

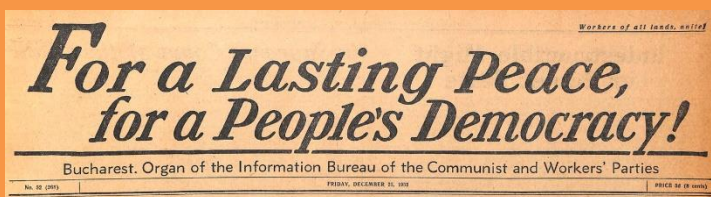
Workers of all lands, unite!

***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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STATEMENT OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT

Concerning the Speech Made by United States President Eisenhower on December 8th, 1953

United States President Eisenhower made a speech on atomic armaments in the United Nations General Assembly on December 8.

As reported earlier, Mr. Charles Bohlen, United States Ambassador to the USSR, visited on December 7th V. M. Molotov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, and, referring to the instructions of his Government, asked that the attention of the Soviet Government be drawn to the proposals contained in the President's speech. On December 9th Mr. Bohlen sent V. M. Molotov excerpts from Eisenhower's speech.

On December 21 V. M. Molotov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, handed Mr. Bohlen the text of the Soviet Government's statement, given below, concerning the speech of President Eisenhower.

The letter of United States Ambassador Mr. Bohlen to V. M. Molotov and the excerpts from the speech of President Eisenhower at the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, sent by Mr. Bohlen, are being published simultaneously.

The Statement of the Soviet Government reads:

In his speech at the United Nations General Assembly on December 8th United States President Eisenhower dwell on the problem of the atomic armaments race.

With every justification the President of the United States stressed the danger of the developing situation for the peoples of the world should the Governments fail to take measures against the atomic armaments race. This is all the more true today when, parallel with atomic weapons, hydrogen weapons have already been developed, greatly exceeding in power the atomic weapons. Nor must we forget such new types of armaments as rocket weapons which modern technique makes it possible to use for thousands of kilometres without resorting to airplanes, as well as torpedoes with atomic charges, etc.

The discovery of the practical possibility of using atomic energy is the greatest achievement of contemporary science and engineering. Both the possibility of using atomic energy for war purposes and the possibility of utilising it for peaceful purposes have been discovered. Until recently, efforts were made to utilise atomic energy chiefly for the production of armaments. Yet mankind is interested in atomic energy being channelled only for peaceful needs and in preventing the use of atomic energy for purposes that contradict the honour and conscience of the peoples, such as mass annihilation of people and barbarous destruction of cities.

Almost 30 years ago the governments of 49 countries reached agreement and signed the 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibiting the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons recognising the criminality of using such weapons of mass destruction of people. That agreement between governments, signed in the past also by the Soviet Union, yielded positive results.

Everybody knows that during the first world war extensive use was made of such weapons of mass

destruction of people as asphyxiating and poison gases and other types of chemical weapons, the employment of which was resolutely condemned by the peoples. Already at that time there was also the danger of the use of pernicious bacteriological weapons designed to infect the peaceful inhabitants of towns with the most dreadful diseases, which the conscience of the overwhelming majority of mankind could not tolerate. It was this that gave rise to the necessity of an international agreement in the form of the aforesaid Geneva Protocol which condemned and prohibited the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in war.

It is perfectly clear that if there had not been this Protocol, signed by 49 countries, although still not ratified by all governments, there would have been no restraining factor although still not ratified by all governments, there would have been no restraining factor as well. The fact that during the second world war not a single government ventured to employ chemical and bacteriological weapons shows that the aforesaid Agreement of the states, directed against chemical and bacteriological weapons, was of positive significance. It goes without saying that one cannot minimize the further fact that the governments of the anti-Hitler coalition, on the basis of this international agreement, firmly declared that a crushing rebuff would be given to any attempt by the enemy to employ chemical weapons in that war.

The above-mentioned considerations fully apply to atomic and hydrogen weapons as well. It is known that the United Nations do not include these weapons among conventional armaments but regard them as special weapons, as weapons of mass destruction.

One can understand the fact that President

Eisenhower, who is known as one of the outstanding military leaders in the last world war, stressed the destructive power of atomic weapons. It is also necessary to bear in mind that as time passes this problem becomes even more significant.

It would be utterly incomprehensible if the states possessing atomic or hydrogen weapons did not attach due significance to the question of prohibiting atomic and hydrogen weapons, as well as other weapons of mass destruction, or if they were to postpone to some indefinite future the implementation of an international agreement on this question. Such an attitude to this vital and urgent problem would find no justification whatever.

The Soviet Union is consistently waging a struggle for the prohibition of atomic weapons and at the same time for a substantial reduction of all other types of armaments. This conforms to the policy of the Soviet state directed at averting another war and strengthening peace and co-operation among nations.

In his speech concerning atomic weapons on December 8, the President of the United States noted the great importance of the problem of lessening the international tension and of achieving a climate of mutual peaceful confidence. This also conforms to the views of the Soviet Government which invariably strives to promote a lessening of tension in international relations and to ensure the strengthening of Peace throughout the world.

To achieve success along these lines mutual efforts are necessary to eliminate the causes preventing a reduction of tension in international relations. As for the Soviet Union, we are doing everything to concentrate the labour of the Soviet people and our

material resources on the accomplishment of the new gigantic tasks of the continued advance of the country's peaceful economy and culture and to extend further international economic co-operation on the basis of equality and mutual advantage. The Soviet Union is one of the countries which strive to develop sound international trade and resolutely denounce the discredited policy in this sphere, the policy of discrimination and pressure on economically dependent countries. The interests of foreign policy of the Soviet Union do not require the establishment of military blocs and alliances directed against these or other countries. Neither do they require the establishment of military bases on the territories of other countries. The Soviet Union regards a policy which would mean support of acts of sabotage and subversion in other countries or the financing of secret agents and saboteurs as incompatible with normal relations between countries. The desire to improve relations between countries should lead to mutual recognition of these principles which cannot run counter to the national interests of any country and at the same time fully correspond the interests of strengthening peace and international security.

Precisely for this reason the Soviet Union attaches such importance not only to the forthcoming conference in Berlin but also to a five-power conference, with the participation of the People's Republic of China, since in the present conditions only the joint efforts of all the great powers, together with the efforts of other states, can ensure a lessening of tension in the entire international situation and a corresponding settlement of separate urgent international problems. This also conforms to the United Nations Charter which places

special responsibility for the maintenance of peace and international security on the five-powers: the United States, Britain, France, the USSR and China. At the same time it is perfectly obvious that at present the great Chinese people must be represented in the United Nations precisely by the People's Republic of China.

Desiring to enhance the role and prestige of the United Nations in strengthening universal peace special persistence should be displayed in bringing closer the positions of the five great powers on the question of ending the drive for atomic armaments and all other armaments. Every step towards agreement among these powers both in eliminating the danger of the use of atomic and hydrogen weapons and in ending the armaments drive in general would, undoubtedly, be unanimously supported by all the members of the United Nations. Above all, along this road there are important possibilities for lessening the tension in the international situation, for strengthening peace.

Outlining his opinion about the significance of atomic weapons, President Eisenhower spoke in favour of the desirability of holding corresponding private or diplomatic talks between the countries involved.

At the same time President Eisenhower put forward the proposal that the respective governments begin now and continue to contribute for peaceful purposes a part of their stock-piles of normal uranium and fissionable materials to an international atomic energy agency which would be under the aegis of the United Nations. This proposal points out, moreover, that the international atomic energy agency could be made responsible for impounding, storage and protection of the contributed fissionable and other materials.

It is necessary to examine what this proposal means.

Firstly, this proposal means that it is suggested that from the available and newly created stockpiles of atomic materials only “a part”, a small part be contributed for peaceful purposes. Hence it follows that, as hitherto, the main bulk of atomic materials will go for the production of new atomic and hydrogen bombs and that there remains the full possibility of further stockpiling atomic weapons and developing new types of these weapons of still greater destructive power. Consequently, this proposal in its present form in no way binds the hands of the countries which are in a position to produce atomic and hydrogen weapons.

Secondly, President Eisenhower’s proposal does not in the least limit the very possibility of using atomic weapons. The adoption of this proposal in no way restricts the aggressor as regards the, use of atomic weapons for any purposes and at any time. Consequently, this proposal in no way reduces the danger of atomic attack.

Thus the conclusion must be drawn that in its present form the proposal advanced by the United States neither halts the growing production of atomic weapons nor limits the possibility of using these weapons. In assessing the real meaning of the given proposal this cannot but be taken into account.

This proposal would have different meaning if it proceeded from recognition of the need to ban atomic weapons which are weapons of aggression. But the speech of the President of the United States does not mention the need to prohibit atomic weapons. The question of the prohibition of atomic weapons is bypassed in the speech notwithstanding the fact that President Eisenhower stresses the special danger of atomic weapons for the peoples of the world in the

present atomic era.

The question arises: is it possible to speak of the necessity to lessen international tension and at the same time by-pass the problem of the prohibition of atomic weapons? There can be no two answers to this question. All who strive to reduce tension in international relations and to strengthen peace cannot but demand that the governments work for the earliest positive solution of this problem.

It is well known that the anxiety felt by the peoples is due chiefly to the possibility of the outbreak of an atomic war, the danger of which cannot be eliminated without the prohibition of atomic weapons. This has been recognised from its very inception by the United Nations, which is on record for the need to prohibit atomic weapons.

No one can deny the difficulties that are met with in seeking a solution of this question. However it cannot be said that sufficient efforts have already been exerted by the United Nations, and first of all by the countries principally involved, to arrive at an international agreement on the prohibition of atomic weapons and the establishment of effective international control over the implementation of this prohibition. It would, therefore, be impossible to explain to the peace-loving peoples a situation in which the settlement of this question were to be further postponed or by-passed, notwithstanding all its acuteness at the present time.

That is why the Soviet Government holds, as hitherto, that unconditional prohibition of atomic and hydrogen weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction with the simultaneous establishment of strict international control over this prohibition is the most important and, moreover, pressing problem. All

peace-loving peoples are interested in the speediest solution of this problem.

If the whole matter is reduced to diverting some small part of atomic materials for peaceful purposes, while the bulk of these materials, whose quantity is constantly growing, goes for the production of ever-more destructive atomic weapons, the danger of atomic war will not be reduced in the least. This may tend to relax the vigilance of the peoples as regards the problem of atomic weapons, but it cannot contribute to the lessening of the real danger of an atomic war.

If agreement among states is reduced to allotting for peaceful purposes only some small part of atomic materials, while production of atomic weapons, in the future too, is not limited in any way, such international agreement would in effect directly sanction the production of atomic weapons. International sanction of the production of atomic weapons would play into the hands of the aggressive forces. Such a situation, far from facilitating agreement on the prohibition of atomic weapons would on the contrary be a new obstacle to achieving such agreement.

Since we are striving to strengthen peace, our aims can be neither the relaxation of vigilance as regards the danger of an atomic war nor international sanction of the production of atomic weapons. That is precisely why it is necessary to recognise that the task of all the peace-loving countries cannot be limited to allotting for peaceful purposes some small part of the atomic materials. It is essential that not some part but the entire mass of atomic materials be fully allotted for peaceful purposes, which would open unprecedented possibilities for the advance of industry, agriculture and transport, for the utilisation of highly valuable atomic

discoveries in medicine, for perfecting technique in the many branches where it is used, for the further and greater progress of science.

It should also be taken into account that the prohibition of atomic and hydrogen weapons and the utilisation of all atomic materials for the peaceful needs of the peoples, with due care for the needs of the economically under-developed areas, would at the same time facilitate the achievement of agreement for a decisive reduction of conventional armaments as well. This, in turn, would greatly ease the tax burden borne by the people in view of the existence in many countries of inflated armies, air forces and navies, that is, in view of the continuing armaments race.

All this demands recognition of the necessity to prohibit atomic weapons, together with the establishment of international control over the implementation of this prohibition, and to renounce unconditionally the employment of these weapons. The Soviet Government will, therefore, continue to insist on the urgent achievement of a corresponding international agreement on this issue.

As for President Eisenhower's statement about private or diplomatic talks regarding his proposal, the Soviet Government, unswervingly following its peace-loving policy, expresses readiness to take part in such talks. The Soviet Government has always attached great importance to direct negotiations between countries, with the aim of achieving mutually acceptable agreements on controversial issues in the interests of strengthening universal peace.

At the same time the Soviet Government anticipates that the United States Government, as follows from its statement, will give the necessary explanations, since

the proposal or the United States contains in its essential parts unclear points and does not envisage the necessity of the prohibition of atomic weapons just as it does not envisage renunciation of the use of the weapons.

The Soviet Union is profoundly convinced that mankind must and can be delivered from the horrors of an atomic war. Particular responsibility for the accomplishment of this task rests with the countries which already possess the might of atomic weapons.

As for the Soviet Union, its stand is perfectly clear. It consists of using the great discovery of the human mind not against civilisation but for its all-round progress, not for mass destruction of people but for peaceful needs, for ensuring the enhancement of the wellbeing of the population in every way.

The Soviet Government proceeds from the premise that in the course of the negotiations the following proposal of the Soviet Union will be simultaneously examined:

The countries, parties to the Agreement, guided by the desire to lessen international tension, assume the solemn and unconditional obligation not to use atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass destruction.

International agreement on this question could be an important step towards the full withdrawal from national armaments of atomic, hydrogen and other types of weapons of mass destruction, with the establishment of strict international control ensuring fulfilment of the agreement on the prohibition of using atomic energy for war purposes.

The Soviet Union, imbued with profound concern for safeguarding mankind from the lethal atomic and

hydrogen weapons, will exert every effort to ensure that these weapons are never turned against human beings.

(“Pravda”, December 22, 1953)

DECISION OF COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL STALIN PRIZE AWARDS “FOR PROMOTION OF PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS”

Meetings of the Committee of the International Stalin Prizes “For Promotion of Peace Among the Nations” were held in Moscow on December 9 and 12 under the chairmanship of Academician D. V. Skobeltzin.

The Committee considered the recommendations submitted for the International Stalin Prize awards for the current year and adopted a corresponding decision.

The Committee’s decision, awarding the 1953 International Stalin Prizes “For Promotion of Peace Among the Nations”, is published below.

1953 INTERNATIONAL STALIN PRIZE AWARDS “FOR PROMOTION OF PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS”

Decision of Committee of International Stalin Prize Awards “For Promotion of Peace Among the Nations”, Adopted on December 12, 1953

In recognition of their outstanding contribution to the struggle for the preservation and promotion of peace, **International Stalin Prize awards “For Promotion of Peace Among the Nations”** have been conferred on the following:

Pierre Cot, Deputy of the National Assembly (France)

Sahib Singh Sokhey, Professor, Major-General, Member of Council of States in Parliament of India

Father Andrea Gagero, (Italy)

Isabella Blume, Member of Parliament (Belgium)

Howard Fast, writer (USA)

John Bernal, Professor of London University (Britain)

Leon Kruczkowski, writer (Poland)

Pablo Neruda, writer (Chile)

Dr. Andrea Andreen, Head Doctor of clinical laboratory, Stockholm (Sweden)

Nina V. Popova, Secretary, All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (USSR)

Chairman of the Committee: **D. V. Skobeltzin**

Vice-Chairmen : **Kuo Mo-jo** (China)

Louis Aragon (France)

Members of the Committee:

M. Andersen-Nex (Denmark),
Jan Dembowski (Poland),
Mihail Sadoveanu (Rumania),
A. A. Fadeyev (USSR),
I. G. Ehrenburg (USSR).

December 12, 1953.

Moscow.

FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF CONTROVERSIAL INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS

World Public Opinion Demands End to War in Viet Nam

December 19 marked the seventh anniversary of the heroic resistance of the people of Viet Nam to the French imperialists. After the call issued by the Third World Trade Union Congress the working people throughout the world marked this date as International Day of Active Solidarity with the People of Viet Nam, as a day of struggle for ending the colonial war in Viet Nam.

In the Soviet Union the press published numerous materials devoted to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the courageous struggle waged by its patriots.

A mass meeting in Peking was addressed by Liu Ning-i, Vice-President of the All-China Trade Union Federation, who stressed that the struggle waged by the people of Viet Nam for their independence, is, at the same time, the struggle for peace in Asia and throughout the world. The people of Viet Nam, he said, as well as the Korean people, have given a brilliant example of patriotic and just struggle to all oppressed peoples.

The meeting sent a telegram to the General Confederation of Labour of Viet Nam, to the Peace Committee, to the youth, women and public organisations of Viet Nam expressing solidarity and full

support for the heroic people of Viet Nam in the struggle for the freedom of their country and also telegrams addressed to the General Confederation of Labour, the National Peace Council and other public organisations in France.

A week of struggle for peace in Viet Nam, launched by the General Confederation of Labour, was held in France over December 14-19; the week was marked by numerous actions against the “dirty war” by the working population and the entire French people.

Iron and steel workers and building workers downed tools in solidarity with the people of Viet Nam. Dockers in Boulogne and Dunkirk struck work; dockers in Nice held one-hour strikes throughout the week. Port workers in Marseilles unanimously voted for an end to the “dirty war” by means of negotiations with Ho Chi Minh Government.

Over 400 meetings devoted to the International Day of Active Solidarity with the People of Viet Nam took place in France on December 18 and 19. In Paris a meeting of several thousand working people in the Mutualite Hall called on the French people to intensify the struggle for ending the war in Viet Nam. “We pledge”, reads the declaration adopted at this meeting, “to call on deputies and members of the Council of the Republic with the request that they, with full responsibility, insist on a debate in the National Assembly and the Council of the Republic on the statement made by Ho Chi Minh, and demand that the Government open negotiations”.

Statement by National Peace Committee in Lebanon

The National Peace Committee in Lebanon has released a statement addressed to the general public, all political parties and organisations in the country.

The statement points out that the peace' movement in Lebanon gives its support to all peoples in their struggle for peace and national independence and calls on all organisations and all sections of the population to fight for an end to the aggressive actions of the imperialists which are directed against the national-liberation movements of the peoples of North Africa.

The peace movement, the National Peace Committee stresses, is not dependent on any particular organisation or group supporting its activity. The peace movement is a mass movement open to all patriots fighting for peace and national sovereignty regardless of their political views and religious beliefs. Its aim is to unite the efforts of all who are fighting for peace. The National Peace Committee of Lebanon therefore supports any initiative directed toward defending peace irrespective of the persons or organisations from whence it comes.

Meeting in Geneva Against Remilitarisation of Western Germany

A meeting was recently held in Geneva in connection with the campaign for the collection of signatures to the appeal of the Swiss Peace Committee

against the remilitarisation of Western Germany. The meeting was addressed by Professor Bonnard, member of the World Peace Council and Chairman of the Swiss Peace Committee.

In his speech Professor Bonnard called on the Swiss people to be vigilant in the face of the threat of the revival of fascism in Western Germany. “Adenauer’s Germany is precisely Hitler’s Germany”, he said.

“The same slogans, the same capital concentrated in the same war industry”.

Bonnard recalled that Jacob Kaiser, Minister for “general German problems”, in his recent speech in Salzburg openly declared that the future Germany would include German Switzerland.

Bonnard said that the task is not to carry on the arms drive but to develop the peace movement and to lessen international tension since “there are no international problems which cannot be solved by peaceful means”.

INDESTRUCTIBLE MIGHT OF SOVIET STATE

Never has the Soviet state been so strong and powerful as it is now. The decisive prerequisite for the firmness and inviolability of the Soviet social and state system is the leadership of the Communist Party.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, equipped with Marxist-Leninist theory and profound knowledge of the objective laws of social development, indissolubly linked with the masses, strong in the iron unity and monolithic solidarity of its ranks, firmly and confidently leads the Soviet people along the pathway of building Communist society. It directs the creative energy of the Soviet people towards solving the new gigantic tasks aimed at ensuring a further advance of the peaceful economy and culture of the country and at raising the material wellbeing of the people to a still higher level.

The interests of the Communist Party, the Soviet Government and the Soviet people are one and indivisible. The Soviet people have become convinced from their own experience that the policy of the Communist Party expresses their vital interests and that the highest law of the Party is to serve the people, see to their well-being and ensure maximum satisfaction of the constantly growing material and cultural requirements of Soviet society. This explains why the Soviet people repose boundless confidence in the Communist Party, regard its policy as their own policy and selflessly strive to implement this policy and ensure the triumph of Communism.

The successes of Communist construction in the USSR have resulted in the further strengthening of the

moral-political unity of Soviet society, in the indestructible alliance between the working class and the collective-farm peasantry, in the fraternal friendship of the Soviet peoples.

The international situation of the Soviet Union has never been so strong as it is now. All the countries of the great democratic camp are marching forward in fraternal unity with the Soviet Union. The resolute and consistent, struggle of the USSR for peace and against the threat of a new war has won for it great prestige, ardent love and the confidence of millions of people in all countries and continents.

The working people of the world admire the successes of the peaceful construction in the Soviet Union. They are grateful to the Soviet Union for its persistent struggle for peace and for the national independence of the peoples.

At the same time the successes won by the Soviet Union, the successes of the People's Republic of China and of the countries of people's democracy in their economic and cultural upbuilding, in their struggle for peace, evoke rabid hatred in the camp of international reaction. The aggressive imperialist circles seek to undermine the growing might of the camp of peace and democracy and, in the first place, of its leading force—the Soviet Union. In pursuit of this aim the reactionary imperialist forces go to the extreme. They conduct a frantic armaments drive and engage in building war bases; they are forming aggressive military blocs, reviving the fascist Wehrmacht and appropriating hundreds of millions of dollars for subversive and undermining acts against the countries of the democratic camp. But all the hostile designs of the reactionary imperialist forces against the USSR and the

countries of the democratic camp suffer defeat after defeat.

The exposure by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union of Beria, the traitor to the Homeland and arch-agent of imperialism, and of his accomplices, the active members of the treacherous conspiratorial group, has dealt a smashing blow to the designs of imperialist reaction.

The trial of the Beria group of traitor revealed the monstrous crimes perpetrated by these degenerates against the Soviet people.

Beria and the other scoundrels in his gang of spies and assassins, fulfilling the will of their master—international capital—directed their blow against the greatest gain of the working people of all countries—against the Soviet social and state system, against the unshakable alliance of the working class and the peasantry, against the friendship of the Soviet peoples, against the happy life of Soviet people.

The gang of conspirators set themselves the criminal aim of using the organs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs against the Communist Party and the Government of the USSR, of placing the Ministry of Internal Affairs above the Communist Party and the Soviet Government in order to seize power in the interests of foreign capital, to destroy the Soviet worker-peasant system, restore capitalism in the USSR and the rule of the bourgeoisie.

In their effort to accomplish these criminal aims there was nothing too heinous for Beria and his accomplices. In an attempt to undermine the collective-farm system and to create food difficulties in the USSR the vicious enemy of the Soviet people Beria sabotaged in every way and hampered the carrying out of the vital measures of the Communist Party and the Soviet

Government aimed at advancing the economy of the collective farms and state farms, at steadily raising the wellbeing of the Soviet people. The members of the anti-Soviet conspiracy tried to revive and activate 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. They tried to undermine the defence capacity of the Soviet Union and to do away with the honest cadres loyal to the cause of the Communist Party and the Soviet power. Slander, intrigue, provocation and murder-these were the foul and base means employed by the conspirators in their struggle against the Communist Party and the Soviet people.

The Beria espionage-subversive group, a handful of despicable traitors, did not have, nor could they have had, any social support inside the USSR. Consequently, they pinned their criminal hopes on support for the conspiracy from the reactionary imperialist forces abroad. Already at the time of the Civil War, Beria was a paid agent of foreign intelligence services and actively fought against the working class and the revolutionary working-class movement. In 1919 he became a secret agent of the intelligence service of the counter-revolutionary Mussavat government in Azerbaijan which functioned under the control of British intelligence organs. Throughout the subsequent years Beria maintained clandestine connections with counter-revolutionary Georgian Menshevik emigres, who were agents of a number of foreign intelligence services, and extended his criminal ties with foreign intelligence services.

For a long time Beria and his accomplices carefully

masked and concealed their inimical, treasonable activity, criminally deceiving the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

After the death of J. V. Stalin, when the reactionary imperialist forces stepped up their subversive work against the Soviet state, Beria, agent of the imperialist intelligence services, began to intensify his activities with the aim of realising his anti-Soviet treacherous aims.

But the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Government in a brief space of time disclosed the real countenance of Beria, the sworn enemy of the Soviet people, and quickly and resolutely cut short his treasonable activity. Exposed at the trial by the testimony of numerous witnesses and by irrefutable documentary evidence, the conspirators pleaded guilty to a series of the gravest state crimes.

The Special Session of the Supreme Court of the USSR sentenced Beria and his accomplices—agents of international capital, sworn enemies of the Soviet people, enemies of the working class and of the working people of the world—to the supreme penalty—shooting. The sentence has been carried out.

The sentence of the Soviet court is the sentence of the entire Soviet people. At numerous meetings the working people of the USSR wrathfully and indignantly condemned the gang of spies and assassins, the despicable conspirators who made an attempt on the Soviet worker-peasant system and plotted to restore the rule of the bourgeoisie in the USSR. The demand of the Soviet people was unanimous: destroy the vermin!

The entire Soviet people wholeheartedly approved the just sentence of the Soviet court.

During these days the great might of the moral-

political unity of the Soviet people, the great strength of the powerful and unshakable unity of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Government and the Soviet people were manifested with renewed force.

The Soviet people are rallying still closer around the Communist Party and its Central Committee, around the Soviet Government. They are multiplying their labour efforts for the fulfilment of the grand tasks of Communist construction.

Together with the Soviet people the working people of the world approve the sentence passed on the agents of international capital. All toiling and progressive humanity sees in the liquidation of the Beria gang evidence of the further strengthening of the Soviet state, of its internal firmness and might.

Even some bourgeois politicians, very far from being in any way sympathetic to the USSR, have had to acknowledge that the exposure of the Beria group signifies strengthening of the USSR. There are, however, reactionary politicians who profess to see in the exposure and liquidation of Beria, the enemy of the Soviet people, a sign of weakening of the Soviet Union. But whom do these politicians seek to deceive? Is it not clear to all that the cleansing of Soviet bodies of a group of traitors, spies and assassins signifies the further strengthening of these bodies, the further strengthening of the Soviet state? Is it not clear to all that the exposure of Beria, hardened agent of imperialism, signifies a crushing blow to the designs of international reaction?

The Soviet people, the working population of the countries of people's democracy, the Communist and Workers' Parties draw important political conclusions from the case of Beria and his accomplices. And their

chief conclusion is—tirelessly enhance revolutionary vigilance.

During the trial of the Beria group of traitors it was confirmed once again that imperialist reaction seeks by every means to undermine the might of the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, that agents of international capital, craftily masking themselves as Communists, sought and will seek to infiltrate into the ranks of the Communist and Workers' Parties for the purpose of conducting subversive, inimical activity. This should always be borne in mind. Everyone should remember this end be vigilant at his post and in all circumstances. Vigilance is the tried weapon for exposing the enemy no matter how crafty and resourceful he may be, no matter how he conceals his real designs and activity. This weapon has been mastered to perfection by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union which exposed a crafty and cunning enemy—the Beria group of traitors. If all the Communist and Workers' Parties, all working people display the maximum vigilance then every design of international reaction and its agency will be thwarted.

The mighty Soviet people have cleared from their path the gang of traitors who tried to halt the Communist construction in the USSR and to reverse the wheel of history.

Filled with creative strength and great energy the land of Soviets, led by the Communist Party, confidently marches onward to Communism. Its step is firm. Its forces are invincible!

GREAT WRATH OF SOVIET PEOPLE

The news of the complete exposure of the monstrous crimes committed by Beria and his accomplices evoked a powerful and formidable wave of popular anger, which has swept the Soviet Union. Mass meetings have been held by the working people all over the country at which workers, collective farmers and intelligentsia have condemned with wrath and indignation the gang of spies and assassins, the contemptible conspirators and demanded severe punishment for these degenerates who plotted against the Soviet worker-peasant system.

Monstrous are the crimes of these depraved creatures who lost all human semblance. They betrayed the interests of the land of Soviets to its worst enemies, plotted to restore capitalism, so hated by the people in the Soviet Union, engaged in espionage, sought to undermine the defence capacity of the Soviet state and foully and brutally murdered honest Soviet people.

The working people in **Moscow**, like all Soviet people, unanimously approved the measures which cut short the conspiratorial activity of Beria, the worst enemy of the Soviet people and traitor to the Homeland. The Moscow factory and office workers and the intelligentsia expressed their profound satisfaction at the fact that this group of traitors was exposed and rendered harmless.

The meeting of the workers and engineer-technical personnel of the Moscow “Serp i Molot” iron and steel works developed into a powerful demonstration of the people’s wrath against the gang of traitors, a demonstration of the close solidarity of the working

people around the Communist Party and the Soviet Government. The workers, foremen and the department heads spoke at the meeting wrathfully denouncing the foul traitors to the Homeland. The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution which reads:

“We, Moscow iron and steel workers, like all Soviet people, are filled with wrath and indignation at the foul treacherous activities of the despicable enemy of the Party and the people, Beria, and his accomplices and demand severe punishment for these degenerates, traitors to the Homeland, the despicable henchmen of international imperialism”.

Mass meetings have also been held by the personnel of the Stalin automobile works, “Trekhgornaya Manufactura” Combinat, Dynamo works, Vladimir Ilyich plant, the “Krasny Oktyabr” factory and other enterprises, as well as in offices and higher educational establishments of Moscow.

In **Leningrad** meetings were held by the personnel of the Stalin Metallurgical works, the Lenin Nevsky engineering works, “Krasny Treugolnik” plant and other enterprises, offices and higher educational establishments.

The resolution unanimously adopted by the workers of the Kirov plant reads:

“Let us rally still closer around the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Soviet Government. Let us enhance our revolutionary vigilance!”

Mass meetings have been held by the working people in towns and villages of the **Ukraine** and **Byelorussia**. The workers and peasants demanded that the court mete out severe punishment to the worst enemies of the people. The working people pledged themselves to rally still closer around their Communist Party and the

Soviet Government, to whet their vigilance and redouble their efforts to increase the might of the USSR.

Wrath and hatred for the despicable traitors were expressed by the working people at meetings held in **Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia**. Universal indignation among the working people was evoked by the fact that back in 1919, while in Baku, Beria committed an act of treachery by becoming a secret agent of the intelligence service of the counter-revolutionary Mussavat government, which functioned under the control of the British intelligence organs. Beria was one of those who delivered the best sons of the working class in Baku, fighters for the happiness of the people, into the hands of this intelligence service, condemning them to torture and death. The speakers at the meetings indignantly denounced the secret ties of Beria with the arch-enemies of the people of Georgia—the counter-revolutionary Georgian Menshevik emigres, agents of foreign intelligence services.

The working people of **Uzbekistan, Turkmenia and Kazakhstan** with a feeling of profound satisfaction reacted to the news that Beria, traitor to the Homeland and a spy, together with his accomplices had been unmasked and rendered harmless. Meetings and discussions were held in enterprises, collective farms, offices and educational establishments. The workers, collective farmers, employees and intelligentsia indignantly condemned the enemies of the people.

The foul deeds of the traitor Beria and his entire gang of conspirators have aroused strong indignation in the heart of every honest working man in the Soviet Baltic Republics. The Soviet people in the towns and villages of **Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia** indignantly

denounced the evil activity of Beria and his accomplices, their monstrous crimes and the attempts of this loathsome hireling of the imperialists to undermine the very foundation of the power of our state—the friendship of the peoples of the USSR.

The workers all over the country in the far north and in the south of the Soviet Union indignantly demanded severe punishment for these disgusting degenerates and traitors to the Homeland, Beria and his confederates.

The Soviet people approved with the greatest satisfaction the news that this depraved and wicked gang of criminals has met with just retribution.

The working people declare that they will rally still closer around the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government and will spare no efforts to work with unfailing vigour to strengthen the power of the Soviet Homeland.

The unanimity of the workers, collective farmers and intelligentsia and the wrathful indignation displayed by all the peoples of the USSR in denouncing the criminal activity of these contemptible conspirators testify over and over again to the great solidarity of the Soviet people around the Party and the Government, to the inviolable unity of the Communist Party, the Government and the people of the USSR.

IN SUPREME COURT OF THE USSR

On December 18-23, 1953, a Special Session of the Supreme Court of the USSR presided over by Marshal of the Soviet Union I. S. Konev, President of the Special Session, and composed of the members of the Session: N. M. Shvernik, Chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions; E. L. Zeidin, first Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the USSR; Army-General K. S. Moskalenko; N. A. Mikhailov, Secretary of the Moscow Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; M. I. Kuchava, Chairman of the Council of Trade Unions of Georgia; L. A. Gromov, President of the Moscow City Court, K. F. Lune, first Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR, heard in camera, in accordance with the Law of December 1, 1934, the criminal case of Beria and others.

Those brought to the trial in conformity with the indictment were: L. P. Beria, charged with crimes covered by articles 58-1 "b", 58-8, 58-13, 58-11 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR: V. N. Merkulov, V. G. Dekanozov, B. Z. Kobulov, S. A. Goglidze, P. Y. Meshik, L. E. Vlodziimirsky, charged with crimes covered by articles 58-1 "b", 58-8, 58-11 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR.

The court fully confirmed the materials of the preliminary investigation and the charges against the accused as stated in the indictment.

The court has established that, having betrayed his country and acting in the interests of foreign capital, the accused Beria formed a traitorous group of conspirators hostile to the Soviet state, composed of the accused V. N. Merkulov, V. G. Dekanozov, B. Z.

Kobulov, S. A. Goglidze, P. Y. Meshik and L. E. Vlodziimirsky, linked with Beria by many years of joint criminal activities. The criminal aim of the accused was to utilise the organs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs against the Communist Party and the Government of the USSR, to place the Ministry of Internal Affairs above the Party and the Government in order to seize power and to liquidate the Soviet system of workers and peasants, to restore capitalism and bring back the rule of the bourgeoisie.

The court has established that the beginning of the criminal activities of L. P. Beria and the establishing by him of secret contacts with foreign intelligence services dates back to the days of the Civil War, in 1919, when Beria committed treason in Baku 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 Georgia in 1920 by establishing clandestine connections with the Menshevik secret police in Georgia, which was also a branch of the British intelligence service.

In subsequent years and up to the time of his arrest L. P. Beria continued to maintain and extend his clandestine contact with foreign intelligence services.

For many years Beria and his accomplice carefully concealed and masked their hostile activities.

After the death of J. V. Stalin, and banking on the general activation of reactionary imperialist forces against the Soviet state, L. P. Beria began to intensify his activity with the aim of carrying out his criminal anti-Soviet designs, and it was this that led in a brief space of time to the exposure of L. P. Beria and his

accomplices and to the culling short of their criminal activities.

Having become the Minister of Internal Affairs of the USSR in March, 1953, and getting ready to seize power, L. P. Beria spared “no effort to place his fellow conspirators in key positions in the central organ of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and in its local branches. L. P. Beria and his associates took reprisals against honest workers in the Ministry of Internal Affairs who refused to carry out the criminal directives of the conspirators.

In order to accomplish their anti-Soviet traitorous aims L. P. Beria and his accomplices undertook criminal measures to revive the remnants of bourgeois-nationalist elements in the Union Republics, to sow enmity and discord among the people of the USSR and in the first place to undermine the friendship of the peoples of the USSR with the great Russian people.

As the sworn enemy of the Soviet people, the accused L. P. Beria, trying to create food difficulties in our country, sabotaged and hampered the implementation of the vital decisions of the Party and the Government designed to advance the economy of the collective farms and state farms, to ensure a steady rise in the wellbeing of the Soviet people.

It has been established that in order to cover up and disguise their criminal activities the accused L. P. Beria and his accomplices carried out terrorist acts against those whom they feared could expose them. As one of the chief methods of their criminal activities the conspirators chose slander, intrigue and all manner of provocations against honest workers of the Party and Soviet organisations who stood in the way of the treacherous designs of L. P. Beria and his accomplices directed against the Soviet state and who hampered

their advance to power.

The court has established that the accused L. P. Beria, V. N. Merkulov, V. G. Dekanozov, B. Z. Kobulov, S. A. Goglidze, D. Y. Meshik and L. E. Vlodzimirsky, taking advantage of their positions in the organs of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, later the Ministry of State Security and then Ministry of Internal Affairs, have committed a series of heinous crimes aimed at physically exterminating honest people loyal to the cause of the Communist Party and the Soviet power.

The court has also established that the crimes of L. P. Beria reveal his utter moral degradation and, in addition, established facts of crimes committed for mercenary ends and cases of abuse of power.

The guilt of all the accused on all the charges brought against them has been fully confirmed in the court by authentic documents, material evidence, by the personal statements of the accused and by the testimony of numerous witnesses.

Exposed by this evidence the accused L. P. Beria, V. N. Merkulov, V. G. Dekanozov, B. Z. Kobulov, S. A. Goglidze, P. Y. Meshik and L. E. Vlodzimirsky confirmed during the court inquiry their statements at the preliminary investigation and pleaded guilty to a series of the most grave state crimes.

The Special Session of the Supreme Court of the USSR has found the accused L. P. Beria guilty of high treason, of organising an anti-Soviet group of conspirators in order to seize power and to restore the rule of the bourgeoisie; of terrorist acts against political figures devoted to the Communist Party and the peoples of the Soviet Union; of active struggle against the revolutionary working-class movement in Baku in 1919,

when Beria was a secret agent of the intelligence service of the counter-revolutionary Mussavat government in Azerbaijan, of having established ties there with a foreign intelligence service and in subsequent years continued to maintain and extend his criminal clandestine connections with foreign intelligence services up to the moment of his exposure and arrest, that is, of crimes covered by articles 58-1 “b”, 58-8, 58-13, 53-11 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR.

The court has found the accused V. N. Merkulov, V. G. Dekanozov, B. Z. Kobulov, S. A. Goglidze, P. Y. Meshik and L. E. Vlodzimirsky guilty of high treason, terrorist activities and participation in an anti-Soviet group of traitors, that is of crimes covered by articles 58-1 “b”, 58-8, 58-11 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR.

The Special Session of the Supreme Court of the USSR has sentenced:

L. P. Beria, V. N. Merkulov, V. G. Dekanozov, B. Z. Kobulov, S. A. Goglidze, P. Y. Meshik, L. E. Vlodzimirsky to the supreme penalty—to be shot, with confiscation of their personal property, and deprivation of all military titles and decorations.

The sentence is final and is not subject to appeal.

SENTENCED CARRIED OUT

The decision of the Special Session of the Supreme Court of the USSR to sentence to the supreme penalty—shooting—the accused L. P. Beria, V. N. Merkulov, V. G. Dekanozov, B. Z. Kobulov, S. A. Goglidze, P. Y. Meshik and L. E. Vlodzimirsky, was carried out on December 23.

STRUGGLE OF ITALIAN WORKING PEOPLE FOR THEIR VITAL DEMANDS. Rena to Betossi, Member, Central Committee, Italian Communist Party

The Christian Democratic Party stubbornly refuses to recognise the essential political changes that have taken place in the country, after the general election on June 7, 1953, the change in the sentiments of big sections of the Italian people who condemned the political and economic line pursued by this Party during its long period of office, that is, from 1948 to 1953. With every passing day it becomes clearer that the contradictions between the overwhelming masses of the working people and small industrialists, on the one hand, and the ruling class whose interests are expressed in the policy of the Christian Democratic Government, on the other, are becoming more and more pronounced.

The working people demand a policy aimed at developing production, a policy which would guarantee them the right to work and ensure their wellbeing. Aided by the Christian Democratic Party the ruling class seeks to secure for itself high profits and to add to the poverty and unemployment observed in our country. The already unbearable situation is deteriorating day by day; and the process of degradation in most branches of industry threatens to become worse.

The crisis in heavy industry is already evident with all its grave consequences: the mere announcement of the fact that the “European Coal and Steel Community” had begun to function was followed by the demand of

the industrialists to sack thousands of workers. The industrialists and the government circles intend to dismiss over 50,000 workers from the metallurgical industry.

In addition to the metallurgical industry the big enterprises of which are threatened with curtailment of production, the crisis has spread to other branches of industry. The textile industry is particularly crisis-stricken. This is the result of the monopoly structure of the Italian economy, of the restricted home market and the low purchasing power of the population. The situation is being made worse by the government policy of foreign-trade discrimination in relation to the Soviet Union, China and the European countries of people's democracy.

A new wave of mass dismissals followed immediately after the June 7th election. The big state-owned metallurgical enterprises, such as "Terni", "Ansaldo", "Ilva" and the "Magona" private enterprises in Piombino tried to sack thousands of workers. The big state-owned and private machine-building enterprises also curtailed production.

The General Confederation of Labour demanded immediate and direct interference by the state organs in order to avert the curtailment of industry, to save it and develop its production and, in this way, guarantee jobs for the working people in this difficult period. The Christian Democratic Government, however, adhered to its irresponsible stand.

But the heroic struggle of the workers in the enterprises threatened with complete or partial curtailment, their efforts to maintain production and the growing impoverishment of the popular masses exerted a profound influence among the broad masses of the population as well as among those groups of factory and office workers who still display hesitation in respect to the demands advanced by the General Confederation of Labour.

In the struggle against curtailing industry, for the satisfaction of economic demands united action has been achieved with rank-and-file Catholic workers and with the Social Democratic and Republican workers who are also conscious of the necessity for a change in the political and economic policy pursued by the Government.

It is precisely this pressure from below that explains why some leaders of the trade-union and political organisations of the Christian Democrats protested against the government policy. Statements by prominent personalities in the Christian Democratic Party, such as La Pira, Mayor of Florence, who demanded that emergency measures be taken to prevent the closing of the big "Pignone" plant employing nearly 2,000 workers, caused consternation in the Government and among the industrialists. It is worthy of note that demands for profound changes in the economic and social structure of Italy are expressed also by leaders or the youth organisations of all trends.

Although these demands are sometimes expressed in a vague form it is becoming clear that united action has in large measure been achieved in the trade-union struggle. This is confirmed by the determination with which 1,300,000 working people of government offices

and enterprises on December 11 and nearly 6 million industrial workers in December 15 displayed their unity and solidarity in general strikes for higher wages and for the satisfaction of other vital economic demands. The struggle of the working people of Italy is not restricted to fighting for immediate demands, it expresses the deeper and broader strivings of the popular masses for the political, economic and social renovation of the country.

This struggle encounters resistance on the part of the industrialists, agrarians and the Government which expresses their interests.

The fight for a higher standard of living is a fight for developing the economy. The working people know that more purchasing power would greatly stimulate development of the country, especially those branches of industry which are of the greatest importance from the standpoint of the national economy. This can also ensure more employment.

Wages in Italy, with the exception of those paid in state-owned enterprises and offices, are regulated by a sliding scale whereby wages must be raised every two months in keeping with the rise in prices. But even with this guarantee of maintaining the level of real wages we cannot say that real wages suffice to meet the requirements of a family.

If we compare wages with the cost of living on the basis of the data provided by the Central Institute of Statistics for August-September this year, we will see that wages, for example, of unskilled workers in the metallurgical industry of the Rome province barely reach 38.6 per cent of the subsistence minimum for a family of two. The percentage is still lower for those employed in agriculture, trade, transport and other

branches.

The secret links between the Government and the Agrarians are fully manifested in the Government sabotage of the law on unemployment benefits adopted way back in 1949. The Christian Democratic Government,

by refusing to pay the allowances to agricultural labourers employed on an average of 100 days a year enabled the landholders to pocket tens of billions lira at the expense of this category of working people. At the same time the Government did not take any measures to provide more work for the labourers. This explains why the struggles of the labourers assume such an acute character. The labourers demand extension of their employment by means of melioration work on the waste land and poorly tilled lands.

The conflicts between the workers employed in state and communal enterprises and offices (ministerial workers, railwaymen, post-and-telegraph workers, workers employed in tobacco industry and in the arsenals, municipal employees, etc.) and the corresponding employers have become most acute. This category of the working people lives in difficult conditions, since the sliding scale does not affect them. Wages of workers in state and communal enterprises and offices have not been revised since 1950, while the cost of living is going up all the time.

The ignoring of the demands of the working people and the violation of their rights, the cutting of piece-work rates, the system of fines, temporary dismissals, retrenchment and the other repressions fail to achieve the aim which the industrialists set themselves. On the contrary, this has reinforced the will of the working people to achieve united action not only in defending

what they have already, gained in past struggles but also in the struggle for initiating radical changes in the economic, political and social life of our country.

OUTSTANDING VICTORY OF FATHERLAND FRONT IN BULGARIA

The election to the People's Assembly of Bulgaria was held on December 20 amidst great political enthusiasm. The preparatory campaign was distinguished by growing political and production activity of the working people. Hundreds of thousands of propagandists were engaged in the work of explaining to the people the policy of the Communist Party and the People's Government and describing the great achievements in economic and cultural upbuilding. The workers in the enterprises and on construction sites actively participated in socialist emulation for fulfilling and overfulfilling their production assignments.

Election day developed into a nation-wide festival. Songs and music were heard and outdoor facts were arranged in towns and villages. The electors displayed a high degree of political activity and unanimously voted for the candidates of the Fatherland Front, for the best citizens—sons and daughters of the people. 90.48 per cent of the total electorate participated in the elections. 99.8 per cent of the voters cast their votes for the candidates in the Fatherland Front. These results clearly show that the working people of Bulgaria stand firmly behind the Fatherland Front. Once more they demonstrated their loyalty to the Communist Party of Bulgaria, their firm belief in the cause of Socialism, their loyalty to the cause of peace and the peaceful socialist development of their country, as well as their deep love for the peoples of the great Soviet Union and their indestructible friendship with the working people in the countries of people's democracy.

ELECTION TO PEOPLE'S COUNCILS IN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF RUMANIA

The election of the deputies to the regional, district and rural people's councils took place on December 20 in Rumania. The election was marked by the unanimity of all the working people and was a further striking expression of the readiness of the masses to implement the policy of the Rumanian Workers' Party and the People's Government aimed at ensuring a steady rise in the material well-being and cultural standard of the working people of the country.

The overwhelming majority of the electorate took part in the voting; unanimously they cast their votes for the candidates of the Front of People's Democracy. A total of 135,220 deputies were elected, including 24.67 per cent women and 13.07 per cent representatives of the national minorities.

95.91 per cent of the electorate took part in the voting for the regional people's councils, of whom 98,8 per cent cast their votes for the candidates of the Front of People's Democracy.

PRODUCTION SUCCESSES OF WORKING PEOPLE IN MONGOLIA

The leading work-teams, shops and factories in the Mongolian People's Republic have successfully completed the 1953 production plan. The boot and shoe factory of the industrial combinat named after Marshal Choibalsan produced 6,700 pairs of shoes in excess of plan. Socialist emulation is spreading in the factory. Owing to better use of the equipment dozens of workers perform 2-3 norms per shift. In the third quarter the factory qualified for the Red Banner of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

Miners in the Tumenlsoy pit, the food combinats in Bain-Ulgy and Khubsugul and other enterprises fulfilled their annual plans ahead of schedule.

COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP—GREATEST STRENGTH OF PARTY LEADERSHIP

From Experience of Work of the Provadija District Committee, Communist Party of Bulgaria

Three years ago a commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Bulgaria verified the work of the District Committee of the Party in Provadija. The commission established that a flagrant violation of the principle of collective leadership by the committee was the chief reason for the poor work of the Party organizations in the district. The help given to the Provadija committee on the part of the Central Committee and the decisions of the Third Conference of the Communist Party of Bulgaria enabled it to improve its work.

First of all it was necessary to improve the work of the district committee meeting—the collective leading body of the Party organisation. In accordance with the Party Rules a plenary meeting of the committee is held every two months. In addition, 3 or 4 special meetings are held each year.

The meeting discusses and adopts decisions on all basic questions. The participation of the committee members in discussing the questions and in giving leadership to the Party organisations has noticeably increased. The committee members are now informed of the agenda for the meeting in advance, and they are allocated definite assignments with a view to ensuring

better study of the work and a business-like discussion of the questions. Thus, long before the date fixed for the meeting which discussed a report on animal husbandry in the district, committee members were given the task of studying the situation in a number of producer co-operatives and state farms, having talks with leading livestock workers, team leaders, etc. As a result there was a lively discussion at the meeting of the committee and tasks were defined for the Party organisations.

It happened frequently in the past that some of the measures set forth in the decisions were not carried out. At present the committee meeting is regularly informed about the carrying out of the decisions adopted by it.

The work of the bureau of the committee has improved and there is better co-ordination of the work of its individual members, secretaries and heads of departments. The preparation of the questions to be discussed by the bureau of the committee and the briefing of functionaries and secretaries of the Party organisations have improved. The bureau decisions are now really the fruit of collective, creative work.

In the past the district committee tended to assume administrative functions, becoming a substitute for the state and economic organs instead of guiding and helping them. At present it has, to a considerable degree, overcome this shortcoming. Prior to this year's harvesting season the body of special Party representatives, which substituted for the branches and people's councils and did not help activate the Communists, was abolished. Nowadays the district committee sends activists to the countryside and producer co-operatives with the sole task of helping the

Party and the mass organisations to mobilise the working people for fulfilment of the tasks of one or another important campaign.

A shortcoming of the work of the district committee was that it did not insist on personal responsibility for the carrying out of its decisions. It was considered that the method of collective leadership excluded personal responsibility on the part of the committee members. The committee now demands that Party and business leaders be personally responsible for the carrying out of decisions. This is yielding positive results.

In the past even serious mistakes in the work of the district committee were not disclosed in time and eliminated, because criticism and self-criticism were at a low level and even systematically suppressed. Absence of criticism and self-criticism led to nepotism and to hushing up the mistakes.

The Central Committee greatly helped the district committee, punishing and removing those who practised this method which is alien to Party principles.

At present a feature of meetings and conferences is the broad criticism and self-criticism. The district committee strives to set an example in developing sincere and open self-criticism.

In the branches the method of collective work contributes to drawing the members into regular carrying out of Party assignments. At present 70 per cent of the members in the district have Party assignments. The number of district committee activists amounts to 550, including 150 propagandists, 150 business leaders and 250 group organisers and leaders of mass organisations. The district committee calls meetings of the activists and consults them on appropriate measures.

The district committee supervises, the work of the activists and sees to their political training and promotion. For example, over 90 activists are included in special seminars for those engaged in independent study of theoretical questions, 50 activists are attending the one-year evening Party school. Youth activists attend special seminars. For the rest seminars are held every month.

The improved work of the district organisation of the Party has resulted in better carrying out of political and economic tasks. The Provadija district is no longer a backward district.

It should be noted, however, that shortcomings in exercising the principle of collective leadership still prevail both in the work of the district committee and of the Party branches. For example, the district committee does not always draw a sufficient number of the activists into the work of drawing up the agenda and draft resolutions for its plenums and meetings of the bureau. The district committee must see to it that its members participate more actively in ensuring the carrying out of decisions and in verifying their fulfilment. Criticism and self-criticism at meetings and conferences are not yet sharp enough. Sometimes self-criticism is formal. The district committee discussed these shortcomings and outlined measures to ensure further improvement in the work of the Party organisations, as well as consistent adherence to the principle of collective leadership.

**Stavri BURNAZOV,
Member, Bureau,
Stalin Regional Committee,
Communist Party of Bulgaria**

SOVIET MACHINES IN INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES IN KOREAN PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

New machines, delivered from the Soviet Union, are being used in industrial enterprises in the Korean People's Democratic Republic. The Kim Chak metallurgical works now being restored, one of the biggest plants of its kind in the country, is using Soviet automatic lathes, milting machines and other equipment. Soviet turbines and powerful transformers have arrived for the power station of which Comrade Ko Chong Sik is manager. The enterprise headed by Kim Che Gui is using Soviet oxygen equipment.

The installation of up-to-date Soviet equipment in all branches of the national economy is accelerating the rate of restoration. With the slogan "Learn from the Soviet Union!" workers and technical personnel in industry are mastering the advanced Soviet technique and learning from Soviet specialists invited to Korea and from the Korean engineers who graduated from Soviet higher schools.

AGAINST US AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS IN PAKISTAN

The Communist Party of Pakistan has called on all political parties, patriotic organisations and all who are concerned about freedom to form a united front of struggle against the conclusion of a military pact between the USA and Pakistan.

Feroz Din Mansoor, Acting General Secretary of the Communist Party of Pakistan, issued a press statement in which he stressed that a military alliance with the USA would mean 'the transformation of Pakistan soldiers into cannon fodder for the imperialists who are striving to crush the liberation movement of exploited peoples.

"New Age", weekly journal, published a statement by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India concerning the military negotiations between the USA and Pakistan.

The American warmongers, the statement says, are now turning the State of Pakistan into their jumping off ground. They are seeking to bring pressure on India, by surrounding India with war bases. The Communist Party makes it clear that if the warmongers threaten India with aggression the people of India will unitedly resist such aggression and the Communist Party will play its part in the defence of the country.

CONCERN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN POLAND

With a view to the further development of agriculture and of cattle-breeding in particular, the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic has passed a decree granting more credits to enable poor and middle peasants to buy cattle.

According to the decree the credits will be granted, in the first place, to those peasants who have no cows and whose farms consist of from one to five hectares of land and in the western part of the country up to 10 hectares. Credits may be received also by the peasants who already have a cow, provided they are able to keep more cattle.

IMPROVING LIVING STANDARD OF WORKING PEOPLE IN GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The Council of Ministers of the German Democratic Republic has adopted a decision on further improvement of labour and living conditions and trade-union rights.

The decision focuses main attention on care for the people. For instance it forbids the managements at plants and factories to allow any cases of violation of the working day.

From January 1, 1954 the wages of skilled workers engaged in the machine-building, light, food, chemical, power and wood-working industries will be raised. Increases will also be given to skilled workers in building and other branches of industry.

With a view to further improving the health services in 1954, 100 million marks will be allotted for extending the network of health centres, dispensaries and medical centres in factories. In 1954 a total of 764 million marks will be spent on housing construction. Some 100 million marks (in the form of long-term credits) will go for individual house construction. Building plots, being the property of the people, are being transferred to the workers free and forever.

Trade unions are given broad rights to defend the interests of the workers and employees in order, first and foremost, to ensure the meticulous carrying out of collective agreements in the factories.

BOOK REVIEW

Truth About Soviet Life. Book about the Soviet Union by Felix Diaz, Uruguayan worker.

A few months ago Felix Diaz, Uruguayan docker, wrote a book* summing up his impressions of his visit to the Soviet Union in 1951. The author stresses that his sole aim in writing this book was his desire to tell the truth about the splendid life in the USSR and, in this way, to promote friendship between the Soviet people and the people of Uruguay.

It is not an easy job to tell the truth about the Soviet Union in Uruguay where dissemination of falsehoods and foul vilification of the land of victorious Socialism are the usual thing and the source or profit for the Americanized press and Right-wing Socialist leaders of the Frugoni type. Proof of this is the simple fact that Diaz's book was issued not by a publishing house, but by his fellow workers, men who work and fight shoulder to shoulder with the author—the dockers of Montevideo.

Numerous facts and figures cited by Diaz make especially vivid and convincing his description of the inspired, heroic labour of the Soviet people for the benefit of their great homeland, of their growing wellbeing, and their ardent and sincere desire for peace. The force with which the book exposes and refutes the absurd concoctions and ravings of the

* Félix Diaz. "Apuntes de un obrero uruguayo sobre la Unión Soviética". Montevideo, Agosto 1953. 140 pages.

corrupt reactionary press is strengthened by the narrative in which facts and figures mingle with a laconic and telling phrase and apt comparison.

During their twenty-two-day visit to the USSR the Uruguayan delegates visited factories and collective farms, schools and museums, rest homes, mass organisations, theatres and the homes of workers and collective farmers. And the thing which attracted their attention everywhere was the ardent desire of the Soviet people for peace. "Peace is proclaimed everywhere", writes the author in the final chapter of his book, "in factories and collective farms, in schools, universities and academies, in the beautiful theatres and the homes of workers collective farmers. And the thing which attracted their attention everywhere was the ardent desire of the Soviet people for peace. "Peace is proclaimed everywhere", writes the author in the final chapter of his book, "in factories and collective farms, in schools, universities and academies, in the beautiful theatres and spotless cinemas, in the press and on the radio. Children, youths and aged people all speak with us about peace. Peace is embodied in the great achievements of Socialism... and when we heard words about war, these were words only of condemnation".

It is worth noting that in the past the author, who is a trade-union official, was against raising in the trade unions the question of the fight for peace, looking on it as a purely political, party question. However, his participation in the Second World Peace Congress and, above all, the ever-worsening situation in Uruguay harnessed by the bilateral military pact to the war chariot of American imperialism, opened his eyes and helped him to become a staunch fighter for peace.

Hence, Diaz believes that to tell the truth about the Soviet Union means making a contribution to the cause of peace.

The author dwells in detail on facts which, although usual for the Soviet people, cannot but arouse the admiration of the working people in the capitalist countries. For example, describing a visit to an agricultural machinery plant near Moscow and to an enterprise in Armenia the author points out that the working day in the Soviet Union is one of eight hours, that factory and office workers have annual paid holidays and get vouchers for sanatoria and rest homes either free of charge or at greatly reduced rates; that factories have their own clubs, houses of culture, kindergartens, creches and clinics. Felix Diaz draws the attention of the reader particularly to the fact that the Soviet workers, as distinct from the workers in Uruguay and in other capitalist countries, do not pay a single penny for social insurance and at the same time get aid in the event of sickness, old age, etc. The only insurance which is non-existent in the Soviet Union is unemployment insurance, since unemployment has long been abolished in the USSR. The author was amazed to see a notice on the gates of a Soviet plant saying: "Workers needed". And thinking of his own country he wrote: "Great is the system under which the factories call for workers and working people do not stand outside the factory gates looking for jobs. We often see in our country notices at the factories and sites, which are altogether different!—No workers needed', and 'No vacancies'"...

Describing a visit to the Mikoyan collective farm in Armenia, Diaz. writes in detail about the structure of the collective farm, the system of payment for work-

day units, the well-to-do and cultured life of the collective farmers as he saw it with his own eyes. He writes with admiration that the three children of a collective farmer whose home he visited study in different schools: one goes to school in the village and the other two attend institutes in the capital of Armenia. Diaz records that the family of an ordinary peasant has its own dwelling, a cow, poultry, vine cellar and vegetable garden. And the author recalls with bitterness and sadness the fields going to waste in his own country, the dire plight of the peasants in Uruguay and “the rat settlements” of the poor peasants deprived of land.

While in the Soviet Union Felix Diaz’s thoughts were always about his country and the position of its workers and peasants. This is reflected in pointed remarks and is a feature of the book. For instance, on his first day in Moscow, Diaz notices that there are no boys selling newspapers—a feature of life in Montevideo. He learns that all Soviet children of school age study and points out that whereas in his country study is the privilege of the children of the propertied classes, workers’ children study for only half a day, being forced to work the other half. Some of them sell papers, others deliver ice, bread or milk. Only a few workers children reach the 3rd and 4th classes or the primary school. It is not fortuitous therefore that Felix Diaz devoted a special chapter to the care bestowed on children in the USSR.

Visiting the flat of a worker in a factory in the suburbs of Moscow the author was struck by the excellent conditions enjoyed by this worker. But Diaz places his main emphasis on the following fact: husband and wife earn 2,600 roubles a month, their rent is 92 roubles, including water and electricity charges, that is,

less than 4 per cent of the family income, while workers in his country pay up to 40 per cent of their wages in rent.

The author cites convincing facts testifying to the genuine democracy of the Soviet social system. In conversation with a veteran worker in a factory in Armenia Diaz learned that in addition to working he taught in the technical college, and was a member of the local Soviet and of the people's court. "The life of this veteran worker", writes Felix Diaz, "is the most striking proof that the Soviet country is ruled by the workers themselves. There is nothing exceptional in finding a deputy working in a factory". Diaz contrasts socialist democracy—the most consistent democracy in the world—with the sham bourgeois democracy in Uruguay and other capitalist countries.

Diaz ruthlessly exposes the fabrications and slander of the reactionary newspaper "El Dia", and resolutely rips the mask from those in his native country who, while slandering the Soviet Union, doom the working masses of Uruguay to poverty and hunger.

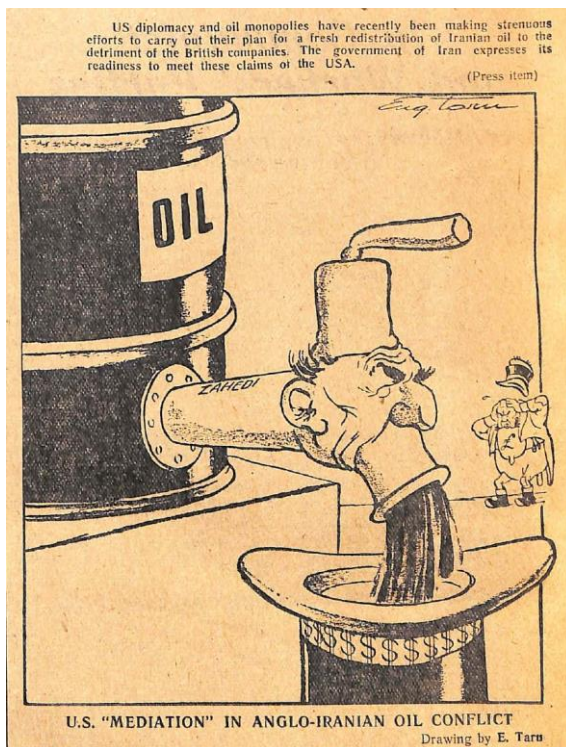
The book by Felix Diaz is a valuable contribution to the struggle of the working people in Uruguay for the freedom and independence of their country.

I. MENDIETA

U.S. "MEDIATION" IN ANGLO-IRANIAN OIL CONFLICT. Drawing by E. Taru

US diplomacy and oil monopolies have recently been making strenuous efforts to carry out their plan for a fresh redistribution of Iranian oil to the detriment of the British companies. The government of Iran expresses its readiness to meet these claims of the USA.

(Press item)



POLITICAL NOTES

Atrocities of British Colonisers in Kenya

The British imperialists are continuing their shameful colonial war against the freedom-loving people of Kenya. Punitive expeditions perpetrate fearful atrocities against the African population. It is highly significant that even young British soldiers are becoming increasingly conscience-stricken as a result of the crimes they are forced to commit.

The London Daily Worker published on December 12 an interview with Second Lieutenant Larrier, son of a building trades worker. Larrier himself while on patrols, participated in the punitive raids. Conscience-stricken, and striving to make amends, he refused to go out on patrol. For this he was court-martialled and discharged from the Army.

“I am utterly ashamed to have had any part in this”, he told a Daily Worker correspondent, “it is just Hitlerism. How can I ever make amends?... “It’s a common practice to chop off dead Africans’ hands for finger-print purposes. According to Larrier, “it was quite common to see camp dogs devouring these hands”. Why are the bodies of the murdered men mutilated in this cannibal-like fashion? Apparently the police sleuths of the Colonial Office need the finger prints of Africans dead or alive...

He also related how one of his fellow-officers had injected a poison used for killing jackals into meat in a place where Africans were known to be hiding. Anyone eating this meat would die from violent dysentery.

Larder described the raid at Kariobangi on April 24th when 6,000 Africans were driven out of their homes which were then bulldozed to the ground. Seven hundred suspects were held—the men in wire cage “just like animals in a circus”. In the course of this raid Larder expressed to a high-ranking police officer his disagreement with luring people out of their homes. The officer said to him: “These people are pigs, you mustn’t have any sympathy with them”.

At a place called Karatina Larder saw 80 Africans being marched naked through the streets. He confirmed reports of foul “competition between British units in the killing of Africans”. One officer, he said, offered “a money prize for the first ‘Man Mau killed”.

Touching on the anti-African race propaganda conducted by officers and the troops in Kenya Larder said: “They try to build up a feeling that white men are superior and that the black men are dirt”.

As we see, the racial propaganda and the ruthless slaughter of the Africans by British colonial troops bear a striking resemblance to the race propaganda and the atrocities of the Hitlerites.

Shocked and indignant at the crimes that are being committed in Kenya more and more people in Britain are insisting that the mass killings and terror be ended at once. On December 10th the Daily Worker reported that a deputation representing 490,000 people, including 35 Labour Party organisations, had lodged a protest with the Colonial Office. Posters carried in the streets of London by Britons, Africans and Indians contained the slogans: “Stop the Murder or Kenya Africans”, “End Massacre by Britons”.

All sincere, progressive people throughout the world resolutely back these just demands. The conscience of humanity cannot tolerate these criminal atrocities of the British colonisers in Kenya.

Jan MAREK

COLLAPSE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN YUGOSLAVIA

Militarisation of the economy and the arms drive are swallowing the lion's share of the Yugoslav budget. There is nothing surprising in the fact that only a tiny sum of money is allocated by the government for the social and cultural needs of the population. Public education is in a particularly bad plight. Many children of the working people do not attend school, owing to the shortage of teachers and school buildings.

The Belgrade newspaper "Borba" recently reported that in Croatia only part of the children attend school. According to this paper the town of Belovar, for instance, is short of 4,677 places for school children. In Gracac out of 2,901 children of school age only 1,262 attend schools. In the Split district, with 13,042 children of school age. the schools can cater for only 5,283. In Drinis 5,188 children are unable to attend school.

Still less concern is shown for education in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to the "Borba" nearly 70,000 children cannot find accommodation in schools while in 400 villages there are no schools at all and the children receive no school education whatever.

The majority of schools in Yugoslavia run a three-shift system in terribly overcrowded rooms and under insanitary conditions. For example, in Zmajevac more than 200 children have their lessons in one classroom.

A considerable proportion of the school buildings is in need of urgent repairs and many of the schools are completely unfit for use. As is reported by the

newspaper “Oslobodenje”, in the Sabac district only 9 out of the 21 elementary schools are more or less fit for use. Many children in this district cannot find school places.

Hundreds of thousands of the working people are illiterate. The newspaper “Vjesnik” admits that in Croatia alone the illiterates number some 400,000. In Croatia and in other regions of the country the majority of women cannot read or write. For example, in the Sinjski district there are 2,400 illiterates, of whom 2,200 are women.

Teachers in elementary and secondary schools in Yugoslavia are in particularly dire straits. As a rule, they get some 6,000 dinars a month, whereas the very cheapest food costs 5,500 dinars a month and rent amounts to 1,500 dinars, etc. It is clear that teachers lack the means of existence and live in miserable conditions.

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