

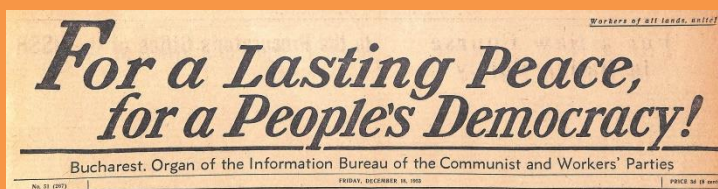
**Workers of all lands, unite!**

***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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## **POWERFUL STRIKE MOVEMENT IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES**

In all capitalist countries whose ruling circles are engaged in an unbridled armaments drive, the broad popular masses are experiencing the disastrous consequences of the policy of preparing for a new war. Creating in these countries war-inflationary conditions the big monopolies seek to ensure for themselves maximum profits by establishing an enslaving regime of violence, super-exploitation, poverty and hunger for the working people.

While the speed-up system has been introduced into industry, tens of millions of workers are wholly unemployed; peasants deprived of land and those who own plots are being ruined owing to the steady fall in agricultural prices and to the rise in prices paid for manufactured goods. The broad popular masses are to bear an intolerable burden of taxation.

This state of affairs brings with it increased impoverishment for the working people. Compared with prewar the cost of living has more than doubled in the US, Britain, Austria, Sweden and Brazil. It is even higher in Japan, Argentina and Belgium. In the US, according to official data, the income of 80 per cent of the families is below the necessary subsistence minimum. The position of the working people in Italy, Western Germany, Japan and India is even worse. Real wages in the capitalist countries are considerably less than prewar although in those days they were too low to meet even the minimum requirements of the working people. Wages of colonial workers are many times lower than the wages paid in the metropolitan countries.

However, those who cherish the hope that the working people will obediently put up with the ever increasing yoke of the monopolies are profoundly mistaken. The powerful and constantly growing upsurge of the working-class movement shows that in the countries under the rule of capital the working masses no longer want to live in poverty, to endure hunger, unemployment and militarisation of the economy.

The feature of times is the indisputable fact that the multi-million masses of the working people are in motion. Uniting and organising their ranks they are fighting with unprecedented determination for better conditions, in defence of their rights, for the preservation of peace, not for a long time have there been such big mass strikes in so brief a period as was the case in recent months.

Over 2 million people took part in strikes in the US in the first six months of this year.

In Japan 3 million workers, belonging to 30 trade unions, fought a joint strike early in July in protest against the Government's projected anti-strike law. In September hundreds of thousands of Japanese miners, seamen and workers of the automobile plants struck work against dismissals, for higher wages and better conditions.

Fresh in the minds of all are the powerful strikes fought in France in August by more than 3 million factory and office workers against the extraordinary decrees of the Government and against the wage-freeze.

The biggest stoppage of work in Britain since the general strike of 1926 took place on December 2 when over 2 million engineers and shipbuilding workers came out in a nation-wide 24-hour strike demanding higher

ages. This historic event in the working-class movement in Britain marked the entry into active struggle of a new generation of British working people.

The pass week in Italy saw two massive strikes, outstanding in scale even for this country whose history is extremely rich in mass actions. About 1,300,000 state employees, railwaymen and workers of state enterprises and later over 6 million workers declared a 21-hour strike to support of their demands for wage increases. These strikes were a powerful expression of the discontent among the Italian working people, a stern warning to the ruling circles who refuse to change the anti-popular character of their policy.

The million-fold masses in the dependent and colonial countries are rising in resolute struggle against the conditions of slavery, for peace and national independence. The working people of Chile, Venezuela, Uruguay, Cuba and in other Latin American countries are fighting stubborn strike battles. Nearly a million Brazilians participated in the strike movement during the first 8 months of this year. On September 15 and 17,700 thousand plantation workers struck work in Indonesia demanding higher wages. In Saudi Arabia, 14 thousand workers employed by the US "Arabian-American Oil Company", downed tools. The working people in Guinea, Senegal and Mauritania fought successful strikes for implementation of the Labour Code won from the colonists.

The powerful strike movement sweeping the countries dominated by capital, overcoming all the repressions and the obstacles put in the way of unity of the working people forcing the governments and the privileged groups to fake account of the will of the people, testifies to the militant spirit of the masses.

A feature of the present strikes first of all, the growing and, consolidating unity of action on the part of the working people in the struggle for their vital interests. All the more or less big strikes in the different countries are waged the combined efforts of the working class and the entire working people affiliated to different trade-union trends who are striving for co-ordinated decisions on all common problems of the struggle for immediate demands. As a rule, the strike struggle of the working people is backed everywhere by the solidarity of the population in town, province or region and by the broad popular masses during the big general strikes. Unity of action has ensured the success of the strike struggle in many countries.

Secondly, this is mass action, distinguished for excellent organisation, persistence and tenacity on the part of strikers, by the general character of strikes fought by the factory and office workers and peasants which embrace not only separate branches of industry but even assume a national character as is the case in Italy, France, Japan and other countries.

Of great importance for the powerful development of the strike movement is the growing political consciousness of the masses, and the widespread understanding that improvement in the standard of living that can be achieved only in resolute struggle for peace, against militarisation and against the onslaught on the democratic and trade-union rights of the working people.

The broad working masses are aware that the opportunity for improving their conditions lies in lessening the international tension, in developing a peaceful national economy, in restricting the arbitrariness of the monopolies and in liberation from



the foreign bondage, above all, from the American yoke, in extended trade relations on an equal footing with all countries, particularly with the countries of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism.

The working people in the capitalist countries are becoming more and more aware of the great scale of the achievements of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and the European People's Democracies in raising the material and cultural level of the population, of the grandeur of the immediate prospects for further improving the wellbeing of the masses in the countries of the peace-loving democratic camp, prospects opened up in connection with the measures taken in these countries and aimed at a steep increase in the production of goods of mass consumption. The achievements of the peoples who have forever shaken off the shackles of capital are factors of tremendous inspiring force for the working people in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries fighting for satisfaction of their vital needs, for peaceful development of the economy, for the preservation and consolidation of peace.

In the front ranks of the working people, fighting for their cherished aspirations, marches their most militant, organised and consolidated section—the working class. The recent powerful strikes have revealed the inexhaustible possibilities for united action by the working people of all categories, all political and trade union trends striving for the implementation of their vital demands. In the new circumstances the Communist and Workers' Parties in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries face, as never before, the task of intensifying the struggle for unity of action by the working class and the entire working people.

The Communist Parties are called upon to make their main work the extension and consolidation of their bonds with the working class, with the entire working people. This requires from them improved daily concrete work in the mass organisations of the working people. This requires from the Communist Parties that they eliminate from their ranks all kinds of sectarianism in relation to the rank and file and officials of the different trade union trends at lower levels, and that they intensify the struggle against the attempts of the Right-wing Social Democratic and trade union leaders to split and in this way weaken the working-class movement.

The Communist and Workers' Parties make a profound analysis and take full account of the positive experience of the strike struggle of the working people, disclose and eliminate the shortcomings in their work, particularly in the mass organisations. A special responsibility rests with the Communist, and Workers' Parties. They are in duty bound profoundly to explain to the working people the essence and aims of the combined mass action by the working class, to organise and to lead them in the struggle for work, for bread, freedom and national independence, for the preservation and consolidation of peace.

# **PEOPLES EVER MORE RESOLUTELY INSIST ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT' OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

## **Congress of German Peace Fighters**

The “1953 Peace Day in Germany” held on December 10-12 in Weimar was a powerful demonstration of the growing peace movement in the country. More than 1,200 delegates and guests from all parts of the country and foreign delegations took part in the work of the Congress.

In their general resolution the Congress delegates expressed the hope of all the German people that the forthcoming conference of the four Great Powers in Berlin would pave the way for a solution of the German question.

A message addressed by the Congress to the peoples of neighbouring countries points out that:

The struggle against the Bonn and Paris agreements, which threaten the people of Germany, all their neighbours and peace throughout the world, is our common struggle.

We regard ourselves as duty bound to submit to the forthcoming conference of the four Great Powers in Berlin the demand of all the people of Germany for the restoration of the unity of Germany and a peace treaty which would ensure a peaceful, democratic development of our homeland. The creation of such a Germany serves the cause of peace, removes the tension in Europe and guarantees the security of the

neighbouring nations. Consequently we urge the peace-loving forces in all the neighbouring countries to back this just demand of our people.

## **Appeal Issued by National People Committee of Egypt**

Forwarding the text of the appeal by the World Peace Council for a peaceful settlement of controversial international issues to the Government of Egypt, the Egyptian National Peace Committee, in its accompanying letter, stressed the need for active participation by the people of Egypt in the world-wide campaign for peace.

The Committee urged the Government to support the world-wide campaign for a peaceful settlement of controversial international issues and to back the struggle of the peace supporters against rearming Western Germany, resuming hostilities in Korea, the arms drive and turning Egypt into a base for aggression.

## **Will of People of Switzerland for Peace**

During the recent nation-wide referendum the people of Switzerland, by a majority vote, rejected the government's financial programme which envisaged a further rise in military expenditure and a consequent increase in the taxes paid by the working people. The Right-wing Social Democratic and trade-union leaders lined up with the bourgeois parties actively supporting this programme.

However the majority of workers who participated in the referendum supported the calls of the Swiss Party of Labour, thereby demonstrating their will for peace. In a special appeal in connection with the outcome of the referendum the Swiss Party of Labour called on the working class and all working people to continue the joint struggle and to forge unity of action in the fight for the reduction of military expenditure, for better living standards and for peace and the independence of the country.

The recent National Peace Conference decided to send a message to the Viet Nam Peace Committee assuring it that the French people would redouble their efforts in the struggle for establishing peace in Indo-China through negotiations and for friendly relations between the two countries.

The French General Confederation of Labour announced a “week of struggle for peace in Viet Nam” which began on December 14. Hundreds of rallies, meetings and brief strikes are taking place in factories, on construction sites and in offices. The collection of signatures for ending the war in Viet Nam is under way.

“L’Humanite” issued a statement signed by Alain Le Leap, General Secretary of the General Confederation of Labour, demanding that the Government give a positive answer to Ho Chi Minh in order to bring peace to Viet Nam through negotiations.

## **For Ending War in Viet Nam**

Responding to the call of the Third Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions the working people of

all countries are preparing to mark December 19—International Day of Active Solidarity with the People of Viet Nam—as the day of struggle for ending the colonial war in Viet Nam.

This date will be marked on a particularly wide scale in France whose public opinion unanimously demands an end to the dirty war”, which is causing heavy suffering to the peoples of Viet Nam, and calls for negotiations with the Ho Chi Minh Government.

## **OUTSTANDING DATE IN HISTORY OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET AND CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLES**

December 12 marked the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Mutual Assistance and Post-war Co-operation between the Soviet Union and the Czechoslovak Republic, which has become a remarkable landmark in the development of the friendly Soviet-Czechoslovak relations. This Treaty strengthened and consolidated the friendship of the Soviet and Czechoslovak peoples, it not only became the firm guarantee of the liberation of Czechoslovakia and ensured its independence, it also laid the foundations for the solid mutually advantageous co-operation of the two fraternal peoples in the post-war period.

The messages of greetings from Comrade **K. E. Voroshilov**, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR from Comrade **G. M. Malenkov**, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Comrade **V. M. Molotov**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, to Comrade **Antonin Zapotocky**, President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Comrade **William Siroky**, Chairman of the Council Ministers of the Czechoslovak Republic, and Comrade **Vaclav David**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czechoslovak Republic, express the deep and sincere feelings of the Soviet people as a whole who wish the people of Czechoslovakia further success in strengthening their people's-democratic state.

Evaluating the significance of the Treaty Comrade G. M. Malenkov in his telegram of greetings said:

“The past ten years have confirmed that this Treaty

corresponds to the vital interests of our countries, contributing to the strengthening of peace and security in Europe. The significance of the is the greater especially now attempts of reviving German militarism evoke lawful alarm among all the peace-loving peoples of Europe”. Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship, was attended

The telegram of greetings from Comrade Zapotocky, President of the Czechoslovak Republic, and Comrade Siroky, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Czechoslovak Republic, to Comrade Voroshilov and Comrade Malenkov expresses the thoughts of the entire people of Czechoslovakia:

“The persistent and heroic struggle of the Soviet Union for peace and friendship among the peoples, reads the telegram, “is at the same time the struggle for a happy future for our country. Consequently, our people are fighting side by side with the Soviet people in this struggle and supporting in every way their efforts aimed at lessening the international tension and peacefully settling all outstanding international issues.

“... The friendship and alliance with the Soviet Union are the base for the independence, security, peace, happiness and flowering of our homeland”.

\*

The Czechoslovak people widely celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Treaty. Amid unprecedented political enthusiasm numerous rallies, meetings and talks dedicated to this remarkable date were held all over country. An anniversary meeting of the Central Action Committee of the National Front was held on



December 12, in Prague, under the slogan “With the Soviet Union for a lasting peace throughout the world!”

Viliam Siroky, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic, gave a reception at the Cerninsky Palace in Prague.

On the occasion of the anniversary J. Vosahlik, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Czechoslovakia to the USSR, gave a reception in Moscow. Ambassador J. Vosahlik, Comrades G. M. Malenkov, V. M. Molotov and N. S. Khrushchev exchanged cordial speeches of greetings at the reception.

A meeting held under the auspices of the All-Union Society for Cultural relations with Foreign Countries (VOKS), dedicated to Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship, was attended by representatives of the public in Moscow, by scientists and cultural workers.

## **MASS STRIKES IN ITALY**

A-24-hour general strike of civil servants was called on December 11 by the Italian General Confederation of Labour and the Social Democratic and Catholic trade unions against the Government's refusal to raise wages and adjust them to meet the increased cost of living.

Despite the Government's attempt to intimidate the strikers the strike spread all over the country. The strike involved 1,300,000 people, i.e. more than 85 per cent of the workers concerned, including some 90 per cent of the postal and telegraph workers and over 95 per cent of the railwaymen, which meant that traffic practically came to a standstill. In some places the strike involved up to 98 per cent of the staff of the state enterprises.

As a result of the co-ordinated actions by the Italian General Confederation of Labour and the Catholic trade unions a 24-hour general strike of industrial workers took place on December 15 in protest against the dismissal of workers and in support of demands for wage increases. Some 6,000,000 people downed tools.

The strike assumed huge dimensions. The workers and employees in such industrial cities as Rome, Milan, Bologna, Genoa, Florence, Venice, Modena and other places were almost 100 per cent behind the strike.

These strikes were a powerful demonstration of united action by the Italian working people and their firm determination to struggle for the realisation of the demands.

## **FOR CONSOLIDATION OF FRANCE-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP. Fernand Grenier, Vice- President, "France-USSR" Society**

The ninth anniversary of the signing of the Franco-Soviet Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Aid was celebrated in France amidst unprecedented enthusiasm and on an unprecedented scale.

These celebrations marked an important stage in the campaign for mutual understanding with the USSR which was launched early in October and will continue, in accordance with the decision of the National Conference of the "France-USSR" Society, during the first three months of 1954. The campaign has assumed various forms: reports by delegates on their visits to the USSR have been arranged and large exhibitions held; Soviet films have been shown and conferences of readers have been held to discuss the novel "Harvest" by G. Nikolayeva, the Soviet author, which is very popular in France; France-Soviet philatelist groups have been set up.

Other forms of activity have also been successfully carried out. For example, the "France-USSR" Society is arranging talks with prominent representatives of local political, commercial and cultural circles; small meetings are being held in houses and questionnaires circulated in a number of big factories to obtain opinions on the programme of the "France-USSR" Society. The working people of particular trades are holding numerous meetings devoted to the achievements of peaceful construction in the Soviet Union. Some 400 architects and building workers in Paris discussed the film devoted to the construction sites in

Moscow. 800 Paris railwaymen attended meetings to hear reports by delegates who have returned from the USSR." Between October 1 and December 1, more than 600 different events aimed at consolidating France-Soviet friendship were held in 25 Departments of the country. Another 100 will take place in December.

The biggest demonstration occasioned by the ninth anniversary of the Franco-Soviet Treaty took place in the huge "Parc' des Expositions" Hall in Paris on December 13 and brought together 10 thousand people. Representatives of varied trends of public opinion spoke at the meeting or sent messages to it. They welcomed the Treaty as a guarantee of the security of France and stressed the need for promoting trade and cultural relations between the two countries. With great enthusiasm the meeting adopted a resolution demanding implementation of the Treaty.

December 13 was also marked by a large gathering held in the "Pleyel" Hall, at which French artistes performed, together with a group of outstanding Soviet artistes who are visiting France. The number of people who wanted to welcome the Soviet artistes was so great that another concert was arranged in the vast premises of the Winter Velodrome although these artistes had already given ten big concerts in Paris.

A remarkable anniversary celebration meeting -took place in the Lyons Opera House at which Edouard Herriot, Chairman of the National Assembly and Mayor of the city, was elected honorary chairman. The Radical Mayor of Nice and the de Gaullist Mayor of Bordeaux allowed the use of the Opera Houses in their towns for the concerts of the Soviet artistes to ensure better conditions for the performances.

The success of the campaign was largely determined by the programme adopted by the “France-USSR” “Society in September. Based on the national interests of France, the programme comprises three sections, containing clear-cut demands:

- to make the Franco-Soviet Treaty the foundation of our foreign policy;

- to implement and extend the Franco-Soviet Trade Agreement of July 15, 1953;

- to sign cultural agreements between France and the Soviet Union.

The programme fully takes into consideration the national interests of French men and women and above all their strong opposition to the Bonn and Paris agreements which are aimed at reviving German militarism and are fraught with serious danger for France.

The need for extended trade relations is seen from the fact that Soviet orders placed in accordance with the Franco-USSR trade agreement signed in July last considerably improved the situation in a number of industries affected by the economic crisis, particularly the textile industry.

A feature of the cultural relations between France and the USSR is the increased exchange of delegations of workers in the realm of culture during 1953. The obstacles raised by the Customs since 1949 against the import of Soviet films into France have been removed and the censorship considerably relaxed. At the same time a number of good French films has been wholeheartedly welcomed in the Soviet Union.

The programme of the “France-USSR” Society served as a basis for the campaign for mutual understanding with the Soviet Union. It was widely popularised during

the popular demonstrations held in October and November. The statement made by G. M. Malenkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, at the session August 8, concerning Soviet-French relations, was warmly greeted by those who took part in the demonstrations.

The good results of the campaign for mutual understanding with the USSR and the unprecedented demonstrations on the occasion of the anniversary of the signing of the Franco-Soviet Treaty bear witness for consolidating the friendship between the Soviet and French peoples. French patriots are becoming increasingly aware of the Secretary of the French Communist Party:

“The carrying out of the Franco-Soviet Treaty, which is based on the fraternity forged in battle against the fascist invaders and which logically stems from geographical factors, would help our country to regain freedom of action in the sphere of foreign policy”.

The National Conference recently held by the “France-Soviet” Society summed up the preliminary results of the campaign and pointed to a number of shortcomings and errors revealed in the course of the campaign. The essence of these errors and shortcomings lies in the fact that, for one thing there is a lack of resolute spirit in the work conducted among those sections of the population which are considered to be hostile to the establishment of closer relations between France and the Soviet Union, and, for another, the branches of the “France Soviet” Society in half the Departments in the country are either weak or even completely non-existent. The conference pledged itself to increase the membership threefold in 1954 and to win another 10 thousand readers for the monthly

journal issued by the Society before next June; this journal is published in an edition of 100 thousand copies.

Taking into account the present situation many delegates expressed their confidence that the time would soon come, when the policy of closer relations with the Soviet Union would triumph because simultaneously with the movement against the ratification of the “European Defence Community” agreement there is a powerful movement for the implementation of the Franco-Soviet Agreement which is gaining momentum throughout the country.

By intensifying activity in accordance with its programme among the various sections of the population, the Society will be able to play an important role in consolidating friendly relations between the peoples of France and the Soviet Union and in translating the Franco-Soviet Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Aid—the guarantee of security and peace in Europe—into life.

## **FOR A NEW COURSE IN ITALIAN POLICY\*. Palmiro Togliatti, General Secretary, Communist Party of Italy**

The situation created for the people of Italy and for us—their vanguard—has seriously worsened in recent times. At the moment it is particularly difficult, confused and grave. Moreover, it is fraught with the threat of further deterioration both in the economic and political spheres. Conditions of life for the popular masses have particularly worsened and, consequently, the hearts of the people comprising big sections of the working population are filled with bitterness and anxiety,—people who have been deprived of work as a result of the latest wave of dismissals and closing of enterprises, people who have suffered from the elements, for instance, in Calabria and other parts of the country and who, like the railwaymen, municipal employees, civil servants and officials, and those employed in industry generally, are compelled, by means of united trade-union struggle, to take action against reducing the already low standard of living and to demand its improvement.

As regards the international situation of our country that, too, is grave, difficult and abnormal. Italy finds itself isolated, deprived of genuine friends, a pawn in the hands of those so-called allies who actually regard Italy as a subordinate or semi-subordinate country which

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\* From Comrade Palmiro Togliatti's report at meeting of Central Committee, Communist Party of Italy, December 6-9.



must relinquish its own dignity and defence of its own aspirations, which is obliged to act in keeping with their designs, with their suggestions and interests.

All this evokes among public opinion increasingly wider and deeper discontent. This discontent exists among the working people belonging to the middle strata of the population, among the intelligentsia, among medium property holders and also in the richer circles.

The careful observer cannot but see that a crisis is maturing in present-day Italian society. While this crisis continues to be characterised, on the one hand, by confusion in many aspects of life, it finds expression, on the other, in strivings on the part of big sections of the population, partly instinctive and partly conscious, to find a new course for our entire national policy, a course that would satisfy the vital requirements of the vast majority of the people, the requirements of the feeling of national dignity.

The fact is that the economy of our country is far from being in the state the optimistic official circles would have us believe. The international horizon is gloomy. There are clear signs of an approaching economic crisis in the USA. Competition and international economic rivalry are obviously being intensified and in some spheres becoming acute. Italy today is like an organism which, lacking internal equilibrium, is constantly subjected to new and unexpected blows, revealing its structural organic defects. It is here that we find the consequence of the incorrect economic course pursued for many years, of the constant inertia of the Government and, in particular, the consequences of the policy conducted in the international sphere by our rulers who slavishly and

stupidly agreed to all the demands of the big imperialist powers, blind to the fact that in this way they endanger the fate of our economy at the very moment when international economic rivalry is becoming more acute.

The Government has steered and stubbornly continues to steer a wrong course, leading to a constant worsening of the situation in the country, precipitating our society to a state which in some instances can be described as disintegration. Every time the political organs directing the national life of the country have been requested to take action in favour of the popular masses, in favour of the small and middle producers of the rural population, to prevent dismissals and to control credits, to increase the volume of capital investments and channel them into the vital branches of the national economy where they would yield society the greatest possible benefit, they reply that this cannot be done on the grounds that it contradicts the canons of the economic doctrine according to which, in their view; there must be no interference with private initiative and that it must be ensured freedom.

It is impossible to find a way out of the present difficult situation without taking a new course in economic policy. This new course must, in the main, pursue the aim of extending the home market by carrying out the necessary corresponding measures, of increasing capital investments and of stepping up full production activity. This can be achieved, however, only by establishing control over big monopoly capital and by restricting its exclusive rights through measures aimed at achieving a radical improvement in the conditions of the working people in town and country.

The attitude of the state towards the problems of labour, social problems and the organisations of the

working people must be radically changed. We insist that this be made the starting point on the road to a new course in economic policy.

\*

In international relations Italy can find understanding, make new contacts and, above all, find new possibilities for making its voice heard in the world, by putting an end to the slavish subordination to the big imperialist powers. Neither the Atlantic policy nor its special form—the so-called European policy—can lead to this aim which corresponds to the aspirations of the vast majority of Italians.

Although the danger of war has greatly lessened no effective relaxation of the international tension has been achieved which would contribute to a reduction of armaments, rid the peoples of the fear of another terrible conflict, restore the independence of all countries and pave the way for an era of mutual understanding and co-operation among the different countries irrespective of their political and social system. This aim has not yet been achieved. But substantial successes have been achieved, resulting in the growth of influence and prestige of the great world peace movement. And most important of all is the fact that the realisation is maturing that relaxation of the international tension is not only necessary but possible and attainable.

He who really wants a lessening of the international tension cannot but accept the principle, advocated and upheld by the Communists, of peaceful co-existence and cooperation among the peoples living under different economic and political systems.

He who wants a lessening of the international tension must condemn such actions as the building of war bases on foreign territories and the direct and even armed interference in the internal life of free and independent states, the favourite method of the foreign policy of the United States of America.

He who wants a lessening of the international tension must reject those alliances which, by the very way they arise, are alliances for preparing war.

In an aggressive bloc such as the “European Defence Community” Italy would have the role of a Cinderella, a servant who would simply obey the orders of others. Italy would supply the manpower for the army under the command of American instructors and German officers. It would see its territory, as has already happened with its ports, occupied by foreign troops; together with the loss of all prospects for peaceful development it would lose forever its independence and national freedom.

We insist on a new course in foreign policy, the content of which must be a persistent and concrete struggle for lessening the international tension and for establishing lasting peace among all the nations.

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The present Government of Italy, which proclaimed itself a provisional Government, has now completely assumed the character of a one-party Christian Democratic government, seeking the support of the Monarchists. It has not changed either the economic and social policy of the previous governments or their foreign policy and has restricted itself merely to replacing the blatant Atlantic policy of De Gasperi with

a shamefaced Atlantic policy, since its fatal character for Italy has become too obvious.

The big industrialists remain deaf to all social demands and are aggressive in relation to the working people. The reactionary clerical forces have not discarded their arms. At the moment they are trying to preserve a state of affairs in which they would be able actually to rule the country without openly taking upon themselves responsibility for their rule. At the same time they are plotting revenge for their defeat in the previous election.

We must be vigilant and ready to frustrate every reactionary attempt to impose a new electoral system based on nominating only one candidate for each electoral district. In this way we defend not only our positions but likewise democracy and, in essence, the positions of the small parties-the Social Democrats, Republicans and Liberals. As things are at present it is not only useful but essential that there should be intermediate forces rallying around themselves elements from the small and middle bourgeoisie and those working people who do not follow the main Parties of the Right and Left. Hence, we must combat any electoral system which aims at destroying these intermediate forces for the purpose of bringing about a direct conflict between the clerical and reactionary forces, on the one hand, and the advanced forces of democracy rallied around the Left Parties, on the other.

In order to avert these dangers we must achieve substantial success in the struggle already launched by us for a new course in Italian policy in all its aspects. This struggle must be unfolded in Parliament, but chiefly we should appeal to public opinion, to the country.

The criticism and denunciation of the former Italian governments must be regarded as a positive factor testifying to the heightened social consciousness, to the searching for a new way. Hence, the frustration that is manifest in all parties: in the Social Democratic Party, in the Liberal and Christian Democratic parties, among the Monarchists and neo-fascists. Everywhere this discontent is linked with the demand for a new economic and political course.

At present two irrefutable facts can be noted clearly in the branches of the Christian Democratic Party and in its trade unions: profound discontent with the general situation in the country as well as with Government policy, and the striving of the workers in factories and in some branches of industry for united action with the General Confederation of Labour in the fight against the selfishness of the employers. Among Catholic working people too there is growing awareness of the need for a turn, for a change in the political course.

And wherever tendencies or groups acting in this direction make their appearance we must take a positive stand in relation to them, and while not saying that we must seek closer relations with them since this is often impossible for a number of reasons, we must pay close attention to their activity and help them to achieve complete understanding of the situation within the heterogeneous bloc represented by the Christian Democratic Party.

We call on the leaders of the Social Democratic Party and on all who want to contribute to the renovation of Italian policy and who have no intention of behaving like the ostrich which hides its head and closes its eyes to reality. If they want to see a new road opened to positive political and government activity in

accordance with the new course, then they must first of all throw overboard the pre-conceived anti-communism of the Right-wing Social Democratic leaders as well as the biased anti-communism of the Clericals. It is necessary to open the road to political and creative activity by the powerful forces of the workers and the working people rallied around the Left parties—the Socialist and Communist Parties—and led by the united trade unions.

The basic tasks of our work at the moment become clear from what has already been said. Today, as was the case during the election campaign, we demand a government of peace for Italy, a government which would carry out a policy aimed at easing the international tension, which would put an end to the policy of cold war in relation to the working people, which would respect the Constitution and state law and wage resolute struggle against poverty and economic decline, for better conditions for the vast majority of Italian citizens and which would ensure an upsurge in the entire national life. Let us work and fight to win the majority of the Italian population and, above all, the majority of the working people in order to reach this goal.

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For Italian Communists the search for ways and means of ensuring unity of the working people and of all the democratic forces is second nature. But here, too, there are shortcomings and mistakes which must be disclosed and eliminated. As yet there are sections of the working people and organisations whom hitherto we have either ignored or in relation to whom no action has

been taken for establishing unity.

In order to develop united action it is necessary first and foremost to define the most vital problem, to find arguments which would enable us to convince the masses of the need for united action in the interests of all. But joint discussion alone is not enough to achieve this. We are for a joint discussion with all and in this respect we have done a great deal. But discussion does not yet mean unity. Unity is built in the course of activity, in the course of work, in concrete struggle for definite aims. Therein lies the essence of the policy of unity.

In order to have a correct political orientation and to improve practical work it is necessary constantly to raise our ideological level, study profoundly the works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism the great people who laid the foundations of our movement and who led it. The situation in this sphere is, perhaps, more unsatisfactory than in the others.

At present we have in our Party a large number of Communists. This is tremendous capital. But this entire mass of Party members must be made active and brought into action through effective organisation; we must place before them correct political tasks and keep them in constant contact with the masses of the working population.

This is the sphere of purely organisational activity, and here we have big achievements to our credit, We must, however, turn our attention to the gaps, to the shortcomings and numerous weaknesses still observed in this sphere of our activity and we must be mindful above all that organisation is not created for the sake of organisation, that it cannot be an aim in itself. We must always remember that a Party organisation, which



restricts itself merely to timely exchange of membership cards, to collecting dues or other funds for the Party but does this work in isolation from political activity and from the actual movement of the masses, cannot be a good organisation. Organisation serves for correctly carrying out the policy of the Party in keeping with the demands of the moment, by means of the most expedient and effective methods.

Our organisations and our press are now engaged in a campaign for a still wider utilisation in the Party of the method of collective leadership, for ensuring better collective work by the leading bodies of the Party. This campaign is an integral part of the general measures taken by the Party to impart political sharpness to all its activity, to make it more resilient and operative by way of improving the work of its leading bodies and by developing the method of criticism and self-criticism.

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In evaluating our strength and weaknesses some bourgeois newspapers say that the reason for our weakness is alleged contradictions in our policy, that we simultaneously defend the interests and the demands of the most varied sections of the population, that we are in a position to defend the factory and office worker, the peasant and labourer, the intelligentsia, youth and women and, at the same time, uphold the interests of Italy as a national unit. No, this is not the reason for contradictions and weaknesses. On the contrary, therein lies the genuine source of our strength.

We are the working class which, in the course of its advance, not only defends, upholds and ensures its own interests but; in so doing, upholds the interests of all

those sections of the population which have a positive function in society. It is precisely this that lies at bedrock of our strength. This determines the direction of all the work which we must and will carry out striving to ensure that the political and economic life of our country be directed, in a new way, in conformity with the interests, aspirations and requirements of the entire nation.

## **IN THE PROCURATOR'S OFFICE OF THE USSR**

On June 26th 1953 the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, having considered the report of the Council of Ministers of the USSR on the criminal activities of L. P. Beria as an agent of foreign capital, activities designed to undermine the Soviet state, decided to remove L. P. Beria from the post of first Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and from the post of Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR and to refer his case to Court. On August 8th 1953 the Supreme Soviet of the USSR approved the Decree of June 26th of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The Procurator's Office of the USSR has now completed the investigation of the case of L. P. Beria, betrayer of the homeland.

The investigation has established that Beria, availing himself of his office, organised a treasonable group of conspirators inimical to the Soviet state, whose criminal aim was to utilise the organs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs both at the centre and in the localities against the Communist Party and the Government of the USSR in the interests of foreign capital, and who strove in their perfidious designs to place the Ministry of Internal Affairs above the Party and the Government in order to seize power and liquidate the Soviet worker-peasant system with the aim of restoring capitalism and bringing back the rule of the bourgeoisie.

Active members of this group of treasonable conspirators were the following accused, connected with Beria by many years of joint criminal activities in

the organs of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs and later in the Ministry of Internal Affairs: former Minister of State Security of the USSR and recently Minister of State Control of the USSR V. N. Merkulov; former head of one of the Departments of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR and recently Minister of Internal Affairs of the Georgian SSR V. G. Dekanozov; former Deputy People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of the Georgian SSR, afterwards Deputy Minister of State Security of the USSR and recently Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR B. Z. Kobulov; former People's Commissar of Internal Affairs of the Georgian SSR and recently head of one of the Departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR S. A. Goglidze; former head of one of the Departments of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR and recently Minister of Internal Affairs of the Ukrainian SSR P. Y. Meshik; and former head of the special Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR L. E. Vlodzimirsky.

For many years Beria and his accomplices carefully masked and concealed their inimical, treasonable activities. After the death of J. V. Stalin, when the reactionary imperialist forces had stepped up their subversive work against the Soviet state, Beria began to intensify his activities in order to realise his criminal aims, primarily by utilising the organs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the purpose of seizing power, which led in a short time to his unmasking as a traitor to the homeland and to resolute measures being taken to cut short his hostile activities.

Having become Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR in March 1953, Beria spared no effort to place his

fellow conspirators in important positions in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The conspirators hounded and persecuted honest workers in the Ministry of Internal Affairs who refused to carry out Beria's criminal directives.

In order to undermine the collective-farm system and to create food difficulties in our country, Beria sabotaged by every possible means and hampered the implementation of the most important decisions of the Party and the Government designed to advance the economy of the collective farms and state farms, steadily to improve the wellbeing of the Soviet people.

It has also been established that Beria and his accomplices undertook criminal measures in order to revive the remnants of bourgeois-nationalist elements in the Union Republics, to sow enmity and discord among the peoples of the USSR and in the first instance to undermine the friendship of the peoples of the USSR with the great Russian people.

Lacking all social support within the USSR, Beria and his accomplices placed their criminal hopes on support for the plot from the reactionary imperialist forces abroad.

As has now been established by the investigation, Beria first contacted foreign intelligence services way back at the time of the civil war. In 1919 Beria, while in Baku, committed an act of treason by becoming a secret agent of the Intelligence service of the counter-revolutionary Mussavat government in Azerbaijan which functioned under the control of British intelligence organs. He committed another act of treason in 1920, while in Georgia, by establishing clandestine relations with the Menshevik secret police in Georgia, which was a branch of the British intelligence service.

The investigation has established that Beria continued in subsequent years to maintain and extend his secret criminal connections with foreign intelligence services through their spies whom he sometimes managed to save from exposure and merited punishment.

Acting as a traitor to the homeland and a spy who had sold himself to foreign intelligence services, Beria also maintained throughout the whole of his criminal career with the help of his accomplices, clandestine connections with counter-revolutionary Georgian Menshevik emigres, agents of a number of foreign intelligence services.

Carefully concealing and masking his criminal past and his inimical contacts with foreign intelligence services, Beria chose, as his main method, slander, intrigue and all manner of provocations against honest workers of the Party and Soviet organisations, who stood in the way of his hostile designs directed against the Soviet state, and who hampered his advance to power.

Having wormed their way by means of these criminal methods to important posts in the Transcaucasus and Georgia, and later in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR, and hatching treacherous plans for seizing power, Beria and his accomplices stopped at nothing in their efforts to remove persons undesirable to them, resorting to arbitrary and lawless acts, and foully deceived the Party and the State.

The investigation has revealed a whole series of criminal machinations of Beria designed to achieve his careerist aims and to prevent the exposure of his true physiognomy of an enemy. Thus the investigation has established that in order to achieve his criminal ends,

Beria, assisted by his accomplices, schemed and intrigued for a number of years against the outstanding leader of the Communist Party and the Soviet State, Sergo Orjonikidze, seeing in him an obstacle of his further advancement and to the realisation of his hostile designs. It has now been established that Sergo Orjonikidze was suspicious of Beria's political countenance. After the death of Sergo Orjonikidze the conspirators continued cruelly to revenge themselves on his family.

The investigation has also established facts of the conspirators murdering people for fear of being exposed by them. Thus Beria and his confederates killed M. S. Kedrov, member of the Communist Party since 1902, former member of the Presidium of the Cheka and of the Board of the OGPU under F. E. Dzierzynsky. The conspirators had reason to suspect that Kedrov had in his possession materials establishing Beria's criminal past. The investigation has also established facts of other terrorist killings committed by the plotters with the criminal aim of removing honest cadres, devoted to the Communist Party and Soviet power.

It has been established by the investigation that Beria and his accomplices committed a number of acts of treason in an attempt to weaken the Soviet Union's defence capacity.

The materials of the investigation have proved that, being connected with Beria by many years of joint criminal activities, carrying out all his criminal directives. and helping Beria to conceal and mask his criminal past, the accused members of the group of conspirators, Merkulov, Dekanozov, Kobulov, Goglidze, Meshik and Vlodzimirsky committed a number of the most grave state crimes, mentioned above.

Thus it has been established that the accused Beria, Merkulov, Dekanozov, Kobulov, Goglidze, Meshik and Vlodzimirsky, betraying their country, acted as agents of international imperialism. as sworn enemies of the Soviet people.

The investigation has also established facts of other crimes committed by Beria that testify to his utter moral degradation and, in addition, facts of crimes committed from selfish motives and cases of abuse of power.

Exposed during the investigation by the testimony of numerous witnesses and authentic documentary evidence, the accused admitted their guilt in a series of the gravest state crimes.

Beria has been handed over to the Court and is charged with high treason, with organising an anti-Soviet conspiracy, terrorist acts and active struggle against the working class and the revolutionary working-class movement when acting as a secret agent of the Intelligence Service of the counter-revolutionary Mussavat government during the civil war, i.e. of crimes covered by Articles 58-1 "b", 58-8, 58-13, 58-11 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR.

Merkulov, Dekanozov, Kobulov, Goglidze Meshik and Vlodzimirsky will be tried on charges of high treason, terrorist acts and participating in the counter-revolutionary treasonable group of conspirators, i.e. for crimes covered by Articles 58-1 "b", 58-8, 58-11 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR.

In accordance with the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, the case of Beria, Merkulov, Dekanozov, Kobulov, Goglidze, Meshik and Vlodzimirsky will come before a Special Session of the Supreme Court of the USSR as envisaged by the Law of



December 1, 1934.

**Pravda, December 17, 1953**

## **MEETING, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY**

The meeting of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party which took place in Rome on December 6-9 heard a report by Palmiro Togliatti on the tasks and work of the Communists in the struggle for a new course in Italian policy. Luigi Longo, Pietro Secchia, Mauro Scoclimarre, Giuseppe di Vittorio and other members of the Central Committee and the Leadership of the Party took part in the discussion.

The meeting approved Comrade Togliatti's report and recommended all Party organisations and all Communists to take it as a guide in their work. The Central Committee put forward the proposal that all Party organisations hold their conferences early in 1954. These conferences, said the Central Committee, must make a thorough study of the work at all levels of the Party, work out concrete programmes of action in accordance with local conditions; outline measures for eliminating shortcomings, for establishing closer contact with the working people, and must elect the 'leading organs in keeping with the Party Rules.

The Central Committee resolved to hold a National Congress after the conferences of the Party organisations.

## **CONFERENCE OF COPENHAGEN ORGANISATION, COMMUNIST PARTY OF DENMARK**

Some 400 delegates together with fraternal delegates of the Communist Parties of Sweden and Norway attended a conference of the Copenhagen organisation of the Communist Party of Denmark.

K. Bidriksen, Chairman of the Copenhagen City Party Committee, made a detailed review of the international situation and stressed that the main task of the day for the Danish Communists was to campaign against quartering foreign troops on Danish soil. He also urged the comrades to fight against the remilitarisation of Western Germany.

## **FROM COMMUNIST AND WORKERS' PRESS**

**Wage Active Struggle for Unity of Action of  
Working People, "Der Funktionär", Organ of  
Central Committee, Communist Party of Austria**



The journal "Der Funktionär" recently raised in its columns a vital problem in the work of the Communist Party of Austria, bearing on the development and consolidation of unity of action with the Socialist workers. In a leading article "United Front signifies unity of action" the journal revealed serious shortcomings in carrying out the united front policy in the factories, trade unions and mass organisations of the working people, shortcomings which have hindered "the matter of establishing contact with the Socialist workers, of bringing them nearer to us and drawing them into the common struggle".

"Instead' of taking concrete steps to organise joint action", writes the journal, "both in our oral propaganda and in our press we focused all our attention on the job of exposing the leaders of the Socialist Party of Austria (SPA) as traitors lo the cause of

the workers and as agents of American imperialism, etc.”

But the struggle waged against the Right-wing Socialist leaders is inadequate. Exposure of the Socialist leaders must be combined with greater activity among the rank and file Socialists. Inadequate concrete explanatory work among the masses and the ignoring of the vital demands of the Socialist workers control possibly help to create unity of action between Communists and rank and file Socialists. Abstract argument which is isolated from the demands of life fails to bring about the desired results. And though honest Socialists often disagree with the political course of the Right-wing Socialist leaders, many of them still do not believe that the policy of their leaders is reactionary, that it is, in fact, nothing but the policy of servility to the capitalists and makes for the extension of the “cold war”.

The tendency manifested here and there to judge all the members of the Socialist Party by the deeds of its reactionary, treacherous chieftains resulted in giving currency to the harmful conceptions prevailing among some Austrian Communists about the lack of prospects and futility of any work among the Socialist working people because, they say, “we can do nothing with them”. In this connection “Der Funktionär” writes:

“In order to win over the Socialist workers and draw them into joint activity it is necessary to smash the arguments of the leadership of the Socialist Party of Austria, patiently and in a business-like manner to lay bare these arguments and show their harmful nature and lack of substance. **Under no circumstances should we act on the assumption that one or another argument advanced by the leadership of the Socialist**

Party of Austria an argument which to us at the very first glance appears absurd and false, is equally absurd and false to the Socialist workers ... By merely exposing the leaders of the Socialist Party as agents of home and foreign capital we shall not be able to draw the masses of the Socialist Party of Austria into the struggle against the soaring cost of living, etc. We must tackle the difficult and seemingly 'boring' work of exposing the concrete arguments of the Right-wing Socialist leaders". However, exposing the arguments of the Right-wing Socialist leaders, the journal points out, is but a first step towards unity of action. Another thing the Communists must do in their everyday work is to pay attention to the demands of the Socialist workers "no matter how limited provided that they are aimed, even in the slightest degree, at improving the conditions of the working people. We must do our best in order to rally the Socialist workers for joint struggle for their own demands".

During the past few years for instance, the leadership of the Socialist Party of Austria have advanced a number of "programmes"—recipes for doing away with unemployment in the country. It is common knowledge that the appearance of these programmes has not in any way prevented the growth of unemployment. The Communist press in Austria stressed this fact more than once. As experience proves, however, the mere stressing of this fact is not enough to draw the Socialist workers into the joint struggle. The Communists often overlook the fact that the programmes of the Right-wing Socialist leaders also contain some times certain demands which, to a degree correspond to the interests of the working people. The active struggle of the Communists for the genuine

realisation of such demands would, in great measure, help to create unity of action between the Communist, Socialist and non-party workers. In this connection the journal points out that the task facing the Communists is “to approach the factory and office workers—the members of the Socialist Party of Austria—in the enterprises, trade unions, communities, etc., with the proposal that they take joint practical steps to ensure the implementation of these or other demands advanced by their own Party and fight together for their realisation”.

In conclusion, the journal emphasises the fact that the policy of the united front demands from the Communists a serious revision of their methods of work among the Socialist workers and points out that this policy calls for a fraternal approach to the Socialist workers, concrete, patient work day by day in the factories, trade unions and other mass organisations.

## **NEW MEASURES FOR IMPROVING WELLBEING OF WORKING PEOPLE IN RUMANIA**

The working people of Rumania have shown great satisfaction at the latest decisions of the Council of Ministers, which are aimed at raising the material and cultural level of the population.

The decision to improve the wages system and stimulate an increase in the skill of the workers and growth of labour productivity envisages gradual wage increases in keeping with labour conditions, the skill of the workers and with the economic importance of the various branches of industry. For instance, the rates for piece-work have been increased from 10 to 15 per cent and the wages of those working in arduous conditions—from 8 to 10 per cent. In order to give greater incentive to workers receiving fixed wages the bonus system has been improved and measures taken to increase their skill.

A recent decree of the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly envisages a 30 per cent reduction in the tax payable on the wages of factory and office workers and of engineer-technical personnel as well as on that payable by those working in the realms of literature, art and science.

The decision with regard to house building, on both a collective and an individual basis, is also of great importance for the working people. For this purpose the people's-democratic state will allocate long-term credits, ranging from 18 to 35 thousand lei, to factory and office workers, engineering and technical personnel in town and countryside, and to co-operative members,



teachers, doctors and sanitary workers in the countryside—to be repaid by instalments over a period of 10-15 years for rural and 15-20 years for urban population.

The other decisions of the Council of Ministers envisage a reduction of charges for communal services by 25 per cent and for electric power by 35 per cent and an adequate increase in pensions.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER CO-OPERATIVES IN ALBANIA**

Agricultural producer co-operatives open up vistas for a prosperous life for the Albanian peasantry. The Maminas cooperative—the best in the Tirana region—gathered this year 8,400 kilograms of corn per hectare compared with 3,000 kilograms last year; 1,750 kilograms of wheat per hectare, over an area of 75 hectares, and 2,000-odd kilograms of cotton per hectare over an area of 32 hectares. In addition to other farm produce and a variety of manufactured goods received for the cotton delivered to the state, the members of the co-operative received up to 9 kilograms of grain and 80 lek in cash for a work-day unit.

Ramazan and his wife, members of this co-operative, had 450 work-units to their credit for which they will receive 4,000 kilograms of grain and any other foodstuffs. Working in the co-operative Ramazan has ensured a well-to-do life for his family of 10.

## **DECLINE IN CIVIL INDUSTRY IN YUGOSLAVIA**

The present state of the Yugoslav economy testifies to its one-sided development arising from the arms drive, to serious signs of crisis and decline in a number of civil branches of industry.

Newspapers published in major industrial cities such as Belgrade, Zagreb and Ljubljana more frequently carry material testifying to the disorganisation of the country's economy.

The "Borba" recently reported that the processing industry "inadequately utilises the production capacity of the factories". According to the figures given in the newspaper, enterprises in the food industry are working at only 41 per cent of their capacity and in the textile industry, 50-60 per cent. Other branches of industry which do not work on war orders are also not working to full capacity.

The output of consumer goods is being systematically curtailed. In Serbia alone, for example, output of the food industry was 48 per cent less in February this year than in the corresponding month of last year; output in the leather and footwear industry has declined 37 per cent and in the textile industry 25 per cent.

The sharp decline in civil industry leads to the growth of unemployment, to the further impoverishment of the working people of the country.

## **STRIKE MOVEMENT IN SPAIN**

The desperate living conditions of the Spanish working people, which have grown worse since the recent signing of the US-Franco military agreement, are giving rise to growing discontent among the workers in various parts of the country. On December 2, two thousand workers of the “Euzkalduna” shipyard in Bilbao (Vizcaya) downed tools protesting against a projected wage cut. In order to crush threatened to sack all those who refused to return to work immediately, while many strikers were arrested by the police. Despite the management’s threat and the repressions on the part of the France authorities and the strike spread to a number of other enterprises. Workers in Tolosa, Azpeitia and Azcoitia (Guipuzcoa) also went on strike.

According to reports in the foreign press and radio after a 10-days’ strike the workers of the “Euzkalduna” shipyard won some of their demands.

The strikes in Vizcaya and Guipuzcon were preceded by numerous actions by the workers, including a brief strike at “ La Naval” enterprise in Sestao (Vizcaya), a go-slow campaign at the “Pirelli” enterprise in Villanueva y Geltru (Barcelona province) and other actions. The workers fought for the satisfaction of their immediate demands. Everywhere the working people are demanding revision of labour agreements.

The Communist Party of Spain called on all working people throughout the country to fight for a guaranteed minimum wage (2,000 pesos a month), for democratic liberties, and also against the US-Franco military agreement.

## **STRUGGLE OF CHILEAN PEOPLE AGAINST IMPERIALIST PLUNDER. Galo Gonzalez Diaz, General Secretary, Communist Party of Chile.**

Owing to the deepening of the general crisis of capitalism the foreign trade of the Latin American countries dominated by the US imperialist monopolies is now experiencing serious difficulties. The demand for the goods produced by these countries and the price paid for them are falling on the capitalist market, resulting thereby in a considerable decline in the currency earnings of these countries and leading to complete or partial curtailment of production in major branches of industry, to growing unemployment, to bigger budget deficits and higher prices.

This is particularly true of Chile. In recent months the US has refused to buy Chilean copper at last Year's price of 35.5 cents per pound. Since even a fall of one cent a pound in the price of copper would mean an annual loss in currency earnings of 8 million dollars, the Chilean Government was forced to stop selling copper to the US. At the moment a stock of something like a 150,000 tons of unsold copper has been piled up.

On August 21 the Chilean Council of Ministers resolved to extend foreign relations with the countries of the democratic camp, "taking into account the prime necessity to remove the restrictions which run counter to the state interests and national dignity". A few days later the Government annulled decrees 1,296 and 1,207, enacted by the former President Gonzalez Videla on orders of the US Government, prohibiting trade with the

Soviet Union and the countries of people's democracy. But these decisions were not carried out owing to the pressure exerted by the American imperialists and by the pro-American group in the Chilean Government. Moreover, with the reorganisation of the ministries which took place in October, the pro-American elements have strengthened their positions "in the Government to the extent that the latter, having "forgotten" its decision to extend trade relations, declares that at present its sole interest is simply to reach agreement with the US.

The Government sought to obtain "better treatment" from the US and to bargain for a few cents more for Chilean copper. For this purpose it sent an emissary to Washington. But the Eisenhower administration not only refused to make any concession, it stated that the US could pay only 285 cents a pound for copper. For Chile this cut in the price of copper would mean an annual loss of 44 million dollars, that is, 4,400 million Chilean pesos (according to the officially fixed rate of exchange which halved the real value of the peso. At the same time the US Government conditioned the purchase of copper even at this low price by a number of humiliating stipulations which signify an encroachment on the national interests and on the sovereignty of the country.

The US imperialists are intensifying their plunder of Chile. Under their pressure the Chilean Government embarked a few months ago on the so-called economic plan which resulted in prices being doubled and in a 50 per cent devaluation of the peso, seriously aggravating thereby the sufferings of the popular masses.

The people of Chile are actively fighting against the imperialist plunder, for democracy, national independence and peace. This struggle is headed by the working class who are organising powerful actions for their vital demands, against the high prices, for free international trade, for the taking over of the enterprises belonging to the imperialists and for agrarian reform. The recent strike of 12,000 workers and office employees of the nitrate enterprises ended in victory for the workers who forced the American monopolies to raise wages, increase the family allowances and make other concessions. Over 10,000 workers employed in American enterprises extracting and processing copper in Chuqujcamata and Potrerillos are now on strike fighting for higher wages and the satisfaction of other demands. Thirty-two thousand working people in Concepcion province held a 24-hour strike in solidarity with the workers of the nitrate enterprises and for higher wages for themselves. More and more the broad masses of the population are intensifying their struggle for their vital demands—a struggle which is the expression of the resistance of the Chilean people to the imperialist plunder.

The anti-imperialist struggle of the people of Chile is becoming particularly pronounced in relation to foreign trade. The overwhelming majority of the population, including big sections of the national bourgeoisie, are fighting against the American trade monopoly, for establishing diplomatic and trade relations with the Soviet Union, People's China and the European countries of people's democracy. Until recently large sections of the population, influenced by the reactionary propaganda, did not believe in the possibility of advantageous trade with the countries of

the democratic camp. Of late, however, radical changes have taken place in the minds of the people. Our people now know that such relations are possible and that this trade is most advantageous for the country. It has become known that the Soviet Union, through the medium of the Argentine firm "Ortiz y Cia. Ltda.", has expressed its readiness to buy at once 100,000 tons of copper and to pay 5.5 cents per pound more than the US pays. The Soviet Union also stated that in the future it would buy 250,000 tons annually and is ready to conclude an agreement for buying other articles of Chilean export and pay for them in dollars or in goods. Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and other countries of people's democracy are also interested in having considerable trade with Chile.

Nation-wide protests against the American trade monopoly and the fight for free international trade also find expression in numerous petitions, meetings and rallies and in the setting up of a broad, representative committee in defence of national sovereignty and for developing foreign trade.

The peace movement has become the champion of these national interests and aspirations. At the call of the Chilean Peace Council a national campaign was launched for signatures to back the demand for "free trade relations with all countries on the basis of mutual advantage and for annulling the military pact with the US", a pact which forbids Chile from selling its products to the countries of the democratic camp on the pretext that they are strategic materials.

\*



Despite the fact that the Government of Chile continues to kow-tow to the US, the people are fully determined to win the battle for free foreign trade. Sooner or later they will win this victory. The American monopoly grip on our foreign trade causes considerable damage to Chile. This explains why ever bigger sections of the population are joining the struggle for national independence.

The imperialist grip on Chile's foreign trade becomes tighter year by year. At the moment the US share in our foreign trade exceeds 50 per cent. The American companies engaged in extracting copper, nitrates and iron-ore increased their profits from 62 million dollars in 1946 to 115 million in 1951. By exploiting the deposits of the above-mentioned minerals and metals, and by means of enslaving loans the American monopolies robbed Chile of 450 million dollars during the 1947-51 period. For the same period American capital investments and loans amounted to 206 million dollars. This is striking evidence of the essence of the notorious American "aid" which is simply a form of plundering the peoples of other countries.

From what has been said it follows that the imperialist grip on Chile deeply infringes on the interests of the country. Because of this, the antagonism between American imperialism and the Chilean people is becoming more and more acute and is becoming the basic contradiction.

Taking this into account the Communist Party of Chile is working to combine all the patriotic forces in a united Democratic Front of National Liberation. Despite the machinations of the US imperialists the Party has succeeded in organising numerous joint actions by different anti-imperialist and anti-feudal forces. Anti-

imperialist groups of various trends, including numerous elements from the government parties have taken and are now taking part in actions against the military pact, in defence of democratic freedoms, for annulling the so-called law for defence of democracy which outlaws the Communist Party, and for establishing relations with the countries of the socialist camp.

Three years ago the Communist and Socialist Parties formed the People's Front, and although it is only an alliance of the two parties it has had, and has now, a big influence; the two parties often act jointly with the other democratic forces. As a result of the combined action of all these forces the necessary conditions are being created for forming a united, powerful Democratic Front of National Liberation capable of taking Chile out of the camp of imperialism and war.

The Communist Party directs its efforts towards strengthening the unity of the working class and its alliance with the peasantry—the main prerequisites for successfully developing the national-liberation movement. Last February all organisations of industrial and agricultural workers and office employees combined to form the United Trade Union Centre of the Working People of Chile, with a programme calling for satisfaction of the vital demands of the working people, nationalisation of the mining industry and of the communal enterprises now in the hands of imperialists, for agrarian reform, for establishing contact with all countries and for taking part in the struggle for peace.

Fighting for the immediate demands of workers the United Trade Union Centre has extended its influence and has formed organisations all over the country. At present its organisations are functioning in 28 of the 25 provinces. The Trade Union Centre fought for

organisational unity of the working people in those industries where there were parallel federations. As a result of these efforts united federations of the textile workers and of the medical workers affiliated to the respective sections of the World Federation of Trade Unions have come into being. Militant struggle for the demands of the workers is being developed under the banner of the United Centre, under the banner of united action.

Certain achievements have likewise been attained in the matter of strengthening the worker-peasant alliance. This shows that an awakening is taking place among the peasantry. The peasant actions are gaining momentum. A few months ago smallholders in the Santiago province went on strike against the big middlemen who buy peasant produce at low prices and re-sell at high prices. A congress of smallholders in the Kokimbo province took place last October. Similar congresses are being held in other parts of the country. However, the countryside, which accounts for about a half the population, remains the weakest link in the popular movement. The women's movement and the youth movement, despite some successes, are still weak. The Party is persistently striving to overcome these shortcomings.

The Communist Party is doing all in its power to have wider contact with the masses, to further extend and strengthen its ranks organisationally, politically and ideologically.

It achieved considerable success particularly after the expulsion of Reinoso, Cares, Palma and their ilk who formed a factionalist group of a putschist character and who advocated, instead of activity by the Party masses, "direct action" by small isolated groups, in other

words, political adventurism. The expulsion of these elements was followed by greater activity by the Party. However, its work still suffers from shortcomings. Its numerical growth is still relatively slow, lagging behind the needs of the situation; the possibilities arising from the fact that thousands of workers, peasants professional people and sincere intellectuals are willing to join our glorious Party are not sufficiently used.

The Party is striving to overcome these weaknesses; it is sharpening revolutionary vigilance, unfolding criticism and self-criticism, introducing the principle of collective leadership, training more and more leading cadres, especially those fighters have joined the Party in recent years, the most difficult period of underground work.

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The Communist Party of Chile has profound faith in the working class and in the people. It is confident that under its leadership the people of Chile will forever rid themselves of American imperialism and feudal oligarchy. The disillusion of the popular masses with the Ibanez Government furnishes favourable conditions for the formation, under the leadership of the working class, of a great Democratic Front of National Liberation with the aim of for a government of national liberation which all the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal classes and social groups would be represented.

The struggle for the unity of the working class and the joint action of the democratic forces represents a serious obstacle in the way of the anti-popular designs of the US imperialists and feudal reaction. The people have not forgotten the pro-American dictatorship of

Gonzalez Videla. Experience has taught the people that arbitrariness and violation of the rights of citizenship, the persecution of the Communist Party and the repressions against the working-class movement are directed against their interests. Consequently, they are defending every point of the existing restricted democratic liberties; they are fighting for a new policy, taking the road of unity and struggle for nationalisation of their industry at present in the hands of the American monopolies for elimination of the Yankee monopoly grip on our trade, for agrarian reform, for democracy, for peace.

**Santiago, November, 1953.**

**PRESENT STAGE OF PEASANT  
MOVEMENT IN INDIA. E. M. S.  
Namboodiripad, Member, Political  
Bureau, Communist Party of India**

Ganges, Jumna, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Narbada—these rivers are hallowed in the memory of the Indian people. On their banks rose some of the civilisations the monuments of which the people still treasure.

Today, however, it is on their banks that some of the worst possible disasters are taking place. For all these rivers were in spate in July-August 1953. Vast areas surrounding lands were flooded and havoc wrought among thousands of families. Property worth tens of millions of rupees was destroyed; innumerable human lives were lost.

Together with the story of floods in the year 1953 there are stories of continuous drought and famine in several Parts of our country. Parts of Andhra (known as Rayalaseema), Tamilnad, Maharashtra and Gujerat have all been afflicted by severe drought and famine. Families are being uprooted and as many human lives lost in these droughts and famines as in the floods of this year. "During the year under review", says the Reserve Bank of India in its Report for 1952-53, "scarcity conditions prevailed in some parts of the country due to seasonal failures, the number of persons affected being estimated at about 78 millions in March, 1953.

Large parts of Rajasthan, which had at one time been a fertile valley, have in fact been turned into a desert; moreover, this desert is expanding and has now

almost reached the capital of the country, Delhi; the deserts of Sind in Pakistan and of Rajasthan are, likewise, extending to Saurashtra and Northern Gujerat. Scientists in India are already speaking of this phenomenon as the “Desert on the march”. People are afraid that what happened to Rajasthan, and is now happening to its neighbouring areas, may happen before long to such areas as Rayalaseema in Andhra and the southern districts of Tamilnad, which have already become chronically affected by draught.

One of the reasons for these tragic developments is the havoc wrought by the British rulers in their 150-year-long depredations in our country; the great irrigation works have all been ruined, so that rivers which used to be the source of life for the peasantry have been turned into the source of their ruin.

The peasants waged a continuous struggle against the British rulers. Many and glorious are the stories of how the peasants in various parts of the country rose in struggle against the British invaders.

## **All-India Kisan Sabha (Peasant Association) Unites and Leads the Fighting Indian Peasantry**

It was, however, after the Great October Socialist Revolution that the Indian peasantry began to see that their struggle against the British exploiters could be successful only if they organised themselves in their own associations and entered into a close alliance with other classes fighting imperialism, primarily the working class. That was why the appearance of the first nucleus of the organised peasant movement had to wait till the

formation of the militant organisations of the industrial working class in Bombay, Calcutta, and other industrial cities and the emergence of Socialist and, above all, Communist groups in the ranks of the anti-imperialist movement.

While the campaign for such partial demands of the peasantry as reduction in land revenue rates, fixity of tenure for tenants under landlords, etc., had been part of the democratic movement from the beginning, while these had had the support of even the sections of the bourgeoisie which formed the Indian National Congress, it was the impact of the great October Socialist Revolution that made the basic slogan of the fighting peasantry—abolition of landlordism of all types—their main battle cry. It was under the banner of this slogan that local peasant organisations began to spring up in the years 1930-34 in various parts of the country; this slogan formed the basis of the unity and understanding between the leaders of the scattered local organisations which gathered in April 1936 to form the All-India Kisan Sabha (Peasant Association).

The formation of this All-India organisation proved to be a turning point not only in the history of the peasants' struggle for emancipation from imperialist and feudal slavery, but also in the history of the entire democratic movement in the country. For it meant that the peasants' struggle would no longer be utilised by elements from the upper classes for their own selfish ends; the peasants would from now on have their own organisation, and fight their battles under their own banner. It meant, further, that from now on the peasants would fight their battles not as an isolated section but as an inseparable part of the anti-imperialist movement of the Indian people.



The seventeen years since the formation of the All-India Kisan Sabha have been years of rapid extension of the militant Kisan movement all over the country. While at the time of its formation the organisation was confined to a few areas, it has spread to more and more new areas, so that today it has its units in almost every Province.

This extension of the organisation throughout the country was achieved in the course of bitter struggles against exploiters. Many are the glorious struggles which the peasants in various parts of the country fought under the banner of the All-India Kisan Sabha and other democratic organisations allied to the Sabha—struggles for the recovery of lands unjustly) and forcibly seized by landlords from peasants, for reduction in rent and other payments made by the peasantry; struggles for amending existing land legislation with a view to securing occupancy rights, rights for the use of common lands and forests, etc., struggles for higher wages for agricultural labourers ; cessation of evictions, etc.

Some of these struggles, like the “Tebhaga” struggle in Bengal (the struggle for a reduction of the landlord’s share of the produce from half to one-third); the struggle of the Telengana peasants against landlord and Government terror; the struggle of the peasants of Tripura, Malabar, Andhra, Tamilnad, Maharashtra, Punjab and Pepsu, etc., reached at times dimensions of national struggles; they were struggles in which not only the peasantry but democratic elements from every section of society joined.

These struggles of the peasants, which developed under the leadership of the All-India Kisan Sabha, played a decisive part in the big national upsurge of 1945-47; it was these, together with the struggle of the

industrial workers and of other sections of the people including the personnel of the armed forces (Rising of Royal Indian Navy), that forced the British Government to make a tactical retreat and organise the Transfer of Power on August 15, 1947.

And it was again these struggles under the leadership of the All-India Kisan Sabha which gave proper shape to the spontaneous discontent which grew among the peasants; this is seen in the fact that it was in those Provinces and Districts where the Kisan Sabha and organisations allied to it had waged heroic struggles (as, for example, Tripura State, West Bengal, Telengana part of Hyderabad, Andhra, Tamilnad, Malabar, Travancore-Cochin, Orissa, Punjab and Pepsu) that the United Democratic Front with the Communist Party as its leading force emerged as a serious alternative to the Congress in the first General Election held in India under the new Constitution.

## **Intensified Peasant Movement of Past Decade**

The developments of the past few years—the magnificent triumph of the Soviet people over the Nazi hordes, the great social transformations which followed the end of the Anti-Fascist War in Eastern Europe, the historic victory of the Chinese people and the struggle of the Vietnamese, Philippine, Malayan and other Asian peoples met with wide response in India.

These developments brought into the consciousness of the mass of our people an awareness of the significant role of the Soviet and Chinese Revolutions in human history. They have seen the Soviet and Chinese

peoples successfully solve many of the basic problems which we are facing in our country.

During the past few years new generations of radical anti-imperialist youth came into the arena of militant struggles. Groups of radical democrats have started working among the peasantry and are organising them in new peasant organisations. For the first time in the history of the Indian peasant movement parallel organisations working on the basis of more or less the same slogans appeared on the scene.

Far more important than the emergence of these organisations, however, was the process of rapid radicalisation that took place among the peasant masses during the years of the Second World War and after. It is a fact that the mass upsurge of the war and postwar years was far more universal than any single political party or mass organisation could cope with; struggles broke out, organisations were formed and even demands won, in more and more new areas not hitherto covered by any Kisan organisation or any political party.

After the “Transfer of Power” and the assumption of authority by the Congress, this process was checked temporarily owing to the fact that many peasants still had faith in the Congress. But soon the peasants began to see that their expectation of an end to their difficulties was nothing but an empty illusion. They saw, as a matter of fact, that their sufferings and misery were growing instead of abating, and new, ever increasing sections of them began to come into the field of struggle.

It was this process of mass disillusionment with the Congress policy, a growing desire for a change of Government, that was reflected in the results of the General Election. The election results testified that the

demand for fundamental changes in the land system and the conviction that these changes can be brought about only if the present Government is replaced by a more progressive Government, have become very strong.

## **Main Tasks of the Sabha**

It was, however, not only through the ballot box at the time of the General Election that the mass of peasants showed their spirit of struggle against the existing regime. The last 18 months since the General Election have seen an unprecedented number of mass actions; furthermore, these actions have been so militant in spirit and so united and broad-based, that on several issues, the Government has had the peasantry. The most notable instance in which this has happened was in the levying of new taxes. But, irrespective of the party to which they belonged, the peasants came out against these proposals; there were many local, district-wide and even State-wide struggles in which the entire peasantry came out against the Government proposals; what is more, local units of the Congress came out in support of the peasants' demands so that even oppose the Government proposals; it was because of this united opposition that the Government had to drop many of these taxation proposals.

United struggles are also taking place on the issue of evictions which have become particularly large-scale since the Congress came to power. In this struggle against evictions political parties, groups and mass organisations of various types are united; even sections of the Congress are coming in.

There are several issues on which the peasants, despite their affiliation to various political parties, are being united in action,—issues like fair prices for their produce, reduction in rent rates, irrigation facilities, etc. It is this tendency towards peasant unity in action against the policies of the Government that is most characteristic of the present phase of the Kisan movement. It is this. that the. Kisan Sabha takes as the pivot of its activity in the present period, when it declared -as follows in its “Policy Statement”, adopted at its last Annual Session:

The Sabha, reads “The Policy Statement”, “appeals to all other organisations of the kisans to wage joint struggle against evictions, against the imposition of new taxes, for rent and revenue reduction and other immediate demands of the peasants, and also calls on them to form joint committees of struggle.

## **Struggle Against Distortions—an Essential Condition for Unity**

During the very period in which the broad masses of our people more and more clearly realise the key importance of basic transformations in land relations, the ruling classes and their ideologists have done their best to distort the real character of the agrarian question and its solution.

Unable to ignore the phenomenal success of the Soviet plans of reconstruction, as well as of the land-reform programme in the Chinese People’s Republic, the ideologists of the ruling classes distort these lessons to such an extent that land reform and the development of

the economy of India are represented as questions of properly studying the economy of the country and of wisely planning it. There are some “theorists” who try to make out that in present conditions India too can have a rapid development of her economy if only the Government takes up a series of hare-brained schemes of “land reform” and “economic planning” for our country. Most striking in this respect are the actions of the Congress representatives of which argue that if only a law is adopted allowing no landowner to keep more than a fixed acreage, the existing “inequality of landholdings” will go. This is supposed to bring about in India the same reforms which have been brought about in the Soviet Union and China.

There are other plans for so-called “land reform” one of which is the “land gift” movement launched by Vinoba Bhave, a close follower of Gandhi, which is calculated to persuade all landholders to donate a part of their land to a “land fund”, out of which land is to be distributed to the landless.

Together with these “two “plans” ” of “fixation of an upper limit” and “land gift”, the Congress indulges in much talk about so-called “co-operative farming”, improvement of agricultural technique, irrigation, etc. All these are supposed to be the measures through which the condition of our peasantry and of our agriculture will be improved.

In all these “plans” for “land reform” the Congress has the active support of the Socialist Party. Besides supporting the slogans of the Congress, the Socialists are also popularising their own scheme of organising a certain “land army”, together with fixation of an upper limit to holdings, land gifts, co-operative farming, etc., will solve the nation's problems of food and agriculture.

At the same time, there are certain political groups in India which call themselves “Marxists™ and even “Marxist-Leninists”, who argue that our agrarian reform should be so organised as to fully eliminate not only landlord exploitation but the exploitation by the rich peasant as well. Distorting the lessons of the Russian Revolution, they call for a plan for the immediate organisation of collective cultivation and oppose land distribution.

Only if these and other distortions of the tasks of agrarian reform are resolutely combated can the peasantry be rallied in their millions and united into a mighty force under the guidance of the working class for successful struggle against imperialism and feudalism. For, whether they take the form of a shameless class collaboration character such as the “land gift” movement, or whether they take the form of a “left” disruptionist character such as bracketing the rich peasant with the landlord or any other form, they all hamper the decisive, task of uniting, under the leadership of the working class, the peasant masses against imperialism and feudalism.

Only in close alliance with the working class and under the leadership of the working class headed by the Communist Party can the multi-million peasantry in India achieve complete realisation of their vital demands.

Preparing the peasants to unite their ranks in a way that will enable them to “carry out genuine agrarian reform—this is what the entire democratic movement must regard as a lesson of the Russian and Chinese Revolutions.

## **Strengthen the Communist Party Ideologically and Organisationally**

We, the Indian Communists, have the special responsibility of carrying on the ideological struggle against all forms of bourgeois and petty bourgeois distortions of the great lessons of the Russian and Chinese Revolutions. It is on us, too, that responsibility lies for carrying on the daily practical struggle to develop the organised strength of the peasantry.

While popularising the slogan of taking over landlords' land and giving it free to the peasants and landless labourers, we should also see that the broadest possible forms of action are developed around such demands as: security of tenure for tenant cultivators, reduction in rent and revenue demands on all peasants, fair prices for agricultural commodities, supply of cheap consumption goods for the peasantry, abolition of all forms of serfdom and semi-serfdom, etc. We should realise that it is precisely to divert the mass of peasants from these real concrete demands that the ruling classes are raising the slogan of "immediate" and "basic" land reform, and then restricting it to the form of "land gift", "fixation of an upper limit", "co-operative farming", etc.

This means, further, that the Party must strengthen itself organisationally and improve its functioning to an enormous degree. For only if the thousands who have already become Party members and the tens of thousands of sympathisers who have not yet been drawn into the Party are organised in a powerful country-wide Communist organisation,—an organisation which is ever vigilant against the ideological, political and economic



assaults of the landlords and their bourgeois and petty bourgeois protectors—only then will it be possible for the Party to play its due role in transforming the present mighty peasant upsurge into an organised movement with tens of thousands of Village Peasant Committees enjoying the confidence of the millions of peasants.

It is to this task of ideologically steeling and organisationally strengthening itself in order to play its role to the full also in the further development of the peasant movement that the Communist Party of India is now dedicating itself.

# FEUILLETON

## Flower Gardens in Werl Prison

The British High Commissioner in Germany Sir Frederick Hoyer Millar is badly upset.

He was put out of sorts just as he was sipping his morning coffee. The “culprits”, it turned out, were none other than the West German newspapers. They dared to hint that the German war criminals detained in the Werl prison (British Occupation Zone) were harshly treated, that they, poor fellows, were subjected to torture and that their sufferings “baffled description.”

This was the last straw! Had not he, the High Commissioner, just like his predecessors, succeeded in getting many of these war criminals freed, and as for those still behind bars... None other than Sir Frederick Hoyer Millar is displaying paternal care so that the butchers of children and aged people, the butchers of Minsk and Oradour, should feel quite at home in their detention! Better than at home, in fact!... They feel as if they were in the best health resorts in Europe!

After upsetting the coffee-pot Sir Frederick Hoyer Millar began briskly pacing up and down in his study. I’ll teach the insolent hacks a lesson, he said to himself. He would investigate conditions in the Werl prison and let the facts speak for themselves!

Arriving for his tour of inspection the first thing the High Commissioner saw in the prison yard was a swastika-like flower-bed. Nearby was a man with a watering-can, wearing a tunic of Armoured Corps.

—How much time do the inmates spend in the fresh air, he asked the warder in a severe tone?

—Well, the German orders were very strict in this respect replied the warder, but thank God, the British are now in charge and their regulations provide for milder treatment. For instance, they recommend keeping them in the fresh air as long as possible and an extra two hours at games every week. They are splendid regulations, said the warder confidentially to the High Commissioner. Without them we wouldn't know what to do.. they keep putting on weight...

The first cell inspected by the High Commissioner was empty.

—The gentlemen are at a film show, explained the jailor.

A boogy-woogy melody emanated from the adjoining cell. Two SS men were listening to the radio. They readily described to the High Commissioner their prison experiences. In point of fact the High Commissioner could easily have spared himself the trouble of listening to the details. It was enough to look at their faces which had the colour of a brick just taken from the kiln. They were unable, however, to talk with the inmate of the next cell. For he, in reply to Sir Frederick's greeting, first tried to sing the "Horst Wessel" song, then... he vomited. It turned out that this creature was blind drunk...

The more cells Sir Frederick visited the more radiant was his smile. According to the DPA Agency, as a result of the investigation of conditions in Werl prison, it was established that its inmates—war criminals—are allowed:

To receive an unlimited number of letters; to subscribe to newspapers and magazines; to have radios

in their cells, see films, engage in gardening, to receive Christmas parcels up to 10 kilograms in weight and to study by correspondence.

The inmates are not yet allowed:

To go on excursions in their native country or abroad; to have their own automobiles or engage in breeding livestock.

It is quite possible that, with Sir Frederick Hoyer Millar's aid, even these restrictions may be removed shortly.

The High Commissioner, tired but happy, returned to finish his coffee. He announced that the results of the investigation would be published as a lesson to newspapers in Western Germany so that they would not lie in the future.

**V. GREEN**

# LOOK HERE, OLD CHAP! ISN'T IT TIME YOU WERE GETTING OUT! Drawing by J. Novak

Since the signing of the US-Franco agreement Franco's claim to the British base of Gibraltar has been meeting with increasing support on the part of US military and political circles, Washington harbours a plan to establish joint US-Franco control over Gibraltar.

(Press item)



## POLITICAL NOTES

### Crude Insult to National Dignity of French People

The ruling circles of the US and Britain resort to more and more threats and insults against France.

Writing at the time about the scheduled “melancholy visit” to Bermuda. by Prime Minister Laniel, “Le Monde™ said: “Everything looks as if the relations between France and the great Anglo-Saxon alliance have become the relations of satellite and an imperial power”.

The events which preceded the separate meeting in Bermuda, the meeting itself and its results have confirmed the evaluation made by this newspaper. The very moment the French delegation composed of Laniel and Bidault—Prime Minister and Foreign Minister respectively—arrived in Bermuda, one could observe the shameless and brazen desire to humiliate France—a desire displayed by the American and British rulers.

Actually, on the very day of their arrival Churchill's musicians gave the impression that they had forgotten the “Marseillaise” and greeted the French diplomats with a frivolous music-hall tune.

The following day Eisenhower and his retinue arrived on the scene. There were present at this ceremony: Sir Winston Churchill, Laniel and... a goat—the mascot of a Welsh regiment. In keeping with diplomatic protocol and elementary politeness the two chief statesmen should have waited together for the third. But the very opposite took place. Churchill devoted all his attention

to the goat. M. Laniel wisely stood aside. Some said that this was simply because he didn't know English, to which others rejoined: and what about the goat?

Be that as it may, at the moment of Eisenhower's arrival one of the three representatives of the Great Powers, M. Laniel, was removed from the official ranks and placed fifth after Dulles and Eden. This was done for the purpose of showing him that he, the Prime Minister of France, is less important than any of these ministers.

This slap in the face for the French diplomats evoked indignation in practically all French newspapers. "Combat" wrote, for instance: "To what degree have our representatives lost the feeling of national dignity when they did not even voice anger at this insolence?" Silence was preserved only by the French diplomats themselves: neither Laniel nor Bidault uttered a word of protest. The only effect was that M. Laniel "fell ill", while Bidault, who has better knowledge of the "finesse" of Atlantic diplomacy, continued the negotiations alone.

The French press also expressed its deep dissatisfaction with the fact that Laniel and Bidault obediently accepted the American proposal to fix January 4th as the date for a Four-Power conference to which the Western Powers were forced to agree under the pressure of world public opinion and which is wholeheartedly welcomed by public opinion in France. Newspapers stress that in putting forward this proposal, Eisenhower and Churchill knew perfectly well that on January 4th, in view of the presidential election, there will in fact be no government in France since the Laniel government, which must resign after the presidential election, can but handle current questions. And this

“government” will have to decide questions on which the future of the country depends, and likewise the future of peace in Europe.

This is simply further proof of the scorn in which France is held by the ruling circles of the USA and Britain. Turning a deaf ear to public opinion in France during the discussion of these questions in Bermuda they, at the same time, are most attentive to the views of the West-German revanchists. Special radio communications was established between Bonn and Bermuda and it is said that even the Burgomaster of West Berlin was consulted as to how the proposal of the Soviet Union for a Four-Power conference should be answered.

However, this disregard for diplomatic protocol, this blatant striving to reduce France to the role of a “dumb witness” at the forthcoming Four-Power conference, was just by way of a prelude, designed to “prepare” the French rulers for greater “concessions”. Dulles soon went further in insulting and threatening France. The American Secretary of State delivered a humiliating ultimatum to the French Minister right in Paris. Addressing a meeting of the Council of the Atlantic bloc in his usual crude tone Dulles insisted that France immediately ratify the “European Army” treaty and continue the war in Indo-China, threatening, if this is not done, to stop dollar “aid” to France. Later, at a press conference, he publicly repeated these demands.

The tone and the content of these statements aroused indignation among all sections of French public opinion. According to the Agency “France Presse”, Daladier, ex-Prime Minister, stressed that these statements were an “insult to the national dignity of France”. The entire press protested against what the



“Combat” described as an “American ultimatum”. Some newspapers, which had usually supported the American policy, were compelled to protest against the loose tone of Dulles’ statement. “Franc-Tireur” pointed out that the “diplomacy of thumping the table has never yielded positive results in relations between allies and friends. Unmindful of this, Dulles missed a convenient occasion to remain silent”. Even “Aurore”, organ of unbridled reaction, was forced to characterise Dulles’ language as being “unhappy words”, while the pro-American “Figaro” referred to them as a “crude warning”.

Dissatisfaction is not concealed even in... the British bourgeois press. The headlines are highly significant. “Dulles threatens” write the “Daily Herald” and the “Manchester Guardian”, while the “Daily Telegraph” doubted if Dulles had chosen the most convenient occasion.

Representatives of US imperialist circles obviously look on France as a country similar to the diplomats and rulers who have lost all sense of national dignity and who have become used to turning the other cheek. But they are mistaken. Despite Dulles’ bragging, which merely reflects the dissatisfaction and irritation of the US ruling circles arising from the resistance to their plans, the people of France have not lost a single iota of their militant moral fibre.

They are not afraid of threats. And they will not tolerate insults to their national dignity. Contrary to the desire of those plotting to enslave them, the people of France are far from thinking that all is over with their country and that their homeland is fit to be only a territory under trusteeship. On the contrary, they are aware that theirs is a great country which has not a few true and sincere friends. They want to be the masters in

their country and to save their homeland from the danger threatening it as a result of the revival of German militarism.

Replying to the insults and threats the people of France are consolidating their unity and intensifying their fight for peace and national independence, against the blatant interference of the American imperialists in their internal affairs, ensuring for France the respect to which she is fully entitled.

**Jan MAREK**

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