regional and 2,849 provincial courses attended respectively by 4,870, 751 and 75,570 students. In 1953 alone, the 13 courses in the different central Party schools cater for 395 students and the 1,099 provincial and local courses for 28,802 students.

We have also organised short-term courses for raising the ideological level of the Party members and intensifying their activity among the masses. Study at these courses is based on lectures read in the Central school for Party, cadres and published in tens of thousands of copies.

When speaking about developing and training Party cadres we stress not only the importance of Party schools, but, above all, the importance of practical activity and the struggle of the working people, the importance of activating the Party.

The Party becomes tempered, its members are developed politically and ideologically when Party activity is brisk, when branch meetings widely discuss all matters, when there is collective leadership and every Party member has a Party assignment, when criticism and self-criticism prevail and the principles of inner-Party democracy are adhered to, when the Party members study and participate in discussing all questions and are drawn into vigorous Party work.

A few years ago Comrade Togliatti said at a meeting of the Central Committee: "We must make it a rule that the Party line is discussed until it is fully understood, irrespective of differences and disputes that may arise in the course of such discussion with our less trained comrades". In past years the Party has achieved unquestionable successes in this respect but this utterance by Comrade Togliatti remains true even today. To discuss things does not mean getting together to hear a report by the secretary of a Federation or branch, or to speak on one or another minor matter. Discussion implies a well-prepared meeting, the study and discussion of questions raised, an examination of the issues in all their aspects; it implies work and struggle, more reading, better study in all Party units and thorough verification of work.

Learning from the experience of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in the matter of improving the methods of Party Leadership, the Leadership of the Italian Communist Party published, on the 19th of July

last, a resolution urging all Party members, and the leading cadres in particular, to read, study and to discuss in detail the recent decisions of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, pertaining to this question, so as to be able to expose the enemy's slander, better to introduce the principles of the Communist leadership in our political work and in our activity among the masses, in order, by understanding and applying these principles, to improve our entire work.

The main Federations called meetings of Federal Party Committees and Party activists, as well as conferences at which questions relating to the methods of work and leadership in the Party and mass organisations were widely discussed. These gatherings discussed, in the light of the experience of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the shortcomings in the work of our Party organisations, their activity and their methods of work.

The point is to improve leadership in the Party, i.e. not only to improve the organisational and technical work of the Party and its everyday functioning, but also the methods of leadership as a whole, to give added vigour to Party life. We do not confine ourselves to calling on Party organisations to ensure regular work of all Party links, systematically to hold meetings of Party members and of leading organs of the Party organisations. We also stress the need for encouraging discussions, developing criticism and self-criticism and criticism from below in particular.

This has been our objective in recent years, but much still remains to be done. We have set ourselves the task of resolutely improving the methods of Party leadership, of further activating and democratising the activity of the Party and of the working people's

organisations so as to improve our work among the masses, to extend the scale of our work for cementing unity of the working masses and the people. Only a vigorous democratic life within the Party and trade unions, only correct collective leadership can ensure extended contact with the masses and enhance our influence among them, ensure for us further successes in winning over the majority of the peoples.

Active, continuous democratic functioning of trade unions, co-operatives, leagues and other working people's organisations is one of the decisive factors in strengthening the unity and intensifying the struggle of the working class and the popular masses for their vital interests.

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A change in Italy's present situation is possible. Italy can have a government which would justify the hopes and aspirations of millions of working men and women who on June 7 cast their votes for peace, freedom, for observance of the Republican Constitution. But if this change is to take place the broad masses must agree on joint action for their common goals. There are problems which can and must be urgently solved in the interests of the nation, but this can only be achieved to the extent we succeed in extending the unity of the working class, of the working population, of the people, To achieve this goal we seek, in the first place, to reinforce our activists, to take greater care of their training, to improve the methods of work, leadership and the entire life of the Party and mass democratic organisations.

IN COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PARTIES

PARTY CONFERENCE IN SOUTH CHINA

The first conference of representatives of the Party organisations of South China, held in Canton, discussed the tasks facing the Communist Party in the transition period and outlined measures to ensure the successful carrying through in South China of the first Five-Year Plan.

The report by Comrade Tao Chu, Acting Secretary of the South China Bureau of the Central Committee, stated that to-date the whole of South China had in the main carried through the social reforms, (South China includes the Kwantung and Kwangsi provinces and the city of Canton). The most important of these were agrarian reform and democratic transformations. Thereby, said Tao Chu, definite conditions have been created in South China for implementation of the first Five-Year Plan.

Comrade Tao Chu then dwelt on the post-liberation successes in the economy. In the past the grain harvests in Kwantung province, he said, were never good and it was always dependent on rice imports. In 1952, however, it reaped roughly 8,750 million kilograms of grain crops which exceeds the pre-war peak. In the Kwantung province, which produces nearly one-third of the country's sugar, the area now planted under sugarcane exceeds the pre-war level. The important task in South China is to ensure the further development of agriculture. The Five-Year Plan for the province

envisages a 35 per cent increase in crop yields compared with 1952.

Comrade Tao Chu also dwelt on the successes registered in developing industry.

MEETINGS OF PARTY ACTIVISTS IN THE POLISH UNITED WORKERS' PARTY

Following the enlarged meetings of county Party committees, county meetings of Party activists are now being held in the Polish United Workers' Party. The activists are discussing the theses adopted by the IXth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party and submitted to the Party branches for discussion before the Second Party Congress. The active discussion of the reports on the results of the IXth Plenum testifies to the fact that the Party activists have mastered the content of the theses, that they realise their great political significance and approve them. The discussion also shows that many Party organisations have begun work on the implementation of the Plenum's decisions.

The question of raising the material and cultural wellbeing of the urban and rural working population holds the attention of these meetings. The tasks of accelerating the rate of development of agriculture are also widely discussed. At meetings of Party activists, held in Lodz and other counties, the people's councils and their agricultural departments were criticised for their inadequate care of the agricultural workers and for the poor training of instructors of agricultural departments.

The meetings emphasised the need for Party activists to study questions related to agriculture.

Special attention is devoted to questions of setting up new Party organisations in the countryside.

The speakers drew attention to the fact that the new tasks demanded introduction of new methods of work. The meetings emphasised the need for extending the ranks of Party activists, for strengthening Party work at small enterprises, intensifying the fight against bureaucratic distortions in Party work, and first of all against suppression of criticism from below.

REPORTING-BACK CONFERENCES IN COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

A meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India was held in Delhi on November 5-9. In addition to other matters the meeting discussed questions connected with the preparations for the Third Party Congress which is due to open on December 27 and will continue until January 3, 1954. At present an active reporting-back and election campaign is underway in the local, district and provincial organisations of the Communist Party of India. Such conferences have already been held in Gujerat, Assam, Punjab, Delhi and in other districts, states and provinces. The agenda of these conferences includes reports by secretaries of the committees, the programme and policy of the Party, the present situation in the country, discussion of the Central Committee's Political Resolution and the Resolution on the Party organisation, and election of delegates to the Third Party Congress.

The reports of the secretaries of the Party committees and the speeches of the rank and file

members at these conferences stressed the fact that the Party organisations have become numerically and qualitatively stronger and have strengthened their influence and the prestige of the Party among the broad masses of the Indian people, particularly among the workers.

The delegates approved the political and organisational line of the Central Committee expressing their readiness to give all their energy to strengthening and extending the democratic movement in India.

The Punjab Provincial Conference attended by over 140 delegates representing more than 3,000 members of the Party in the Punjab and PEPSU called for unity with all Left-wing people, democratic-minded Congressmen, Socialists, other organisations and non-party people in defence of the interests of the masses, in the fight against unemployment and increasing taxation.

In his speech at the Delhi Provincial Conference Comrade E. M. S. Namboodiripad, Acting General Secretary of the Communist Party of India, pointed out that the country was in the grip of a political and economic crisis. He emphasised that in this situation there was no other alternative except to bring about social transformation by putting an end to the existing imperialist and feudal exploitation in India. In view of the growing resistance of the people to the policies of the Government, said Namboodiripad, the task of the Communist Party of India is to build a united, country-wide powerful movement. But, he added, this task demands the building up of a strong, still more consolidated Communist Party.

FOR STRENGTHENING WORKING-CLASS UNITY. Executive Committee Meeting, Communist Party of Great Britain

The Executive Committee meeting of the Communist Party of Great Britain, held on November 14-15, devoted the major part of its time to a discussion on strengthening the struggle by the working class against the sharp decline in living standards.

The main report was delivered by John Gollan, Assistant Editor, Daily Worker, who said that the Tory measures, aimed at reducing living standards, include raising rents for half the population, ending food subsidies and backing the employers in their opposition to wage increases. "The people are fighting back in a growing mass movement which could become as big, if not bigger, than the pre-war gigantic anti-Means Test fight", said John Gollan.

He also pointed out that the Labour leaders did not want to struggle against the Tories. They are out to confine the struggle to feeble Parliamentary so-called opposition.

Concluding, John Gollan said that working-class unity and victory over the Tories call for strengthening the Party.

The Executive Committee also discussed preliminary arrangements for the forthcoming Communist Party National Congress scheduled for April 16-19, 1954.

WORK OF A COMMUNIST PARTY SECTION AMONG FRENCH YOUTH

Since the big metallurgical plant of the “Acieries Nord Comp.” was closed down as a result of the “Marshall Plan”, there are, in the main, only small enterprises left in the Rouet region of Marseilles. Young workers in these factories are subjected to savage exploitation.

Young workers employed at the “Ball-bearing” plant are paid 85 franc per hour, and their working day is ten hours. The young workers of the “Bourtoire” factory producing spring mattresses are paid much less than the adult workers. Juveniles of 14-15 years of age are mercilessly exploited in the “Mure” metallurgical enterprise. “Either work for this money or clear out”—such is the language of the bosses.

The section of the French Communist Party in this region is fighting to put an end to this state of affairs. It exposes exploitation of the youth in leaflets, in its newspaper and at meetings. The Party section shows young workers that the situation in our country can be changed. The youth are absolutely convinced that the French Communists are the genuine champions of their rights and interests. Some 80 young men and women, most of whom work in factories, have recently joined the Party.

A good number of young boys and girls of the Rouet region have joined the progressive youth organisations: 145 (60 more than was the case last year) have become members of the Republican Youth Union and of the French Girls’ Union. These organisations, in accordance with the interests of the youth, are extending their work in defence of youth rights on a wide scale.

Young people of our region, supported by the youth and adult population, were able to take part in the Fourth World Youth Festival in Bucharest. A unity

committee was set up, which included, in particular, representatives of the Catholic youth.

The Party branches of the Rouet section see to the development of the youth organisations and the Marxist-Leninist training of their members. Thirty young Communists have recently graduated from the Section Party School. All Party branches have devoted at least one meeting to discussion on the question of improving mass political work among the youth.

However, there are shortcomings in the work of the section among the youth. Not infrequently, young activists concentrate solely on inner-Party work and devote little time to work among the working youth, apprentices and students. The Party section strives to turn the organisations of the Republican Youth Union and the Girls' Union of France into genuine mass youth organisations.

Vincent PELLEGRINI
Secretary, Section of French
Communist Party,
Rouet Region, Marseilles

FROM COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PRESS

Displaying Constant Care for Vital Needs of Working Masses. "Jenminjihpao"—Central Organ of the Communist Party of China



Jenminjihpao, organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, recently carried in its "Party Life" column an article headed "Intensifying Propaganda Relating to Vital Problems of the Living Standards of the Masses." The article criticizes the serious defects in the work of the propaganda departments of various local Party organizations and some of the local government economic organs which have failed to propagate and explain fully the vital problems of the economic life of the masses—the problems of food, commodity prices and supply of daily necessities, etc.

In pointing out the causes of these shortcomings, the author says that the principal and fundamental cause is that some propaganda departments of the Party organizations and some government economic bodies have shown very little concern for the masses and have failed to pay enough attention to their economic problems. On the one hand, the propaganda departments of the Party organizations hold the mistaken idea that only government economic organs are duty-bound to work for satisfying the material requirements of the masses, and that they themselves are responsible only for 'political propaganda. On the other hand, some government economic organs completely ignore propaganda and explanatory work, wrongly thinking that such work is none of their business, Both ideas are erroneous, separating as they do economic tasks from political tasks, which they regard as independent and disconnected.

“As a matter of fact”, the article says, “these economic problems represent the biggest political problems of the day for they have a bearing on the nation’s large-scale economic construction. Are these not the problems which merit the attention of the Party’s propaganda departments and for which they should carry on Propaganda work?”

Refuting the second erroneous idea, the paper stresses:

“This is an excellent explanation of why some personnel engaged in economic work have a serious anti-popular viewpoint and style of work. They regard their work as purely technical and consider it separate from work among the masses. They do not understand that socialist construction is in itself a tremendous mass movement which will never succeed unless millions

upon millions of people are drawn into it. In the past, some personnel engaged in economic work, through negligence or inaptitude, failed to disseminate and explain the Party policy in the course of their work with the result that they often set the masses against their work.”

Minding and solving the problems of the living conditions of the masses, the paper stresses, represent one of the characteristics which distinguish the Communist Party from other political parties. As early as 1934, Comrade Mao Tse-tung directed us to pay attention to the problems of the living conditions of the masses—problems concerning the land reform, labour and production, problems concerning people’s clothing, food and shelter and problems concerning fuel. The reason why Comrade Mao Tse-tung told us to attend to these problems was that they are of great importance to the revolution. We can only become the organisers of the masses, says the newspaper, only by minding and solving these problems, and only then will the masses rally round us, respond to our political calls and strive to the end for the cause of the revolution.

In conclusion the Paper suggests that to strengthen propaganda work, the Party committees should call meetings of the personnel of the government economic organs and Party propaganda departments to discuss the tasks in explaining the vital problems of the economic life of the masses. These meetings, the paper suggests, should analyse and criticize the existing erroneous ideas so that all those concerned realize that the problem in question is one which affects the cause of national construction. After this there should be a discussion of the measures necessary to strengthen propaganda work, Next, the Party’s propaganda departments and

government economic organs should jointly formulate a programme of propaganda work and its key-points on the basis of the directives and documents issued by the Party's Central Committee and the Central People's Government.

The newspaper points to the vital role of Party organisations at basic level in struggle for eliminating shortcomings in propaganda work.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF INDUSTRY IN PEOPLE'S CHINA

The Chinese working class, inspired by the prospects of the industrialisation of the country, is enthusiastically working to translate these prospects into life. The old production plans are being revised and a new, higher tempo of work is being achieved.

The miners and office employees in the pits of East China have registered substantial successes in the course of the emulation drive for increasing output and observing economy on materials and funds. The Huainan coal fields, the biggest in this region, increased the coal output in October by 4 per cent compared with that in September. The output has also increased by 11.52 per cent in the Tsyawang pits and by 17.38 per cent in the Sangwan pits. The coal industry in this region has overfulfilled the increased October production plan.

The movement for increasing output gained particular momentum during the past two months. By the beginning of November 120 of the 154 state

enterprises in Shanghai launched labour-emulation drives which resulted in overfulfilling the production assignments by 100 plants and factories. The production assignments were also fulfilled and overfulfilled by 38 out of 39 textile mills and dye-works.

RISING LIVING STANDARDS OF WORKING PEOPLE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The successes achieved by the working people of Czechoslovakia in building Socialism enable the Government to raise constantly the wellbeing of the masses and their material and cultural level. More houses are being built, the production of foodstuffs and consumer goods is increasing, the trade turnover is constantly growing and the public health services are being improved.

As is known, from October 1 retail prices for 23,000 varieties of goods were reduced from 5 to 40 per cent. As a result of these price reductions the population will be better off by 4,5 billion crowns a year. At the same time fixed purchase prices for agricultural produce have been considerably raised.

The successes of the national economy in the third quarter of this year are fresh striking proof of the constant concern of the people's democratic state for the working people.

The production of the main items of foodstuffs in July-September has increased in comparison with the corresponding period of the previous year: meat, 10 per cent; bread, 13; vegetable oil, 66; tinned vegetables, 3.4 times. The output of knitted goods increased 27 per cent; bed-linen, 57 per cent; special rubber footwear, 51 per cent, etc.

The state and co-operative trade network, public restaurants and canteens sold to the population during the third quarter 17 per cent more meat; 4.6 times more tinned meat; 27 per cent more fat and 25 per cent more sugar compared with the corresponding period of

the previous year. During the same period the sale of cotton fabrics increased 22 per cent; men's readymade clothes, 89 per cent; children's clothes doubled, etc.

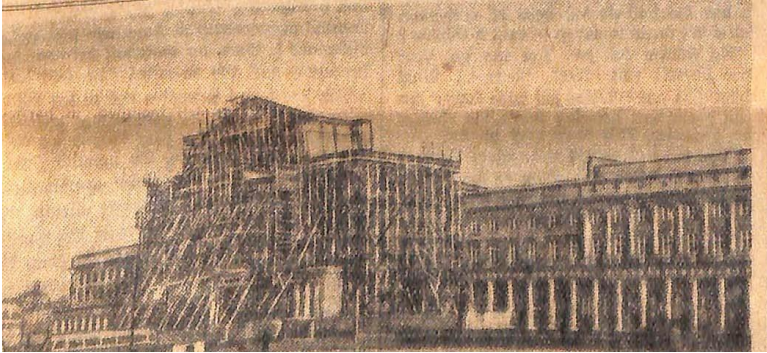
The people of Czechoslovakia respond to the solicitude of the Party and the Government with fresh labour successes to the glory of their homeland.

DEVELOPMENT OF ENGINEERING INDUSTRY IN BULGARIA

New plants have appeared in Bulgaria in place of the former semi-handicraft workshops. These plants satisfy to a considerable extent the needs of the country for machinery and equipment. At present engineering plants of the country produce almost all types of agricultural machines, except tractors and combines. Plants of the agricultural machine-building industry have embarked this year on the production of a number of new types of machines. The first Bulgarian harvesting combine was built and tested last summer and the first ditchers and seed-cleaning apparatus produced. Production of the sugar-beet and cotton-picker combines is being launched.

During the past two years Bulgarian industry has begun production of various types of lathes, equipment for the mining and building industry. Diesels and electro-motors, transformers and pumps, pneumatic drillers and many other machines essential for the economy. From 1949 to 1953 the engineering industry of Bulgaria organised the production of 400 new types of machines. Many construction sites in Bulgaria are equipped with machinery made in the country. During the first Five-Year Plan period the output of the metal-working industry grew 2.5 times as compared with 1948 and 5 times as compared with the pre-war 1939.

PHOTO: GRAND THEATRE BEING BUILT IN WARSAW



Apart from its solicitude for improving the material wellbeing of the working people the Government of People's Poland devotes serious attention to cultural development.

Photo: Grand Theatre being built in Warsaw

**EVE OF ELECTIONS TO LOCAL PEOPLE'S
COUNCILS IN RUMANIA. D. Coliu,
Alternate Member, Political Bureau,
Central Committee, Rumanian Workers'
Party**

On December 20, the working people in the Rumanian People's Republic will go to the polls to elect Deputies to the people's councils—the local organs of state power.

The people's councils are the most democratic organs of power in the history of our country. They constitute the political foundation of the Rumanian People's Republic. Through the medium of the largest mass organisation the working people in town and country exercise their power and actively participate in the management of the state, The people's council has a great part to play in developing the creative initiative of the masses, in carrying out the re-construction of the life of the country along socialist lines and in the economic and cultural transformation of the regions, districts, towns and villages. Within their respective territories the people's councils direct the work of local industry, agriculture, trade, supplies to the population, and the network of the public health establishments, etc.

The people's councils differ fundamentally from the former local organs of the Rumanian bourgeois-landlord state which were hated and despised by the masses. In monarchist Rumania power in the localities was exercised by the prefects, mayors and judges appointed

by the government from among the most brutal and greedy exploiters.

Gone for ever are those times which were notorious for lack of rights and for oppression of the working people of Rumania. Today the election to the people's councils is an event of paramount significance in the political and economic life of the country, a new striking proof of the profoundly democratic nature of the people's democratic system which guarantees to all the working people the great rights and civil liberties embodied in the Constitution of the Rumanian People's Republic.

In the course of the election campaign the toiling masses are expressing their love for and the trust they repose in the Rumanian Workers' Party which, by its entire activity, has proved that it places the interests of the people above everything else. The broad masses are becoming increasingly conscious of the policy of the Party, which aims at raising the wellbeing of the working people, at building a socialist society; they regard this policy of the Party as their own policy—the fact which makes for the consolidation of the people's democratic system and renders it invincible.

The election campaign, which is developing under the slogan of strengthening the basis of the people's democratic state—the worker-peasant alliance under the leadership of the working class—further activates the million-fold masses in their struggle for the realisation of the decisions of the Party and the Government relating to the development of the national economy and the improvement of the living standards of the working people.

The people's councils in the Rumanian People's Republic developed and grew strong in conditions of the fearful class struggle against the enemies of the people's democratic system. The former factory owners, landlords and their hirelings and the largest class of exploiters in our country—the kulaks—were and are trying might and main to undermine the strength of the people's democratic state and its organs of power. The people's councils proved that, led by the Party organisations and supported by the broad masses of the working people they are capable of exposing and frustrating any machinations of the enemies of the working people. The exposing and smashing of the right deviation in our Party greatly added to the efficiency and revolutionary vigilance of the local organs of state power in their struggle against the machinations of the exploiting and hostile elements.

Learning from the experience of the state apparatus in the USSR, the people's councils in our country decide all questions in conditions of active participation of the masses, constantly maintaining and strengthening their bonds with the masses and resolutely removing all the barriers which might stand between the state apparatus and masses of the working people.

Guided by the principle of democratic centralism—the basic principle in the organisation and activity of the people's councils—they widely apply various organisational forms for strengthening their ties with the masses. This includes reports by the deputies to the electorate, the work of the standing commissions which contain the active members of the people's councils, the civic committees, women's delegate meetings, etc.

Being the largest mass organisation of the working people in town and country the people's councils help in furthering the alliance of working class and working peasantry. The fact that the people's councils are elected from representatives of all nationalities inhabiting our country helps to consolidate the bonds of friendship between the nationalities, helps to maintain fraternal relations between the Rumanian people and the national minorities.

The people's councils have done good work in all spheres of political, economic and cultural life of the country during the few years of their existence. They are vividly and convincingly shown the cardinal difference between themselves and the local administrative bodies in bourgeois-landlord Rumania and their great superiority over them. The overwhelming majority of the deputies have proved themselves to be active workers, loyal to the people's democratic system, to their people and to the cause of Socialism. The people's councils have drawn hundreds of thousands of working people into the solution of questions of vital importance to the state, They have set up 6,500 civic committees of which the women's commissions alone employ 350,000 women. Splendid cadres of state, Party and business functionaries have been trained as a result of their practical work in the people's councils. The work of the people's councils provides graphic evidence of the inexhaustible opportunities which exist for the development of people in the people's democratic state, for the growth of the people who have become the real master in their country.

The people's councils have done much to develop local industry, to utilise the rich local resources which the bourgeois-landlord organs of power neglected. In

Bucharest, Jassy, Oradea and Targul Mures, for example, the manufacture of consumer goods and foodstuffs was started on the initiative of the local councils. In a number of regions the output of local industry has increased 2-6 times in the past three years.

Striving to improve supplies to the population the people's councils in the Bucharest, Ploesti, Craiova and other regions organised livestock farms and big vegetable bases in the suburbs of towns and working-class settlements. Considerable attention was paid to the building of schools, hospitals, houses, sports grounds, to laying out new parks and public gardens, and to improving the every-day services.

No small credit is due to the people's councils for nearly 4,000 agricultural co-operatives and collective farms that have been set up in the country. The people's councils in the rural localities are rallying the working peasantry for successful work in the fields, for large-scale use of up-to-date farming methods in soil cultivation. Many people's councils have fulfilled the state procurement assignments and state deliveries in an exemplary manner and have attained good results in strengthening the consumer co-operatives, in purging them of alien elements and improving trade between town and countryside.

Relying on the active support of the working peasantry the people's councils are doing much to raise the material and cultural level of the peasants who under bourgeois-landlord rule were poverty-stricken and ignorant. This year alone some 724 schools, 387 rural houses of culture, 850 bridges, were built or repaired, 57 villages electrified, etc. In the course of the academic year 1952-53 some 750,000 illiterates were taught to read and write.

However, these good results achieved by the people's councils cannot conceal the fact that there were also serious shortcomings in their work. One of the major shortcomings is that they did not give sufficient attention to the development of local industry, that they did not in due measure utilise the local resources at their disposal, did not always display concern for steadily raising the living standards of the working people. They did not devote sufficient attention to production of foodstuffs, household goods and to their quality and did not take into account the requirements of the consumers. Nor did the people's councils help adequately to provide industry with raw materials and the workers with foodstuffs. The people's councils paid surprisingly little attention to the organisational and economic strengthening of the collective farms. Nor did the Executives of the people's councils stimulate the extended production by the small and middle peasants, forgetting that the individual peasant farmsteads account for 75 per cent of the country's market grain supplies.

A number of people's councils resorted, in violation of the Central Committee's instructions, to measures which led to liquidation of private trade thereby worsening commodity exchange between town and countryside and the supply of foodstuffs for the population.

Some chairmen and secretaries of these bodies do not as yet realise that collective leadership is the main prerequisite for correct and fruitful activity of the people's council.

There are also executive committees which do not draw Deputies into the work of the people's council, do not rely on a broad Active of people thus separating

themselves from the masses. It is this that sometimes explains the inactivity of the permanent commissions, although experience shows that these commissions are a powerful means for drawing the masses into the everyday activity of the people's councils. At times functionaries of the people's councils, taken up with bureaucratic methods of work, cease learning from the masses, ignore the opinions and proposals of the working people, disregard criticism from below, forgetting that their duty is to serve the interests of the people. They estrange themselves from the masses and become inaccessible to the working people.

These shortcomings in the work of the people's councils largely result from the weaknesses in the leadership given them by Party organisations which fail everywhere to direct their activity along the correct pathway, fail to help people's councils solve the tasks confronting them.

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The decree of the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly and then regulations on elections to the people's councils provide a striking confirmation of the rights and freedoms won by our people and embodied in the Constitution of the Rumanian People's Republic. Our election system guarantees to all working people the right to vote, to nominate candidates and the right to nominate members of the election commissions. Former capitalists, landlords and other exploiting and hostile elements are deprived of suffrage.

The genuine democratic character of our election system is clearly seen, for example, from the fact that the electorate has trebled compared with the bourgeois-landlord rule. Over 500,000 worker

representatives were sent to work on the election commissions. Over 135,000 candidates stood for election to the regional, district, town and village people's councils—25,000 more than the number elected to the people's councils in 1950.

The deputies of the people's councils are subject to full control by their electorate. The working people enjoy the right of control over the activity of their Deputies to the local organs of power and to recall them should they fail in their noble duty as servants of the people.

As was the case in the previous local elections, representatives of the Rumanian Workers' Party stand for election on joint lists with representatives of the mass and public organisations of the working people in town and country, within the framework of the People's Democratic Front.

The working people in all towns and villages enthusiastically discussed every candidature and had their say in deciding who should be nominated as candidate. The high consciousness of the working people and the care they displayed for ensuring the continuous consolidation of the people's-democratic state was manifested in the fact that candidates were nominated from among the best sons and daughters of the people., leaders of the Party and the Government. Stakhanovites and advanced workers, working peasants, and intellectuals linked with the people. They include Party members and non-party people, and a considerable number of women and young people.

At the election rallies and meetings of candidates with their electorate the working people criticise the shortcomings in work of the people's councils and make

many very valuable suggestions aimed at improving their work.

During the election campaign the Party and mass organisations are conducting explanatory work on a wide scale. Tens of thousands of canvassers are engaged in popularising the achievements of the people's-democratic system, explaining to the working people the election law, discussing current world events and demonstrating, on the basis of concrete examples, the unquestionable superiority of the people's democratic system over rotten bourgeois democracy.

The growth in the activity and creative initiative of the masses during the election campaign is reflected in the successful realisation of the decisions adopted by the August meeting of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party aimed at ensuring a further development of the national economy, improving the material and cultural life of the working people and strengthening the bonds of the Party and the masses. Having taken pledges on the occasion of the election, the workers in the textile mills in Bucharest, for example, produced nearly 100,000 metres of different types of fabrics over and above the plan, introducing 38 new types of fabrics and 43 new designs thereby saving a large quantity of materials.

There are, however, a number of shortcomings wherever the Party organisations pay inadequate attention to the election of people's councils. The election campaign has not been used in every locality to improve the work of the people's councils and to mobilise the people for carrying out the decision of the August meeting of the Central Committee. Certain Party organisations fixed their attention mainly on the technical and organisational preparations for the

election, failed to develop the mass-political work, to brief the canvassers properly and did not see to it that the election law as correctly observed. The Party organisations are duty bound to rectify these mistake quickly, in the course of their work.

The election campaign is a brilliant manifestation of the new spirit in the political life of our country. It testifies to a further enhancement of the consciousness of the masses, to the inviolable unity of the Party, Government and the people. The Rumanian people, closely united around the Rumanian Workers' Party, fully determined to overcome all obstacles and succeed in the lofty struggle for building Socialism, will make their contribution to the strengthening of the greatest achievement of the people's—the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism—and to the intensification of the struggle for peace.

ENEMIES OF PEACE CONTINUING THEIR LINE. Jan Drda

Were one to collect into a single heap all the proofs of swindle, falsehood, hypocrisy, foul play and baseness of the American reactionary press these would probably not only fill up the waters of the New York port but in addition quite a mountain range would appear over and above it. To emit both hot and cold from one and the same mouth, as a Czech saying goes, that is, shamelessly to lie about one's peaceful intentions and simultaneously threaten the world with destruction if it refuses to put its head into an American noose—all this constitutes part and parcel of the moral make-up of the enemies of peace in the same way as the wolf's fangs belong to the wolf or the beak to the vulture.

Tartuffe is simply a novice compared with them! And indeed, how could he compete with the professional skill of the hired apologists of the American monopolies, the experts in lies poured out torrents of filth from platforms and university rostrums, church pulpits or from the pens of the hired hacks in order to confuse the minds of the American people and blunt their sober judgement and feelings.

The bogey of "Soviet aggression" which has long since been completely discredited and exposed plays the major role in the American "chamber of horrors". At first glance it would look like the nightmare of a maniac whose insensate dream turns his own shadow into an attacking enemy. However, let us not be mistaken. Despite the fact that the Forrestals have done some jumping from windows, these liars, who have run amuck, cannot be dismissed simply as lunatics, in this

particular sense of the word. The whipping up of war psychosis is not merely the ravings of a lunatic; it is one of the essential elements of the policy of the “cold war”.

The unbridled propaganda of war and violence literally floods the American press. The monopoly press beats all the records for whipping up war hysteria. Not long ago James Burnham, one of the ideologists of American imperialism, openly declared:

If I want war and you want peace then what is there to discuss? Nor have the words spoken by Mr. Bernard Baruch been lost on us,—Baruch, the author of the notorious plan which makes any development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes impossible and creates a loophole for using it for the aims of war. Peace, be said, seems to be a nice thing in the days of war, but it becomes almost repugnant the moment the war is over.

It is only due to the fact that the peace movement has become a powerful material force and that the Soviet Union stands guarding peace and lays bare every imperialist intrigue aimed at unleashing a new war—only these things frustrate the realisation of the aggressive designs of the enemies of peace.

This merely makes the warmongers try even more frantically to create an atmosphere of panic and mass hysteria in both the United States and other countries to which imperialists’ tentacles can reach. An example of this can be seen in one of the October issues of the weekly “U.S. News & World Report”. It goes into raptures lauding the plans for “atom attack” on the countries of the democratic camp. To destroy, blow up, to burn down the peaceful cities and towns—this is the blood-thirsty note which permeates every line of the article in the above-mentioned issue or the magazine. In

a spirit of commercial publicity the author praises to the sides the American General Curtis E. LeMay. And in what particular field has this brave General distinguished himself? He, it is said, is the “world’s greatest authority on modern bombing techniques”. The “U.S. News & World Report” prints a map of the American air bases dotted all along the borders of the countries of democracy and Socialism. The arrows running from the bases indicate the route to be followed by the American bombers carrying their lethal cargo. The caption reads: “Bases, Jets and A-Bombs are Ready”. This is the real purport of the American bases whose allegedly “defensive” nature has for many years been hypocritically boosted by the American propaganda machine.

Were we to judge this article on the basis of the arrogance and boasting of its author we could say that he is simply a degenerate, a crazy Baron Munchhausen. But we must openly say: this is not the outcome of the ravings of a lunatic. The magazine merely blurts out the secret intentions of the most reactionary circles of the USA, which harbour plans of aggression against the USSR and the countries of people’s democracy. This is but a typical manifestation of the imperialist ideology: it reveals the countenance and mode of thinking of the representatives of the camp of war and aggression and is part and parcel of their preparations for a new war. Precisely to further this aim they deem it necessary to foster among people fear, panic and hysteria and to enmesh the American people and the peoples of other capitalist countries in an ever thicker web of lies and slander, to demoralise them until they become no better than panic-stricken animals, no longer able to distinguish between black and white, between the truth

and the lie. The “ideological” substantiation for this is provided by yet another speech of the self-same James Burnham who seeks to break the will of the ordinary American for peace by asserting that war is a natural phenomenon and that nowadays there is no longer a demarcation line between peace and war.

When reading these words recalled some typical shots from an American newsreel depicting a popular American sport, wrestling in mud. The boggy mud into which the two rivals plunge each other has the effect of gradually depriving them of all traces of a human being; it gets into their eyes, ears and mouths and turns them into stupefied monsters who in place of human mind and feeling have but a bestial desire to drown the rival in the mud. This is precisely the purpose of these articles and the campaign for whipping up war hysteria; they are intended to deprive man of all human resemblance and turn him into a beast wallowing in mud.

It is clear however, that, despite such efforts to turn a human being into a beast, it is impossible to come out openly before the American people with an ideology of aggressive war against the Soviet Union and other countries of the camp of peace. It is just for this reason that the American experts in lies are trying so hard to portray the foul attack on the peaceful Korea as an act of the United Nations Organisation and to picture the Soviet Union-the most consistent champion of world peace-as a “dangerous aggressor”.

With a lighted lantern in daylight they should, like Diogenes in his time, and just as vainly as he, look for some concrete argument testifying to the aggressive designs of the Soviet Union. There has not been a single episode, event or pronouncement by Soviet statesmen,

in the course of the 36 years' existence of the Soviet Union—in its birth, development and the victorious building of Socialism—that would in the slightest degree substantiate the imperialist arguments. This is clear to hundreds of millions of honest men and women throughout the world, and these millions draw strength in their fight for peace precisely from this confidence in the Soviet Union, from its peace-loving intentions, its staunchness in defence of peace. Millions in all parts of the world know that the peaceful aspirations of the Soviet Union and its peoples are deeply rooted and determined by profound objective reasons that the very essence of the socialist system demands a peaceful development and not aggression.

This truth, like the sun, shines high over the horizon and cannot be hidden by the dense cloud of lies and slander. Hence the warmongering article in the “U.S. News & World Report” is not only a filthy piece of work, but is a vain effort. The more feverish the cries of the imperialist criminals that they alone can save the world from the “Red menace”, the louder and ‘more indignant sounds the demand in many countries: “Americans, go home!”

We have an old and witty saying In Czechia: “Call a swine a swan a hundred times but it will still not grow wings. Though the imperialists may hundreds of times pose as champions of peace, no make-up can hide their wolfish countenance. These facts can only be ignored by those submerged in mud whose eyes are blinded, whose ears are dogged and whose brains are confused. The US mercenary press strives might and main to reduce the American people to this humiliating state. It is worthwhile recalling Abraham Lincoln who wrote in his time that you can fool some of the people all of the

time, you can fool all of the people some of the time but you can't fool all the people all the time!

The slanderous tale with which the "U.S. News & World Report" strives to fool the people would seem foolish and naive had it not been so bloody and savage. Apart from the lies and slander about the "aggressive intentions" of the Soviet Union this fable relates how easy it is to do away with the Soviet Union and the entire camp of peace by means of a "push-button war", and that this can allegedly be accomplished by some two thousand "brave lads" and two thousand or so fairy-tale shell-proof bombers, reminiscent of the magic carpet from the "Arabian Nights".

However, the success of this fable is spoilt by the fact that, the US bombers are far from being shell-proof, a matter which was proved more than once by the soldiers of People's Korea and by the Chinese People's Volunteers, Besides, however much the US aggressors may regret it, their monopoly of the Atom and H-Bomb has now indeed passed into the realm of dreamland...

What however is typical in this madman's tale which the "U.S. News & World Report" offers its readers? First, it dare not tell the average American that, like the hundreds of thousands of American lads-his compatriots—in Korea, he too will have to go to war, and that his life will be at stake when

bullets and bombs begin to fly. The burdens of war will be borne not by the “professional soldiers” who will do the fighting while the average American stays home, but, as a rule, by entire nations. The imperialist criminals seek to conceal and hide from the average American the simple truth that war is not what he sees in an adventure film.

This, however, does not contradict the monster war hysteria and panic which the imperialists have whipped up in the past few years. There is logic in the fact: on the one hand, to have people believe that war is inevitable and, on the other, to instil in the minds of the people the vain hope that they themselves will not be affected by the war, to promise Mr. Babitt that he personally will escape the horrors of war. To entice and intimidate, to instigate and to drag in—these, are two sides of one and the same criminal method.

In our homeland, in the countries of people’s democracy, we look calmly and without any hysteria at these cannibal fables served to their readers by the “U.S. News & World Report” and other magazines and newspapers disseminating slander. We continue to draw a demarcation line between peace and war. We want peace, because we are building Socialism. The Soviet Union also wants peace because it is engaged in building Communism. Our million-fold masses have been rallied for action, without fables, promises or threats, in order by their own creative labour to build happiness on this earth, to make man and all people real owners and masters of their land.

Our plans for utilising atomic energy differ from those of the imperialist provocateurs. Millions of common people enthusiastically welcomed the statement of the Soviet representative to Uno who said

from the Uno rostrum: We want atomic energy to help us carry out our great tasks of peaceful construction. We want to use it for destruction, of mountain ranges, for changing the course of rivers, for watering our deserts, for bringing life to places still untouched by man.

Woe to those who will dare- to raise a hand against this great human cause!

PUERTO RICO UNDER THE YOKE OF U.S. COLONISERS (Letter from San Juan)

As is known the UN Charter stipulates that the United States shall inform Uno about the non-self-governing territories under US “trusteeship”.

However, the US diplomats refuse point-blank to give any reports on the economic and social situation in Puerto Rico which is in fact an American colony. In justification of their unlawful actions they asserted that Puerto Rico has been given “full self-government” with regard internal matters and a report on the state of affairs in that country was therefore “superfluous and inexpedient”. The US representatives assert that the enactment of the new “constitution” had resulted in the elimination of the “remainders of colonialism”. At the same time the US bourgeois press is doing its best to disseminate a myth about the “independence” of Puerto Rico.

How can one explain. the fact that the ruling circles in Washington, having taken upon themselves the right of Uno to decide the question as to whether the Puerto Ricans e achieved complete self-government, refuse to submit information to Uno on the conditions in this territory.

The fact is that the USA is doing its best to maintain the colonial regime in Puerto Rico. They are seeking, under any pretext, to conceal from world public opinion the plight of our people arising from the policy of plunder and violence they are conducting in our country.

As far back as July 1952 the then US President Truman endorsed the “constitution” of Puerto Rico in which this American colony was named a “Free Associated State”. The US imperialists sought to give the impression that the “constitution” had been written by the Puerto Ricans themselves. In fact, however, it was foisted on us by the US Congress. It would be enough to acquaint oneself with the US laws pertaining to Puerto Rico in order to see that the foundations of the colonial rule imposed by the USA on our country in 1898 have been in no way changed as a result of the forced enactment of the new “constitution”; it has, on the contrary, consolidated the US monopoly rule of our country. Puerto Rico remains under the political, economic and military domination of the USA. The Law of Federal Relations with Puerto Rico, adopted by the US Congress in July 1950, defines our country as one which is completely in the possession of the USA.

This same one-sided legislation stipulates that the rights, privileges and immunity of US citizens resident in Puerto Rico be observed as though it were a US State. Formally the Puerto Ricans are simultaneously citizens of the USA but in fact they do not elect the US federal legislative bodies. The Law of Federal Relations provides that Puerto Rico be included in the US tariff and monetary system. The domestic life of the “independent state” of Puerto Rico is governed by the notorious US reactionary Taft-Hartley, Smith and McCarran Acts. Under the US Selective Service Law young Puerto Ricans are obliged to lay down their lives in the interests of the US imperialists. The Puerto Ricans are forced to serve in the armed forces of the United States stationed in Western Europe and other regions of the world. About 3,500 forcefully “recruited”

soldiers of Puerto Rico have been killed in action, wounded or are missing as a result of the bloody US aggression in Korea.

The United States regards Puerto Rico as a convenient place for building their numerous war bases, as a profitable supplier of raw materials and cheap labour and a source for accruing maximum profits. The US monopolists are drawing huge profits from their capital investments in Puerto Rico. In the 10-year period of 1942-51 they made 118,182,000 dollars in this way. In 1945 the US millionaires, exploiting the Puerto Ricans, appropriated 39 per cent of their national income; in 1950 this figure stood at 43 and is now at a still higher level.

The U.S. monopolies forced the one-sided colonial development of the Puerto Rico economy. This means that our economy is entirely dependent on production and sales of sugar alone. The USA has arbitrarily fixed a quota for production of both raw and refined sugar. This quota is 910,000 tons, of which only 126,000 tons can be refined and shipped to the USA. The ban on refining all the sugar it produces has cost Puerto Rico many millions of dollars. If this sugar had been refined in our enterprises thousands of workers in Puerto Rico would have had employment.

Foreign capital, mainly American; appropriated 80 per cent of the land in Puerto Rico. The households of small producers were swallowed by big plantations belonging to the US monopolies. In the 50 years of their rule the US monopolies have evicted 100,000 Puerto Rican farmers from their best land. At present the vast majority of peasants in Puerto Rico possesses no land at all.

A large portion of land under sugar-cane and 40 per cent of its production belong to US capital. Several American sugar companies rule the roost on the Island. These companies possess the best arable land in the country with the result that the Puerto Ricans are unable to satisfy their needs in foodstuffs by their own production. Hence, Puerto Rico is compelled to import from the USA nearly 40 per cent of the foodstuffs consumed, paying the US imposed speculative prices, whereas the prices for sugar exported from Puerto Rico are frozen by the US at prewar levels.

The Americans force Puerto Rico to trade only with them and do not allow our country to buy and sell in the markets of other countries. Some 94 per cent of our foreign trade is controlled by the Americans. Even according to the figures put out by the WS Tariff Commission, an obvious underestimation, Puerto Rico pays 1,220,000 dollars annually above normal world prices for the rice it consumes.

Our people proudly call our Island “the country of eternal spring,” Now the US has turned it into a country of eternal poverty. The name of the Island (Puerto Rico is a “rich port” in Spanish) sounds like a mockery today. As the author of the book “Geography of Hunger”, De Castro, graphically put it, Puerto Rico is “a black spot on the map of world hunger”. And this is the truth. Subordination of our economy to the US military machine has resulted in the fact that it is now in the grip of crisis, Our wealth—sugar, coffee, tobacco, vegetables, fruit etc.—yield huge profits only to US concerns and their partners in Puerto Rico. Since 1940 Puerto Rico’s balance of trade has been consistently adverse every year. Suffice it to say that the trade deficit of the years 1941-51 amounted to 724 million

dollars. The total debt of Puerto Rico to US financial oligarchy amounts to 204 million dollars.

The number of unemployed and part-time workers in our relatively small country of 2,250,000 people has reached 300,000, that is 30-35 per cent of the labour force. The workers are paid miserable wages.

Thousands of downtrodden Puerto Ricans, driven by unemployment and hunger, are emigrating to the United States in search of work. During the post-war years alone over 300,000 Puerto Ricans have emigrated to the USA. However, in the USA Puerto Ricans become victims of US chauvinism, of ruthless exploitation and oppression like other national minorities.

In particularly bad straits are our children. The vast majority of the population is starving and thousands of children are dying of tuberculosis. There are 450,000 children of school age who cannot attend school because of their privations. The dire plight in which our people find themselves is a direct consequence of the US colonial policy and graphically shows that the Eisenhower administration is not fulfilling its obligations under the UN Charter in relation to this non-self-governing territory.

The facts quoted testify to the complete failure of the US attempts to rank Puerto Rico among the "independent states".

The example of Puerto Rico shows the peoples of dependent countries the fate the US "benefactors" have in store for them. While professing to be an opponent of the colonial system the Eisenhower administration at the same time intends to continue to subject our people to unrestricted oppression. It prevents the Trusteeship Committee from hearing the representatives of the political parties of Puerto Rico which stand for the

national liberation of our country. The dictatorial government of the US puppet Luis Munoz-Marin resorts to repression and terror, trying to suppress the anti-American sentiments and mounting resistance of the working people to the policy of grovelling before the US imperialists. In obedience to orders from Washington the San Juan authorities jail fighters for peace, pass savage sentences on the leaders of the Communist Party and the working class, on patriots and fighters for the independence of the country. The shabby remnants of our democratic freedoms are being attacked.

However, increasing numbers of our working people are rising in struggle against the rule of US monopolies, against the US businessmen acting the master in our country. The powerful movement for the genuine national independence of our country is headed by the Communist Party of Puerto Rico. Its slogans are supported by the big trade unions and numerous progressive and democratic organisations. The Puerto Ricans demand that the US government recognise the right of our people to self-government and that an end be put to colonial exploitation. The profound desire of our people is to live in peace with other nations and to dispose of their own resources.

Our people will uphold their national independence and achieve recognition of their sovereignty.

R. M.

San Juan, November.

MEETING OF PARTY ACTIVISTS FROM OSLO AND AKERSHUS PROVINCE

At the recent meeting of Party activists from Oslo and Akershus province, Strandlohanen, Deputy Chairman of the Communist Party of Norway, made a report on the lessons of the recent parliamentary election and on the vital political tasks for the coming year. A report on the organisational problems was delivered by the Secretary of the organisation Asbyrn Andersen. Discussion followed.

The resolution, unanimously adopted by the meeting, emphasises that the main task of the Communist Party of Norway for the coming year is the carrying out of widespread activity against militarisation of the country, against the longer term of military service, against accommodation of foreign troops in Norway and against any collaboration with Franco Spain.

PEACE MOVEMENT IN CHILE

The National Peace Council of Chile recently held a special meeting in Valparaiso which was attended by the representatives of local peace committees and prominent public figures.

Colonel Alfredo de Amesti, Chairman of the National Peace Committee delivered a report on extending the fight for a peaceful settlement of controversial international problems, in which he emphasised the need to fight for peace with still more determination and vigour.

Addressing the gathering Olga Poblete, General Secretary of the National Peace Committee, stressed the need for launching a nation-wide campaign for collecting signatures to an appeal demanding the cancellation of the military agreement with the USA. She also emphasised the need to strive for extension of trade and cultural relations with all countries as a means of contributing to the relaxation of the international tension.

The National Peace Council resolved to hold a National Peace Congress in April next year.

PRICES SOARING IN ARGENTINA

“Nuestra Palabra”, organ of the Communist Party of Argentina, published the data showing the growth of prices in the country.

From 1947 to 1953 prices for the basic items of goods of mass consumption increased as follows: bread, 375 per cent; meat, 590 per cent, etc. At the same time the wages of skilled workers grew only about 235-275 per cent. While a monthly wage of a skilled worker averages 800-950 pesos and that of a labourer—650-700 pesos, the monthly cost of living for a working-class family of four amounts to 1,863 pesos.

The Communist Party of Argentina called on the working people to set up everywhere unified committees, independent of the employers and the state, and strive for higher wages and to ensure the adoption, under the control of the workers and the people, of effective measures to check the growth of the cost of living.

BOOK REVIEW

A CONTRIBUTION BY FRENCH WRITERS TO CAUSE OF PEACE

‘The people of France are more and more resolutely voicing their protest against the “Dirty war”, as they call the brigandish war waged by the French reactionary rulers in collaboration with the US imperialists against the young Republic of Viet Nam.

French progressive writers are actively participating in the struggle of the people for an immediate end to this gamble, which is causing the senseless sacrifice of the lives of thousands of young Frenchmen, swallowing a major part of the budget of the country and seriously worsening the living conditions of the working people. André Stil, member of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party, a talented writer and a staunch fighter for peace, tackled this subject in his novel entitled “The Seine Goes Sea”. Later in the first novel of trilogy—“The Water Tower”—which was awarded the Stalin Prize, André Stil described the courageous struggle of the dockers in one of the US-occupied ports in France. The third volume of Stil’s trilogy, “Paris Is With Us”, has recently come off the press.

This year a number of novels dealing with the struggle against the war in Viet Nam has appeared in succession in France: “Nephrite Sticks” by Madeleine Riffaut, “Last Cartridge” by Jean Pierre Chabrol, “Number 2078” by Héléne Parmelin, “Black River” by Pierre Courtade, etc. Each writer, differing from the

rest in his literary skill and experience, contributes in a big way to the struggle of all honest people of the world against the policy, widely practiced by the imperialists, of setting nations against nations, the struggle against the foul attempts to use Viet Nam for creating new seats of war in Asia.

Hélène Parmelin, who had waged a campaign in defence of Henri Martin in the columns of l'Humanité", used all the documents pertaining to this case in her book "Number 2078" in order to expose the arbitrariness of the French rulers who have sold themselves to Wall Street and who are throwing the honest patriotic peace fighters into prison, while simultaneously releasing the military criminals. The writer showed the profound patriotism of Henri Martin who acted in conformity with the vital interests of the nation.

In writing her book, "Nephrite Sticks", Madeleine Riffaut set herself the task of acquainting her compatriots with the people of Viet Nam, with those whom the French rulers 'brazenly present as their enemies.

The best poetry of the people waging a courageous struggle, Vietnamese folklore, poems devoted to President Ho Chi Minh, a series of interviews the author had with young soldiers of Viet Nam at the Third Festival of World Youth in Berlin—all this collected in one book produces on the reader a profound impression of heroic Viet Nam, of the men and women of Viet Nam who are upholding the freedom and the centuries-old culture of their homeland.

In his first novel, headed "Last Cartridge", Jean Pierre Chabrol shows the tragedy of the young Frenchmen who lay down their lives in Viet Nam in the

interests of the profits of the French colonisers and American monopolies. A French officer, Christian Besseges, is the hero of the novel. When a student during the Nazi occupation of France he played his part with all the vigour of youth in the Resistance Movement against the invaders and after the liberation of the country became an army officer. After a year's service with a garrison in France he was sent to Indo-China where he saw for himself the bestial nature of the colonial war in all its horror and the accompanying corruption. Willy-nilly, Christian began more and more to draw a parallel between his functions in Viet Nam and those of the Hitlerites who had trampled France underfoot not long ago, the Hitlerites against whom he had fought with undying hatred. In the long run, the young officer refused to take part in the crimes against the people of Viet Nam. The novel "Black River" by Pierre Courtade is the best of these books. François Billoux, member of the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party, wrote in his article on this book: "The 'Black River' will undoubtedly be acknowledged as a great novel since it deals directly with problems which are the constant concern of French men and women."

The novel "Black River" is a story of the Hoa Binh battle in January 1952, one of the most illuminating battles fought in Viet Nam. The author showed with particular force the profound difference "between the two armies fighting each other. On the one hand, there is the People's Army of Viet Nam enjoying the support of the entire people, made up of heroic fighters who understand clearly the cause for which they are fighting and dying; on the other hand, there is the heterogeneous army of the French colonisers in which the former Hitler SS-men and their new-found French

followers fight side by side with honest French men-involved in the diabolic war by deceit, side by side with Moroccan and Senegal soldiers and the soldiers of other nations forcibly plunged into this criminal bloody gamble.

The book hails the inviolable friendship of the peoples of France and Viet Nam and points to the justice of the cause of the people of Viet Nam fighting to drive the invaders from their land and for the independence of their homeland. Of particular value is the fact that the novel shows the genuine internationalism of the soldiers of Viet Nam. Addressing the young soldiers of a shock group assigned to play a decisive role in the outcome of a battle, the commissar of the Army of Viet Nam says: "We must bear in mind that we are not fighting against the French people. We are dealing with criminals but they include the deceived and the wretched. In this battle the French people are on our side. And this is very important".

Those involved in the war against the people of Viet Nam by deceit include officers like Lieutenant de Larrillere who at first did not try to understand the causes of this war. Later the entire course of events made him gradually understand the grim truth. However, he learnt it too late when he was dying of serious wounds.

By showing life in the occupied towns, by exposing the foul self-seeker Pommardier, member of the parliamentary investigation commission who is solely concerned with his own profits, by revealing the treacherous role of the Bao Dai puppets, Pierre Courtade exposes step by step the corruption and machinations arising from the war.

Describing a typical character—a certain Griffith, a chargé d'affaires at the US legation,—the author exposes the foul part played by the US interventionists in Viet Nam. The verbiage of Griffith alone reveals the aims of the American imperialists. “You constantly complain”, said he to Pommardier, member of the parliamentary investigation commission, “that we have not enough people here to win, whereas there are hundreds of thousands of young men in the French military barracks who are wasting needless time...” In other words, give us cannon fodder in exchange for dollars and we shall reap the fruits of victory...

It is no accident that the author quotes the remarkable words of the wounded Viet Nam Communist Tran Dan.

“Haven’t they wives, parents or friends? They are destroying our life along with their own!”

These words are worth pondering over by every French man and woman.

The novel “Black River” is of great social value. The author, by using perfect literary form, justly reflects the process which is taking place in the minds of those fighting in Viet Nam. His talent is brilliantly manifested in the fact that he related historic facts by establishing “their logical connections and in doing this prompted the reader to draw the only correct conclusion: nothing can break “the will of the people who strive for a free life and who are fighting for their national independence. A peace agreement in Viet Nam must be signed!

At present those who devote their energies and abilities to the struggle for the happiness of their people are the pride and honour of the nation. It is precisely this that makes the books of the French

progressive writers particularly valuable. These writers courageously participating in the struggle waged by the French people and are making their contribution to the strengthening of the lofty cause of peace and friendship among the nations.

Renet LOUIS

THE HELPING HAND. Drawing by E. Tard

According to the press, the forthcoming Bermuda conference will also discuss the question of US military "aid" to France for continuation of the "dirty war" in Viet Nam.



FEUILLETON

“Your Nose Does Not Suit...”

Scores of haggard and weary people queue up before a labour bureau. Their faces express but one desire: to be among the fortunate few to catch the eye of the boss and get employment.

Meanwhile, the boss, resembling a Texas rancher, surrounded by a queer looking set of experts, examines each man in turn.

“What d'you think of this guy?” he says, nodding in the direction of one of the applicants. “He seems to have a high enough bridge to his nose to make an aggressive executive.

“What?” retorts the expert. “Look again; he has the ball-shaped nose of a thinker. You don't mean to say you want a thinker?

“No thinker for me. You can go, your nose doesn't suit. Next, please!... What about this one? I like his lower jaw with prominent muscle: that's the chin of the go-getter. This chap may go far.

“Yes, but look at the wide space between his nose and lips. According to the Merton theory he is a mixer and you know what that means at your enterprise...

“Oh, no, I don't want a mixer. With your lips you'd better try my rival. Next, please! You, young man, have an harmonic face and men with pleasant features like yours lack executive traits. Next!...”

Can anything like this happen in real life. Although highly improbable such things do happen. The London

bourgeois Daily Mirror”, in its issue of November 9, featured an article by its Washington correspondent John Walters, who wrote: “More than 2,000 American employers now insist that a worker must have ‘an executive face’ if he is to be considered for promotion”. The author also lists the facial characteristics which, in their view, qualify the good worker. In the above dialogue we used but a part of this “scientific terminology.” In addition, the quack experts “study” the cheeks and pay attention to the corners of the mouth, which are said to reveal enthusiasm, zeal, goodwill and serenity.

Even the “Daily Mirror” which is accustomed to the monstrosities of capitalist reality was shocked by this quackery. Featuring the article under a sensational headline, the paper devotes an editorial to the matter, deriding the American physiognomists. In doing so the paper, by the way, makes the following remark: “Shuffle any bundle of photos from the business: world—or the newspaper world—and some people would guess ‘Rogues’ gallery’ and others think ‘Cabinet Ministers’.” True enough, a valuable characteristic of today’s capitalist rulers who claim the right of moral leadership over the world and who, it appears, can easily be confused with criminals!...

The racist whims of the American employers, as was only to be expected, have a “scientific” foundation. The “theory” was founded by the late Holmes Merton who claimed that a minute examination of anybody’s face would prove whether or not he was fit to lead. Merton divided the face into 108 “areas”, each of which “would provide the examiner information”. Recently one of his enthusiastic followers, Mr. Horace Wear, formed a company to popularise his methods in

commerce. It was ascertained that Mr. Wear plans to construct a special television apparatus that will automatically add up the signs of leadership in a face...

One might think Mr. Wear was a lunatic in which case he could, of course, "construct" what he liked. The facts show, however, that this orangutang with a TV set is not an unusual phenomenon in American life. What difference is there, for instance, between his invention and the so-called "lie detector" which has found extensive use in the USA. With the help of this deliberately intricate electric apparatus the paid "psychologists" test the blood pressure, the breathing and pulse beat of a person under examination, claiming that it reacts at every attempt "to conceal the truth". In this way the quacks strive to extort more information from the person giving testimony and to reveal his political views.

The "reading" of noses and chins and the "lie detectors" are but samples of the psychological offensive launched by the American monopolies against the working people. "Le Figaro litteraire", a French bourgeois weekly, desiring, so to say, to exchange experiences, recently published an article by a certain Robert Young who furnished some interesting data on the system of police surveillance and spying practiced in the US enterprises.

Factory and office workers who seek jobs in any of the big monopolies are subjected to forty different "tests", including that of the notorious "lie detector". A private intelligence agency follows every movement of the "suspects" and reports to the administration. In places where workers gather microphones are secretly installed. In this way the capitalist tries "to reveal the potential disturbance makers".

Should all this prove inadequate in safeguarding his profits the capitalist turns to the “psychological corporation”. Such an institution exists in New York and in many other US towns. This body employs a staff of “specialists” who define the “symptoms of coming strikes”, “moral centres of disturbances”...

The American billionaires and millionaires must be very frightened indeed if they have to resort to such measures. For something of a similar nature had already taken place; and not just somewhere, but in fascist Germany. As is known Hitler and his henchmen also tried to select their “executives” by the colour of their hair and measurements of the skull. But none would say that it was of help to them:

Petre PADURARU

FACTS EXPOSE...

Malthusianism in Practice

In London recently a twenty-year-old mother of two children, Mrs. Jean Harris, was brought before a magistrate. Driven to despair (her husband was unemployed for two years) she found herself in court on remand for obtaining a miserable sum of money by means of a forged postal draft. Her appearance in the court room with her two children outraged the magistrate. When he noticed that the young mother was expecting a third child he flew into a veritable rage: “You live in the most desperate conditions. Why do you keep on having children? It seems to me these children are not having a chance in life. The best you can do surely is to have no more”. After that he requested that the young couple be put in touch with a certain Family Planning Association.

It is an example of how the present-day Malthusians seek, by means of talk about “planning” families, to conceal the real reasons behind the impoverishment of the working people in the capitalist countries.

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