

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

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Agriculture in the USSR on Pathway of Further Advance and Flourishing

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union is firmly and confidently leading the Soviet people to the complete victory of Communism. Guided by the all-conquering teaching of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin it scientifically defines the tasks of Communist construction, equips the working people of the USSR with a clear perspective for their creative activity. The Soviet people unanimously support the policy of the Communist Party, the aim of which is to ensure the further flourishing of socialist industry and the steep advance of agriculture, a steady rise in the material wellbeing and cultural level of the population, the security of peace USSR and the strengthening of Communist society.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party the Soviet people are successfully carrying out tasks of world-historic significance. In their irrepressible onward march the Soviet people have already left far behind the level reached in economic development when the second world war interrupted their peaceful labour.

Heavy industry—the heart of the Soviet socialist economy—is developing at a rapid rate. In the past year the output of steel in the USSR was more than double the 1940 figure, while coal output almost doubled compared with 1940; oil output was up 70 per cent, output of machines and equipment 3.8 times greater and generation of electric energy 2.8 times greater than in 1940. At present nine days' output of large-scale industry in the USSR is the equivalent of the annual output in the pre-revolutionary Russia. The magnificent successes achieved by the USSR in developing heavy industry have paved the way for effecting a steep increase in the production of mass-consumption goods.

Big successes have also been achieved by the Soviet people in the sphere of agriculture. The collective farms and state farms have become still stronger. The pre-war crop acreage and pre-war yields of the main crops have been surpassed. However, the interests of Communist construction and the steadily growing material requirements of the working people urgently call for a further steep advance in agricultural production.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union regards the further advance of agriculture as a most urgent national task and is persistently for

advanced the task of securing a sharp rise in grain production in order to increase in the next few years the state procurement and purchase of grain by 35-40 per cent as compared with 1953.

The decision of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU defined the measures for reaching this truly great goal. Along with ensuring higher yields the job of bringing under cultivation new land mainly in the eastern and south-eastern areas of the USSR is also of great importance. In 1954-55 the area sown to grain crops must be increased by not less than 13,000,000 hectares by means of bringing virgin land and unused land under cultivation. In 1955 this land will yield 1,100-1,200 million poods of grain, including 800-900 million poods for the market.

The decision adopted by the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU also thoroughly elaborated measures for ensuring increased production of industrial crops, the development of horticulture and viticulture and strengthening of the fodder base for animal husbandry.

It is obvious that the complex nature and vital significance of the tasks facing agriculture call for skilled and efficient leadership on the part of the Party and Soviet bodies on all sectors of agricultural production, for ability to rally the masses for solving the main problems of ensuring an upsurge in agriculture. The Plenum outlined concrete measures for ensuring better Party-political and organisational work in the countryside, and the further organisational and economic consolidation of the collective farms. The Central Committee of the CPSU called on all Party and Young Communist League members in the countryside, on all collective farmers and personnel of the machine and tractor stations and state farms to unfold wide-scale socialist emulation to ensure a powerful upsurge in grain production, better harvests of all crops, a further increase in the head of cattle and greater productivity of animal husbandry.

The entire Soviet people enthusiastically welcome the decision of the Plenum. Thousands of Soviet patriots have already left for the areas where virgin land and unused land are being brought under cultivation. The glorious Soviet youth are in the van of this movement.

In the struggle for ensuring a further upsurge in agriculture and a rise in the material wellbeing of the working people, the inviolable worker-peasant alliance—the basis of the stability of the Soviet state and the main force of the forward movement of the Soviet society towards Communism—is becoming stronger and stronger.

The great significance of the decision adopted by the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, "For Further Increase

INFORMATION REPORT on the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

A Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union took place a few days ago.

The Plenum heard and discussed the report by Comrade N. S. Khrushchev for a further increase in the output of grain in the USSR and bringing virgin and unused land under cultivation and adopted a corresponding decision.

Members of the staff of the local Party, Soviet, agricultural and procurement bodies, chairmen of collective farms and state-farm workers took part in the discussion.

Opening of Second Congress of Polish United Workers' Party

The Second Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party opened in Warsaw on March 10.

Long before the opening the spacious hall of the Academy of Physical Training was thronged with delegates and guests. The Congress is attended by a delegation from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union including Comrade N. S. Khrushchev, first Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Comrade N. A. Mikhailov, first Secretary of the Moscow Regional Committee of the CPSU, Comrade A. E. Korneichuk, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Ukraine and first Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, and Comrade N. E. Avkhimovich, second Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Byelorussia; by a delegation from the Communist Party of China, and by delegations from the fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties of the People's Democracies, from the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and from the fraternal Parties of Great Britain, France, Italy, Finland and many other countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Comrade J. Cyrankiewicz, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, opened the Congress on behalf of the Gen-

eral Secretariat of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the delegations from the other fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties.

The Congress elected the presidium which included the members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, members of the Secretariat of the Central Committee headed by Comrade Boleslaw Bierut, and a number of other Party, state and public figures, leading workers from the industrial enterprises, construction sites, and producer co-operatives, workers in the realms of science and culture.

There was enthusiastic applause when the Chairman invited the delegation from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union led by Comrade N. S. Khrushchev, first Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, and the heads of the delegations from the fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties to take their seats on the presidium.

The Congress adopted the following agenda:

1. Report of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, given by Comrade B. Bierut.
2. Report of the Central Auditing Com-

mittee on behalf of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party.

Concluding his report Comrade Bierut called for cheers in honour of the unbreakable alliance of the working class and peasantry, in honour of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Polish United Workers' Party, the Polish people and People's Poland.

Comrade Bierut's final words—"Beneath the banner of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin onward, to new victories!"—were met with tumultuous and prolonged applause.

Next day the Congress heard the report of the Central Auditing Commission given by Comrade S. Rosca.

The delegates then proceeded to discuss the two reports.

The centre of attention at the morning session was the speech by Comrade N. S. Khrushchev, first Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

The delegates and the numerous visitors rose to their feet and with tumultuous applause greeted the appearance on the tribune of the head of the delegation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Comrade Khrushchev's speech was repeatedly punctuated with enthusiastic applause in honour of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in honour of the friendship of

Meeting of Central Committee, Communist Party of France

A meeting of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party held on March 5-6 heard and discussed the report by Jacques Duclos, Secretary of the Party, on the tasks of the Party in the struggle for preventing a resurgence of German militarism and ensuring the independence and security of France.

Many of those present took part in the discussion which followed the report. Comrade Francois Billoux, member of the Political Bureau, spoke on organisational questions.

The meeting unanimously approved the report submitted by Jacques Duclos and adopted a general resolution which says that the Party, its organisations and all members will make still greater efforts to strengthen unity of action by the working class, the unity of all the national and democratic forces fighting for peace and for the demands of the masses in order to prevent ratification of the Bonn and Paris agreements and to secure the change in policy desired by the nation.

The Central Committee called on all Party organisations and members to develop, more than ever before, criticism and self-criticism and strictly to adhere to the principles of collective leadership in all Party organs.

The meeting unanimously decided to charge Comrade Marcel Servin, member of the Central Committee, with responsibility for the work of the Organisational Secretariat of the Party.

The Plenum resolved to hold the XIIIth Congress of the Party on June 3-7, with the following agenda:

1. Report of the Central Committee;
2. Organisational questions;
3. The Communist Party and the youth of France;
4. Election of the Central Committee and Central Commission of Financial Control.

60th Birthday of Comrade Otto Grotewohl

March 11 marked the 60th birthday of Comrade Otto Grotewohl, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic.

Numerous messages of greetings were addressed to Comrade O. Grotewohl on this occasion which noted Comrade Grotewohl's services to the Party and the people.

The message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR reads:

"The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR send

figure, while coal output almost doubled compared with 1940; oil output was up 70 per cent, output of machines and equipment 3.8 times greater and generation of electric energy 2.8 times greater than in 1940. At present nine days' output of large-scale industry in the USSR is the equivalent of the annual output in the pre-revolutionary Russia. The magnificent successes achieved by the USSR in developing heavy industry have paved the way for effecting a steep increase in the production of mass-consumption goods.

Big successes have also been achieved by the Soviet people in the sphere of agriculture. The collective farms and state farms have become still stronger. The pre-war crop acreage and pre-war yields of the main crops have been surpassed. However, the interests of Communist construction and the steadily growing material requirements of the working people urgently call for a further steep advance in agricultural production.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union regards the further advance of agriculture as a most urgent national task and is striving consistently and persistently for its realisation.

In the course of the past six months the Central Committee of the CPSU has twice discussed at Plenums the urgent tasks of ensuring the further development of agricultural production in the USSR. The decision of the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the subsequent decisions of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government contain a concrete programme for ensuring an upsurge in the commonly-owned animal husbandry, for increasing the harvest of potatoes and other vegetables, for improving the work of the machine and tractor stations. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, held a few days ago, adopted a decision, on the basis of a report by Comrade N. S. Khrushchev, first Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, "For Further Increase in Output of Grain in the USSR and Bringing Virgin and Unused Land under Cultivation", which outlines concrete ways and means for effecting a further extension of grain production.

The September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU advanced the task—on the basis of the powerful growth of socialist industry—fully to satisfy, within the next two or three years, the growing requirements of the population of the USSR for mass-consumption goods and to ensure supplies of raw materials for light industry and the food industry. Since then the Soviet people, led by the Communist Party, have done a great deal. The collective farmers, the personnel of the machine and tractor stations and state farms completed autumn agricultural work better than in the previous years. Nearly 1,250,000 tractor drivers, tractor-team leaders and operators of complex agricultural machines and other workers have been put on the staff of the machine and tractor stations. More than 100,000 agronomists and zoo-technicians and 23,000 engineers and technicians have been sent to the machine and tractor stations. The material-production base of agriculture has been further strengthened. By the beginning of 1954 the machine and tractor stations in the USSR had more than 1,000,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p.), 270,000 grain combines and numerous other up-to-date machines.

Much has been done in a brief period of time. But the Communist Party of the Soviet Union regards these achievements as only the first step in the great national cause of effecting a steep advance of agriculture.

The recent Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU stressed in its decision that grain growing is the basis of agricultural production as a whole. Further progress by the other branches of agriculture, including animal husbandry, and the satisfaction of the growing requirements of the population and of the entire national economy depend on the successful development of grain growing. The Plenum

at work in the countryside, and the further organisational and economic consolidation of the collective farms. The Central Committee of the CPSU called on all Party and Young Communist League members in the countryside, on all collective farmers and personnel of the machine and tractor stations and state farms to unfold wide-scale socialist emulation to ensure a powerful upsurge in grain production, better harvests of all crops, a further increase in the head of cattle and greater productivity of animal husbandry.

The entire Soviet people enthusiastically welcome the decision of the Plenum. Thousands of Soviet patriots have already left for the areas where virgin land and unused land are being brought under cultivation. The glorious Soviet youth are in the van of this movement.

In the struggle for ensuring a further upsurge in agriculture and a rise in the material wellbeing of the working people, the inviolable worker-peasant alliance—the basis of the stability of the Soviet state and the main force of the forward movement of Soviet society towards Communism—is becoming stronger and stronger.

The great significance of the decision adopted by the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, "For Further Increase in Output of Grain in the USSR and Bringing Virgin and Unused Land under Cultivation", reaches far beyond the boundaries of the USSR. It is further splendid testimony to the irrefutable world-historic superiority of Socialism over capitalism. At the time when in the countries of the camp of Socialism and democracy the productive forces are rapidly developing and the material wellbeing of the people improving month by month, in the capitalist countries industry and agriculture are being caught, more and more, in the grip of an economic crisis and the conditions of the working people are steadily deteriorating. Highly indicative is the fact that the US Government has recently obliged the farmers to cut this year the acreage sown to wheat by 20 per cent and the cotton acreage by 12 per cent. Reduction of the acreage sown to crops is also planned in other capitalist countries. And this is taking place at a time when hundreds of millions of people in the capitalist, colonial and dependent countries live in misery.

The decision of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU is further convincing proof that the Soviet people are engaged in peaceful creative labour, that the home and foreign policy of the Soviet Union corresponds to the interests of preserving peace and strengthening the security of the peoples. Representatives of the ruling circles in the Western countries have proclaimed time after time that they stand for peace. If this is really so then why don't they relinquish the armaments drive and enter into a peaceful competition with the Soviet Union for improving the standard of living of the people? Why don't they get down to tackling peaceful economic problems as the Soviet Union is doing? All people of good will would, undoubtedly, welcome measures of this kind.

The Communist and Workers' Parties of the People's Democracies see in the decision of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union an example showing them how to tackle in an all-round scientific way the problem of securing a further rise in the wellbeing of the people, how the Lenin directive for strengthening the worker-peasant alliance should be realised, how the shortcomings in the work of the Party and state bodies should be openly disclosed and measures taken to eliminate them.

The successes won by the Soviet Union in building Communism and in raising the standard of living of the people exert a great influence on the minds and hearts of the working people of the world. All the peoples are beginning to see more and more clearly the splendid results yielded by the peace-loving policy of the Soviet people—the policy of peace and friendship between the nations—and, guided by their Communist and Workers' Parties, they are intensifying their struggle for peace, for democracy, for Socialism.

United workers' Party opened in Warsaw on March 10.

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Comrade J. Cyrankiewicz, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, opened the Congress on behalf of the Central Committee. He pointed out that the Polish United Workers' Party, founded five years ago at the unity Congress, was confidently leading the people of Poland along the pathway of historic victories. Colossal changes have taken place during this period—industrialisation of the country is progressing and big transformations in agriculture are being effected.

Comrade Cyrankiewicz requested the delegates to stand in memory of J. V. Stalin, great continuer of Lenin's cause and friend of the people of Poland.

Comrade Cyrankiewicz warmly greeted the delegation from the Communist Party

Workers' Parties.

The Congress elected the presidium which included the members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, members of the Secretariat of the Central Committee headed by Comrade Boleslaw Bierut, and a number of other Party, state and public figures, leading workers from the industrial enterprises, construction sites, and producer co-operatives, workers in the realms of science and culture.

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2. Report of the Central Auditing Commission, Comrade S. Rosca.

3. Main economic tasks of the last two years (1954-55) of the Six-Year Plan, Comrade H. Minc.

4. Tasks in developing agriculture in 1954-55 and adoption of the necessary measures for ensuring an upsurge in agriculture, Comrade Z. Novak.

5. Some organisational matters and amendments to the Rules of the Party, Comrade E. Ochab.

6. Election of leading Party bodies.

The delegates warmly greeted Comrade Boleslaw Bierut, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Party, who made the re-

Concluding his report Comrade Bierut called for cheers in honour of the unbreakable alliance of the working class and peasantry, in honour of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Polish United Workers' Party, the Polish people and People's Poland.

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The delegates and the numerous visitors rose to their feet and with tumultuous applause greeted the appearance on the tribune of the head of the delegation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Comrade Khrushchev's speech was repeatedly punctuated with enthusiastic applause in honour of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in honour of the friendship of the Polish and Soviet peoples and the entire camp of peace, democracy and Socialism, in honour of the Polish United Workers' Party.

With rapt attention the delegates listened while Comrade N. S. Khrushchev read the message from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to the Second Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party. A tumultuous ovation followed with delegates and visitors rising to their feet. Shouts of "Long live the Communist Party of the Soviet Union!" rang out.

The Second Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party continues its work.

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The message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR reads:

"The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the USSR send you, one of the outstanding organisers and leaders of the Socialist Unity Party and the working class of Germany, on the occasion of your 60th birthday, fraternal greetings and wish you good health.

We wish you further success in building the German Democratic Republic which is the reliable bulwark of the peace-loving forces of the German people in the struggle for the vital interests of the working people of Germany, for the unity of Germany on a peace-loving and democratic basis, for strengthening peace and security of the peoples".

On Eve of Elections for Supreme Soviet of USSR

The elections for the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will take place on March 14.

Elections in the USSR have always taken place amid tremendous political and labour enthusiasm on the part of the broad popular masses, assuming the form of a nation-wide festival. In response to the Election Manifesto issued by the Central Committee of the CPSU the personnel of the factories and mills have further extended the socialist emulation, achieving a further growth of output, rise in labour productivity, lowering cost of production and improving quality. The collective farmers, the personnel of the machine and tractor stations and state-farm workers are sparing no effort in properly preparing for the spring sowing and to ensure the fulfilment of the great tasks placed before agriculture by the Central Committee of the CPSU.

The Soviet people wholeheartedly approve the policy of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government, which expresses their vital interests.

In all the electoral districts of the Soviet Union the people are meeting their candidates. The crowded election meetings of the working people merge into a powerful manifestation of the moral-political unity of Soviet society, of the inviolable stability of the popular bloc of Communists and non-party people.

On March 11, in the Hall of Columns of the Trade Union House in Moscow, Comrade V. M. Molotov, first Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR and candidate for the Supreme Soviet, met the voters of the Molotov electoral district in the city of Moscow.

The Hall of Columns was filled with factory and office workers, scientific workers, staff of Ministries and students. All the speakers stressed the great unity of the Party, Government and people, and the tremendous political and labour enthusiasm in the enterprises and offices evoked by the forthcoming elections.

Comrade V. M. Molotov, who followed, was greeted with terrific applause and his speech listened to with keen attention.

A few days earlier the electors of the Kalinin electoral district had a meeting in the Hall of Columns of the Trade Union House with their candidate for the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet—Comrade N. S. Khrushchev, first Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

In a striking and moving speech Comrade Khrushchev summed up the results achieved since the previous election and dwelt on the chief tasks in the period ahead.

Dwelling on the foreign policy of the Soviet Union Comrade Khrushchev said that the international prestige of the land of Socialism had grown immensely since the last election. The USSR heads the powerful camp of peace, democracy and Socialism.

The Communist Party and the Soviet Government, Comrade Khrushchev stressed, will in the future, too, spare no effort in the struggle for peace and friendship among the nations, for the further extension of economic relations between the USSR and all countries.

In the Gorky Palace of Culture in Leningrad the electors of the Kirov electoral district met their candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Comrade K. E. Voroshilov.

"The deathless Lenin", said Comrade K. E. Voroshilov in his speech, "and the

great Stalin, the continuer of his cause, taught our Party to hold dear in every way the confidence of the people, to serve the people, and to fight for their prosperity and happiness.

"Our Party and its Central Committee sacredly guard this behest. All the varied, transforming, revolutionary activity of the Party is subordinated to the service of the people: the Party is confidently taking our people forward to new victories."

Candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Comrade N. A. Bulganin, first Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Minister of Defence of the USSR, addressed a meeting in the Moscow city electoral district. In Tashkent the electors of the Tashkent-Lenin electoral district met the candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Comrade L. M. Kaganovich, first Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, in Erevan the voters of the Erevan-Stalin electoral district met the candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Comrade A. I. Mikoyan, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Minister for Trade. The voters of the Tbilisi-Kalinin electoral district met their candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Comrade M. G. Pervukhin, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and Minister for Electric Stations and Electrical Industry. P. N. Pospelov, Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, met the electors of the Kursk electoral district. A meeting of electors of the Alma-Ata city electoral district was addressed by Comrade P. K. Ponomarenko, first Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The Ivanovo electors met Comrade A. N. Kosygin, Deputy Chairman of the Council

of Ministers of the USSR, candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

In Saratov, electors of the Saratov-Lenin electoral district met their candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Comrade M. A. Suslov—Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU. In Alexandrov, the voters of the Alexandrov electoral district met Comrade N. N. Shatalin, Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU and their candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. In Sverdlovsk, some 2,000 voters filled the Lunacharsky Theatre of Opera and Ballet for a meeting with Comrade N. M. Shvernik, Chairman of the All-Union Council of Trade Unions and their candidate for the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR from Sverdlovsk electoral district.

The electors of the Otyabrsky electoral district in Moscow had a meeting with their candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, P. B. Bykov, turner by profession. In the district House of Culture (Tolochinsk district, Vitebsk region) the electors had a meeting with their candidate for the Soviet of the Union from the Orsha electoral district, A. M. Kovalenko, group leader of the Voroshilov collective farm. In Lisichansk (Voroshilovgrad region) the electors met their candidate for the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Academician D. V. Skobeltsyn.

The election meetings have demonstrated with renewed force the inviolability of the great worker-peasant alliance, the firmness of the friendship of the peoples of the multinational Soviet socialist state, the granite-like moral-political unity of Soviet society. The meetings are vivid and striking testimony to the firmness and indestructibility of the Communist Party's bonds with the people.

FOR FURTHER INCREASE IN OUTPUT OF GRAIN IN THE USSR AND BRINGING VIRGIN AND UNUSED LAND UNDER CULTIVATION

Decision Adopted by the Plenum of the Central Committee, CPSU, March 2, 1954, on Comrade N. S. Khrushchev's Report

I.

The September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU advanced a task of national significance which, in present conditions, is a most urgent task—on the basis of the powerful growth of socialist industry fully to satisfy, within the next two or three years, the growing requirements of the population of our country for mass-consumption goods and to ensure supplies of raw materials for light industry and the food industry. Guided by the decisions of the Plenum the Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies have since done a great deal towards creating the necessary conditions for ensuring a powerful upsurge of all branches of agriculture.

Carrying out the decisions of the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU the collective farmers, the personnel of the machine and tractor stations and state farms completed autumn agricultural work better than in the previous years. The autumn ploughing in 1953 exceeded that of 1952 by 13 million hectares, while black fallow land ploughed in the autumn of 1953 was 3.5 million hectares more than in 1952. The sowing of winter crops and the preparation of soil for the 1954 spring sowing were carried out in shorter and better agrotechnical time limits in the majority of the Republics, territories and regions.

The incomes of the peasants grew considerably during 1953 and particularly in the last six months of the year as a result of the realisation of the decisions of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU and subsequent decisions of the Party and the Government. While the state retail prices for goods purchased by the peasants were cut, on the average, 11 per cent, the procurement prices paid for meat, milk, wool, potatoes and other vegetables delivered by the collective farms and collective farmers to the state in the form of obligatory quotas were substantially raised. A state purchasing system for meat, milk, potatoes and other vegetables was introduced at prices greatly in excess of the procurement prices. The tax arrears of the collective farms for the obligatory deliveries of animal-husbandry products, potatoes and other vegetables for the past years were wiped out. Quotas of obligatory deliveries from the personal husbandry of the collective farmers were reduced, the agricultural tax levied on the collective-farm households cut and agricultural tax arrears for past years wiped out. In addition, all arrears for obligatory state deliveries of the products of animal husbandry and potatoes by the collective-farm households for the past years were wiped out. As a result of the reduced quotas of obligatory deliveries the collective farms and collective farmers can now sell a substantial part of their surplus products to the state at the increased purchase prices. As a result of the realisation of the above-mentioned measures aimed at giving greater economic incentive to the collective farms and their members and of the measures in the sphere of taxation policy the over-all income of the collective farms and their members grew more than 13 billion roubles in 1953.

Consistent observance of the principle of the material interestedness of the collective farms and collective farmers in the development of agriculture must in the future too be a matter of everyday concern of the Party and Soviet organisations.

Taking into account that the success of every national-economic measure depends on people, on cadres, the Party, in its efforts to implement the decision of the Plenum, focused main attention on the problem of cadres and above all on the problem of cadres for the machine and tractor stations. Nearly 1,250,000 tractor drivers, tractor-team leaders and operators of complex agricultural machines and other workers have been put on the pay-roll of the machine and tractor stations as permanent workers since the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU. Responding to the call of the Party nearly 50,000 machine operators have returned from industry and other branches of the national economy to work in the machine and tractor stations.

More than 100,000 agronomists and zoo-technicians have been sent during the past few months to the machine and tractor stations to serve the collective farms. Some 23,000 engineers and technicians have been sent from industry and other branches of the national economy to work in the machine and tractor stations. These measures have resulted in a substantial reinforcement of the machine and tractor stations and collective farms with specialists and in bringing the cadres of specialists nearer to the decisive sectors of agricultural production.

However, serious shortcomings obtain in the matter of reinforcing the machine and tractor stations and collective farms with skilled cadres. Some leading Party and Soviet functionaries apparently do not understand that it is impossible to ensure a steep upsurge in all branches of agriculture without solving the problem of cadres.

In many machine and tractor stations and in the first place in the Orel, Kursk and Kalinin regions a considerable number of permanent workers for the tractor teams have not yet been selected and enrolled on the staff of the machine and tractor stations. Not a small part of the workers formally enrolled on the staff of the machine and tractor stations do not work in the machine and tractor stations and collective farms despite the vast range of work to be done there in winter time. The labour of the permanent workers in the machine and tractor stations is poorly organised. Work has not been properly conducted in the Bryansk, Vladimir and in a number of other regions for ensuring the return to the machine and tractor stations of the machine operator who had left for work in industry and other branches of the national economy. There are serious shortcomings in the matter of training

which most of all need qualified aid. In a number of machine and tractor stations the new specialists are not provided with adequate housing conditions and services.

The most vital and so far unsolved problem in the work of Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies in the matter of selecting cadres for agriculture is the question of selecting collective-farm chairmen. Only a few Party organisations have begun to tackle the question of reinforcing the leading collective-farm cadres, while in the greater part of the regions, territories and Republics there is a clear underestimation of this vital question, although the further upsurge and all-round development of the commonly-owned enterprise of the collective farms depends in large measure on the selection of collective-farm chairmen. The facts prove: if an efficient and energetic chairman, a man who knows his job and is capable of organising the masses, is placed at the head of the collective farm, then the most backward enterprise becomes a leading one within two or three years and the collective farmers receive large incomes for their work-day units. In such collective farms the state and public interests are properly combined with the interests of the collective farms and collective farmers. On the other hand, collective farms possessing great production possibilities begin to lag behind and stagnate if they happen to be led by people chosen at random who are incapable of directing large-scale socialist production.

Things are particularly bad as regards the realisation of the decision of the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU for reinforcing the collective farms with leading cadres in the Kazakh SSR, in the Altai Territory, in the Kalinin, Gorki, Chkalov, Vologda, Novgorod, Pskov, Orel, Bryansk regions and in the Tatar ASSR.

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU demands that the Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies and the managers of the machine and tractor stations put an end to the irresponsible attitude in relation to the selection of leading collective-farm cadres and solve in practice this vital question of the organisational-economic strengthening of the collective farms.

The September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU adopted a far-reaching programme for strengthening the material-production base of socialist agriculture. Carrying out the decision of the Plenum our industry, during the fourth quarter of 1953 alone, supplied agriculture with nearly 42,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p.), more than 11,000 grain combines and over 22,000 tractor-drawn sowing machines, thousands of tractor-drawn hay mowers and other first class machines. Relying on the powerful basis of heavy industry, agriculture in our country is being saturated more and more and at an accelerated rate with up-to-date technique. By the beginning of 1954 the machine and tractor stations had more than 1,000,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p.), including 460,000 diesel tractors; 270,000 grain combines, nearly 450,000 tractor-drawn sowing machines, more than 260,000 tractor-drawn mowing machines and numerous other up-to-date machines.

At the same time the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU notes that the heads of the Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry and managers of a number of plants are not properly fulfilling the tasks assigned to them for the output of agricultural machines, displaying a non-state attitude towards this question. The 1953 assignment for the production of "Belarus" tractors was not carried out. The assignment for the output of the SKG-4 potato-sowing machines was carried out 59 per cent, the KOK-2 potato-picking combines 38 per cent and the KON-2.8 tractor cultivators 89 per cent. In the fourth quarter of 1953 the assignment for the output of SON-2.8 vegetable-sowing machines was fulfilled only 60 per cent, the SRN-4 seedling-planting machines 13 per cent, the KRN-2.8 plant-feeding cultivators 60 per cent. The heads of many enterprises of the Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry and the Ministry of the Transport and Heavy Machine-Building Industry display an irresponsible attitude towards the question of systematic and complete supply of spare parts to the machine and tractor stations.

Construction work in the machine and tractor stations by the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and local Soviet and agricultural bodies in a number of regions, territories and Republics is being carried out unsatisfactorily. The plan assignments for construction of workshops in 1953 was fulfilled 57 per cent and maintenance sheds and premises for agricultural machinery 70 per cent.

The preservation of livestock on the farms improved somewhat as the result of the measures taken by the Party and the Government for raising the material interestedness of the collective farms and collective farmers in the development of the commonly-owned animal husbandry, for allocating agricultural specialists to the collective farms and as a result of organisational and technical aid accorded the collective farms by the machine and tractor stations in the matter of looking after livestock in winter time and of switching the date of counting livestock from January 1 to October 1. The procurement and purchase of meat, milk and wool were carried out in 1953 better than in 1952. At the same time the collective farms during 1953 did not fulfil the state plan for the development of animal husbandry in relation to large-horned cattle and sheep. The plan assignments were not fulfilled for accumulation of fodder; less coarse fodder was prepared in 1953 than in 1952. A considerable decrease in the head of cows was registered in many regions, territories and Republics and particularly in the Ryazan, Tambov, Pskov, Kostroma, Tula, Novgorod, Orel and Yaroslavl regions

a sharp increase of output of food grain, feed-grain, cereals and pulses in order to increase in the near future the state procurement and purchase of grain by 35-40 per cent as compared with 1953.

Our agriculture is extensively equipped with up-to-date technique. This enables us to mechanise the main field work. We now have sufficient cadres of leaders of large-scale socialist produc-

tion—the machine and tractor stations, collective farms and state farms. A numerous army of specialists and machine operators is now working in agriculture. Finally, the Soviet country is enormously rich in land.

Thus our socialist agriculture has everything needed for a powerful advance in grain production.

III.

Bringing Virgin and Unused Land Under Cultivation—Big Reserve for Ensuring Increase in Grain Production

1. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU holds that, along with ensuring an increase in the yield of grain crops in all regions of the country, the bringing of new areas under cultivation is of enormous importance for raising grain production. The extension of the areas sown to grain crops by means of cultivating virgin and unused land in the regions of Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Urals, the Volga region and to some extent in the regions of the North Caucasus is an important and real source for ensuring increased production of grain in a brief space of time. These regions have vast fertile black earth and brown earth areas which can be made to yield bumper crops without allocation of large supplementary capital investments.

The experience of the collective and state farms in Siberia and Kazakhstan has fully confirmed the possibility of obtaining 1,400-1,500 kilograms per hectare of spring wheat on the newly cultivated virgin and unused land with the leading farms obtaining 2,000-2,500 and more kilograms per hectare. For example, in 1953 the "Petrovavlovsky" state farm in the Chelyabinsk region grew 2,200 kilograms of wheat per hectare on an area of 19,000 hectares including 10,000 hectares brought under cultivation in recent years. The "Lenin Road" collective farm in the Konyukhovo district, North-Kazakhstan region, with an average actual yield of spring wheat amounting to 1,450 kilograms per hectare, obtained 3,000 kilograms per hectare on 350 hectares of the newly cultivated virgin soil.

The Plenum of the Central Committee places before the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, before the Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies of Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Urals, the Volga area and North Caucasus, before the machine and tractor stations, collective and state farms in these regions the vital state task: to extend the areas sown to grain crops in 1954-55, by bringing under cultivation not less than 13 million hectares of virgin soil and unused land and to ensure that in 1955 these areas yield 1,100-1,200 million poods of grain, including 800-900 million poods of grain for the market.

2. To instruct the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, the regional and territorial committees of the CPSU in Siberia, the Urals, the Volga area and the North Caucasus, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR, the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR, regional and territorial executive committees, machine and tractor stations and state-farm directors in these regions to increase the areas sown by collective and state farms: in 1954, in keeping with the national-economic plan, the area under wheat and millet by 2.3 million hectares, including 1.8 million hectares in collective farms and 0.5 million hectares in state farms; in 1955 the areas sown to grain must be further increased by not less than 10.7 million hectares.

In 1955 the grain crops in the newly cultivated areas must be planted as a rule on well-prepared fallow and autumn-ploughed land.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR, the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR, the local Soviet and agricultural bodies must in good time and not later than June 1, 1954, select tracts of land, in the first instance on the most fertile virgin and unused land and poorly-productive meadows and pastures in the proximity of towns and villages, for the purpose of extending the area sown to grain crops by the collective and state farms. The state land reserves must also be used for setting up new grain-growing state farms and for allocating additional plots to state and collective farms.

4. For the purpose of timely ploughing, preparing the soil, sowing and harvesting grain crops on the newly cultivated land and with a view to obtaining crops with the minimum of labour, to ensure complete mechanisation of all the work at all stages of growing grain crops.

For the purpose of carrying out the work for cultivating virgin and unused soil, for ploughing the poorly-productive meadows and pastures and for further increasing the area sown to wheat, to supply, in 1954, the regions bringing new land under cultivation with 120,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p.), 10,000 harvester combines and a corresponding number of tractor-drawn ploughs, sowing machines, heavy disc-harrows, cultivators and other machines. In order to ensure technical services for the machine and tractor park to supply the necessary number of trucks, mobile auto-repair shops, tank trucks, automatic refuellers, stationary oil containers, instruments and equipment.

5. The meeting of the Central Committee draws the attention of all Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies to the fact that successful cultivation of virgin and unused land depends above all on the correct selection and allocation of qualified managerial and engineering-technical cadres and agronomists, as well as on

with Article 82 of the Labour Code, to the engineers, technicians, agronomists, zoo-technicians and other agricultural specialists, tractor-drivers and combine-operators, highly skilled repair workers, book-keeping staff and other workers allocated to the machine and tractor stations, state farms and procurement organisations in the regions cultivating virgin soil and unused land from other machine and tractor stations and state farms, factories and organisations.

8. For the purpose of satisfying the every-day needs of the workers of the tractor teams and units in the machine and tractor stations and state farms cultivating new areas, to instruct State Farms of the USSR, the local Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies to organise in 1954 field camps, Soviet and agricultural wagons and tents for accommodation and with kitchens, baths, to instruct the Ministry of Trade of the USSR and the selling foodstuffs and items of prime necessity and to make wide use of mobile shops for this purpose.

The Ministry of Culture of the USSR and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions must see to it that the cultural requirements of the workers in the tractor units and teams of bringing new land under cultivation are satisfied (films, radio, newspapers, magazines, etc.). The Ministry of Health of the USSR must ensure medical services for these workers.

9. With a view to stimulating the material interestedness of collective farms, collective farmers and workers in the machine areas under cultivation and ensuring bumper crops, to introduce the following incentives:

a) to recommend the collective farms to pay, by decision of general meetings, bonuses to the workers of the field and tractor- and above the fixed assignment for the entire yields obtained over newly cultivated lands;

b) to recommend that, as advance payment, the collective farms share among the collective farmers, by decision of general meetings, approximately 25 per cent of the money received from the sales of grain obtained from the newly cultivated areas for obligatory state deliveries and purchasing deliveries;

c) to instruct the "Centrosyuz" to allot manufactured goods, trucks, motor-driven vehicles, electric motors, building materials and other items for production and administrative purposes to be sold to the collective farms, which have delivered grain under the state purchasing system, at a rate of 50 roubles grain under goods (at retail prices) to every 100 roubles worth of grain sold;

d) to grant the directors of the machine and tractor stations the right, as an exception, to allocate additional sums for bonuses for the workers of tractor teams and special groups in machine and tractor stations at a rate of 75 kopecks for every 100 kilograms of grain delivered or sold to the state by the collective farms. These sums shall be allocated on the condition that the planned assignments for sowing and for actual crop yields on the virgin soil and unused land are carried out.

During 1954-1955 to add bonuses of 15 per cent to the wages of the workers, employees, specialists and executive workers of the newly established state farms engaged in bringing virgin soil and unused land under cultivation.

10. The meeting of the Central Committee holds that the task of ensuring an increase in grain production envisages, along with bringing new land under cultivation in Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Urals, the Volga area and North Caucasus, a considerable extension of the cultivated areas in other regions of the country, particularly in the non-black earth regions, by ploughing unused land, poorly-productive meadows and pastures, clearing shrubbery, thickets and reclaiming marshlands.

The carrying out of this work will make it possible to bring under cultivation within the next few years additional areas of fertile land, to extend the areas sown to grain, fodder crops, potatoes and other vegetables in the densely populated regions, to improve supplies of industry and, as a result, populated regions and meat to the population of towns and other fresh vegetables, milk and other products.

The meeting of the Central Committee of the CPSU draws attention to the serious shortcomings in bringing under cultivation new areas in the non-black earth regions. The Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, when bringing new lands under cultivation, must not neglect the reclamation of numerous minor areas which dissipate financial and

...depends on people, on cadres, on the Party... implement the decision of the Plenum, focused main attention on the problem of cadres and above all on the problem of cadres for the machine and tractor stations. Nearly 1,250,000 tractor drivers, tractor-team leaders and operators of complex agricultural machines and other workers have been put on the pay-roll of the machine and tractor stations as permanent workers since the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU. Responding to the call of the Party nearly 50,000 machine operators have returned from industry and other branches of the national economy to work in the machine and tractor stations.

More than 100,000 agronomists and zoo-technicians have been sent during the past few months to the machine and tractor stations to serve the collective farms. Some 23,000 engineers and technicians have been sent from industry and other branches of the national economy to work in the machine and tractor stations. These measures have resulted in a substantial reinforcement of the machine and tractor stations and collective farms with specialists and in bringing the cadres of specialists nearer to the decisive sectors of agricultural production.

However, serious shortcomings obtain in the matter of reinforcing the machine and tractor stations and collective farms with skilled cadres. Some leading Party and Soviet functionaries apparently do not understand that it is impossible to ensure a steep upsurge in all branches of agriculture without solving the problem of cadres.

In many machine and tractor stations and in the first place in the Orel, Kursk and Kalinin regions a considerable number of permanent workers for the tractor teams have not yet been selected and enrolled on the staff of the machine and tractor stations. Not a small part of the workers formally enrolled on the staff of the machine and tractor stations do not work in the machine and tractor stations and collective farms despite the vast range of work to be done there in winter time. The labour of the permanent workers in the machine and tractor stations is poorly organised. Work has not been properly conducted in the Bryansk, Vladimir and in a number of other regions for ensuring the return to the machine and tractor stations of the machine operators who had left for work in industry and other branches of the national economy. There are serious shortcomings in the matter of training machine operators: mechanisation schools and courses for training machine operators lack the full enrolment of trainees, while teaching in a number of schools and courses is being conducted in isolation from the vital problems of agricultural production.

The Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies and managers of machine and tractor stations and state farms must improve the training of machine operators in advanced methods of raising crops, in assimilating the new technique and new professions.

Serious shortcomings obtain in a number of regions, territories and Republics in the matter of selecting agricultural specialists and assigning them to work. In many cases specialists are sent in the first place to those machine and tractor stations and collective farms situated near towns and district centres, while the remote machine and tractor stations and collective farms have, so far, not been staffed with leading cadres and specialists. Instances are not wanting of more experienced specialists being sent to advanced collective farms while less experienced agronomists and zoo-technicians are allotted to the economically weak farms—those

question. The 1953 assignment for the production of "Belarus" tractors was not carried out. The assignment for the output of the SKG-4 potato-sowing machines was carried out 59 per cent, the KOK-2 potato-picking combines 38 per cent and the KON-2.8 tractor cultivators 89 per cent. In the fourth quarter of 1953 the assignment for the output of SON-2.8 vegetable-sowing machines was fulfilled only 60 per cent, the SRN-4 seedling-planting machines 13 per cent, the KRN-2.8 plant-feeding cultivators 60 per cent. The heads of many enterprises of the Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry and the Ministry of the Transport and Heavy Machine-Building Industry display an irresponsible attitude towards the question of systematic and complete supply of spare parts to the machine and tractor stations.

Construction work in the machine and tractor stations by the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and local Soviet and agricultural bodies in a number of regions, territories and Republics is being carried out unsatisfactorily. The plan assignments for construction of workshops in 1953 was fulfilled 57 per cent and maintenance sheds and premises for agricultural machinery 70 per cent.

The preservation of livestock on the farms improved somewhat as the result of the measures taken by the Party and the Government for raising the material interest of the collective farms and collective farmers in the development of the commonly-owned animal husbandry, for allocating agricultural specialists to the collective farms and as a result of organisational and technical aid accorded the collective farms by the machine and tractor stations in the matter of looking after livestock in winter time and of switching the date of counting livestock from January 1 to October 1. The procurement and purchase of meat, milk and wool were carried out in 1953 better than in 1952. At the same time the collective farms during 1953 did not fulfil the state plan for the development of animal husbandry in relation to large-horned cattle and sheep. The plan assignments were not fulfilled for accumulation of fodder; less coarse fodder was prepared in 1953 than in 1952. A considerable decrease in the head of cows was registered in many regions, territories and Republics and particularly in the Ryazan, Tambov, Pskov, Kostroma, Tula, Novgorod, Orel and Yaroslavl regions during the fourth quarter of 1953.

Carrying out the decision of the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU the regional and territorial committees and the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of the Union Republics now devote more attention to Party-political work in the countryside. Reorganisation of the work of the district Party apparatus with a view to bringing it nearer to the collective-farm and state-farm production is underway. Instructor groups headed by secretaries of the district Party committees have been set up to carry out Party-political work in the machine and tractor stations and collective farms served by the machine and tractor stations.

However, the reorganisation of the leading organs responsible for agriculture and of Party-political work in the countryside is proceeding at an extremely slow rate and this seriously hampers the solving of economic tasks since without a radical improvement in the leadership of the collective farms, machine and tractor stations and state farms, without a big improvement in the level of the entire Party-political and organisational work in the countryside it is impossible successfully to ensure the advance of agriculture.

II.

Situation in Sphere of Grain Growing and Tasks of Increasing Grain Production

1. For the purpose of carrying out the national task advanced by the Party and the Government of ensuring a steep increase in the output of mass-consumption goods, of particularly vital significance is the further development of grain growing as the basis of agricultural production as a whole.

The ever-increasing satisfaction of the growing requirements of the population with high-quality foodstuffs depends first of all on increased grain production. In order to solve in the shortest possible period the problem of animal husbandry, it is necessary to provide sufficient feed-grain crops—maize, barley and oats for the livestock. In order to extend production of industrial crops in the cotton-growing and flax-growing regions and to develop animal husbandry and potato and other vegetable bases in the vicinity of towns, cities and industrial centres it is also necessary to increase the supply of bread to these areas.

Socialist planned national economy presupposes the creation and annual renewal of state grain reserves. Moreover, the country must have a surplus of grain for increasing exports.

Thus, further progress by the other branches of agriculture and the satisfaction of the growing requirements of the population and of the entire national economy depend on the successful development of grain growing.

In this connection the Plenum of the Central Committee points out that the present level of grain production, both gross and marketable, does not meet the growing requirements of the national economy. A disproportion has set in between the quantity of grain at the disposal of the state and the increased amount required. The quantity of grain at the disposal of the collective farms after fulfilling their obligations to the state likewise does not cover all the requirements of the publicly-owned collective-farm economy; in many collective farms the amount of grain received by collective farmers for the work-day unit is small; particularly small is the quantity of feed grain at the disposal of the collective farms, without which it is impossible to achieve a rapid advance in animal husbandry.

2. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party considers that this disproportion between the present level of grain growing

and the increasing grain requirements of the country is determined at the present stage by a number of factors.

While the total area under crops increased in 1953 by 6.8 million hectares as against 1940, the area sown to grain crops was reduced by 3.8 million hectares with a sharp decline of 6.8 million hectares registered in the area sown to feed-grain crops (maize, barley, oats); the area sown to cereals such as millet, buckwheat and rice decreased by 1.3 million hectares and that sown to pulses by 0.8 million hectares.

Despite the fact that socialist agriculture is the most highly mechanised agriculture in the world and that it is being equipped each year with up-to-date technique, agrotechnical measures used at present do not ensure bumper yields of grain crops in all areas. The Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR and their local departments, many machine and tractor stations, state farms and collective farms display a careless attitude towards agrotechnique in cultivating grain crops, do not fulfil their assignments for ploughing fallow land and autumn ploughing, reduce the seed norms, delay sowing and harvesting and have heavy losses in crops.

One of the chief reasons for the disproportion between the level of the development of grain production and the increased requirements of the population and the national economy for bread is the bad mistakes made by the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR in planning the acreage under crops, particularly in the planning of the acreage under grain crops and grasses. As a result of the stereotyped application of the "travopolye" rotation system in the cultivation of land and without taking into consideration the peculiarities of various zones of the country, the acreage under grain crops in the Ukraine, the North Caucasus, the Volga area and in the central black earth regions was reduced.

Such unsound practice of planning severely damaged the development of grain production in the country.

3. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU considers that at present the country is confronted with the task of ensuring

area under wheat and millet by 2.3 million hectares, including 1.8 million hectares in collective farms and 0.5 million hectares in state farms; in 1955 the areas sown to grain must be further increased by not less than 10.7 million hectares.

In 1955 the grain crops in the newly cultivated areas must be planted as a rule on well-prepared fallow and autumn-ploughed land.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR, the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR, the local Soviet and agricultural bodies must in good time and not later than June 1, 1954, select tracts of land, in the first instance on the most fertile virgin and unused land and poorly-productive meadows and pastures in the proximity of towns and villages, for the purpose of extending the area sown to grain crops by the collective and state farms. The state land reserves must also be used for setting up new grain-growing state farms and for allocating additional plots to state and collective farms.

4. For the purpose of timely ploughing, preparing the soil, sowing and harvesting grain crops on the newly cultivated land and with a view to obtaining crops with the minimum of labour, to ensure complete mechanisation of all the work at all stages of growing grain crops.

For the purpose of carrying out the work for cultivating virgin and unused soil, for ploughing the poorly-productive meadows and pastures and for further increasing the area sown to wheat, to supply, in 1954, the regions bringing new land under cultivation with 120,000 tractors (in terms of 15 h.p.), 10,000 harvester combines and a corresponding number of tractor-drawn ploughs, sowing machines, heavy disc-harrows, cultivators and other machines. In order to ensure technical services for the machine and tractor park to supply the necessary number of trucks, mobile auto-repair shops, tank trucks, automatic refuellers, stationary oil containers, instruments and equipment.

5. The meeting of the Central Committee draws the attention of all Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies to the fact that successful cultivation of virgin and unused land depends above all on the correct selection and allocation of qualified managerial and engineer-technical cadres and agronomists as well as machine operators to reinforce tractor units and teams in the machine and tractor stations and state farms of the regions bringing land under cultivation.

Considering that the supply of manpower to the machine and tractor stations and state farms is an urgent task it is necessary to reinforce the machine and tractor stations and state farms bringing new land under cultivation with qualified cadres drawn from the personnel of the functioning machine and tractor stations and state farms, and by training tractor-drivers and combine-operators in vocational schools for mechanisation of agriculture, in the agricultural mechanisation schools and in the courses attached to the machine and tractor stations and state farms. The shortage of manpower on newly formed state farms in the regions where new soil is being brought under cultivation must be remedied by the organised recruitment of workers.

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU places before the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of the Union Republics, territorial and regional committees of the CPSU, before the Councils of Ministers of the Republics, regional and territorial executive committees, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, before all Party, trade union and Komsomol organisations the following task: by means of large-scale explanatory work to select in 1954 executive workers, specialists and skilled workers and send them to the state farms and machine and tractor stations engaged in bringing new land under cultivation. The workers must be selected from both the functioning machine and tractor stations, state farms and from industry and other branches of the national economy. The organised recruitment and transfer of workers to the regions bringing new land under cultivation must be regarded as an important task assigned by the Party and the Government, as a great patriotic matter.

Every factory, office and organisation must regard it as a matter of honour to send specialists and skilled workers who express the desire to work in the regions bringing new areas under cultivation.

6. To approve the initiative displayed by the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League and its local organisations in getting 100,000 young people and Komsomol volunteers—machine-operators—to work in the machine and tractor stations and state farms engaged in bringing new land under cultivation.

7. To make a special grant equivalent to three months wages received on their previous jobs and to pay all expenses connected with their transfer to their new jobs, in conformity

with the decision of the Central Committee of the CPSU to sell to the purchasing system 100 tractors and tractor stations goods (at retail prices) to every 100 machine and tractor stations

d) to grant the directors of the machine and special groups in machine the right, as an exception, to allocate additional sums for bonuses for the workers of tractor teams and special groups in machine and tractor stations at a rate of 75 kopecks for every 100 kilograms of grain delivered or sold to the state by the collective farms, and tractor stations on the condition that the planned of grain delivered or sold for actual crop yields on the virgin

These sums shall be allocated for actual crop yields on the virgin These sums shall be allocated for actual crop yields on the virgin assignments for sowing and for actual crop yields on the virgin soil and unused land to add bonuses of 15 per cent to the wages of soil and unused land to add bonuses of 15 per cent to the wages of specialists and executive workers of

During 1954-1955 to add bonuses of 15 per cent to the wages of the workers, employees, specialists and executive workers of the newly established state farms engaged in bringing virgin soil

of the newly established state farms engaged in bringing virgin soil and unused land under cultivation. The meeting of the Central Committee holds that the task of ensuring an increase in grain production envisages, along with bringing new land under cultivation in the regions of Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Urals, the Volga area and North Caucasus, a considerable extension of the cultivated areas in other regions, particularly in the non-black earth regions, by clearing shrubbery, thickets and reclaiming marshlands.

The carrying out of this work will make it possible to bring under cultivation within the next few years additional areas of fertile land, to extend the areas sown to grain, fodder crops, potatoes and other vegetables in the densely populated regions with a highly developed industry and, as a result, considerably to improve supplies of towns and industrial centres.

The meeting of the Central Committee of the CPSU draws attention to the serious shortcomings in bringing under cultivation new areas in the non-black earth regions. The Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the local Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies dissipate financial and cultural resources on numerous minor projects. This means that material resources on numerous industrial methods of when bringing new lands under cultivation industrial methods of reclamation cannot be used, complex mechanisation cannot be ensured, technique is badly used and expenditure of funds and labour per hectare is high.

It is necessary to make a radical change in the whole job of bringing new areas under cultivation in the non-black earth regions and in future to cultivate large tracts by concentrating all the melioration technique on them and widely introducing industrial methods in organising the work.

11. To consider it necessary to begin in the first place melioration work on and bringing under cultivation such tracts as the Meshcherskaya Plain (particularly in the Ryazan, Vladimir and Moscow regions), the water meadows along the River Trubezh in the Ukrainian SSR and others.

To instruct the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR, the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Byelorussian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Estonian SSR to elaborate, within the next two months, suggestions for bringing under cultivation large tracts of abandoned land and marshlands with a view to setting up special building and designing organisations for these purposes and supplying them with material-technical equipment so that work can begin on these tracts in the near future.

To ensure that the first category of land to be brought under cultivation is the land which has been left uncultivated as a result of the war or of the inability of individual collective farms and which does not require large sums for its cultivation.

12. The meeting of the Central Committee points out that the bringing of 13,000,000 hectares of virgin and unused land under cultivation in the eastern and south-eastern regions of the country and the cultivation of new areas in the non-black earth regions and other regions of the country envisaged for 1954-55 is the beginning of large-scale work on a nation-wide scale for bringing vast areas of unused land under cultivation for ensuring an increase in grain growing and other agricultural products.

The successful achievement of the envisaged targets for bringing new areas under cultivation and extending the areas sown to grain crops on the virgin and unused soil depends mainly on the concrete, operative leadership in the matter of solving this national task by the Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies, on the organisational and technical preparedness of the machine and tractor stations and the state farms and on how the collective farmers and the workers of the machine and tractor stations and the state farms are mobilised for the realisation of this task.

of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR have incorrectly planned agriculture, expressed in the fact that without any grounds for doing so they increased the area sown to perennial grasses which yield extremely poor harvests in the arid and semi-arid zones in the south of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, in the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, in the North Caucasus and in the south-eastern regions of the country and also in greatly reducing the acreage under grain crops especially maize, pulses, cereals and feed-grain crops. Lack of proper planning in agriculture led to a considerable decline in

(Continued on page 3)

IV.

Planning Agriculture, Changing the Structure of Crop Area and Raising Yields

In order successfully to solve the task of bringing about a powerful advance in grain growing proper utilisation of the sown area and a considerable increase in the yields of grain crops are of great importance.

A. EXTENDING AREA SOWN TO WHEAT, FEED-GRAIN, CEREALS AND PULSES

1. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU points out that the present structure of the sown area testifies to mechanical, careless and stereotyped application of the "travopolye" rotation system without taking into account the peculiarities of the different parts of the country. The State Planning Commission

of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR have incorrectly planned agriculture, expressed in the fact that without any grounds for doing so they increased the area sown to perennial grasses which yield extremely poor harvests in the arid and semi-arid zones in the south of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, in the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic, in the North Caucasus and in the south-eastern regions of the country and also in greatly reducing the acreage under grain crops especially maize, pulses, cereals and feed-grain crops. Lack of proper planning in agriculture led to a considerable decline in

FOR FURTHER INCREASE IN OUTPUT OF GRAIN IN THE USSR AND BRINGING VIRGIN AND UNUSED LAND UNDER CULTIVATION

Decision Adopted by the Plenum of the Central Committee, CPSU, March 2, 1954, on Comrade N. S. Khrushchev's Report

(Continued from page 2)

the acreage under grain crops and to the reduction of the total output of cereal, pulses and feed-grain crops in these areas.

To oblige the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the local Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies in the regions, territories and Republics of the south and south-eastern parts of the country to take measures to rectify errors made during the introduction of the "travopolye" system of rotation and to change the structure of the crop area in order considerably to expand as from this year the area sown to grain and particularly to cereals, pulses and feed-grain crops by reducing the acreage and by ploughing up the areas sown to low-yielding perennial grasses.

2. To instruct the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR to work out in conjunction with the Union Republics within a period of three months and submit for the consideration of the Council of Ministers of the USSR proposals for the structure of the crop area for 1955 in the various zones of the country, taking into account the utilisation of virgin and unused soil, fuller utilisation of the old crop-bearing land with a view to expanding the area sown to grain, pulses, cereals, feed-crops, maize, sugar-beet, sunflower, cotton, fibre-flax, fodder crops, silo crops and a considerable expansion of the area under horticulture and viticulture.

3. Taking into account the serious shortcomings in the present system of planning agriculture with its extreme centralisation of planning which cramps the initiative of the individual collective farms, machine and tractor stations and state farms in the matter of developing agriculture, to instruct the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR to work out in conjunction with the Union Republics within a period of two months and submit for the consideration of the Council of Ministers of the USSR proposals for changing the existing practice of planning agriculture with a view to leaving more to the initiative of the localities in planning agricultural production.

B. MEASURES FOR FURTHER RAISING YIELDS OF GRAIN

1. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU draws the special attention of the Party organisations, Soviet and agricultural bodies, collective farms, machine and tractor stations and state farms to the necessity of greatly raising the yields of grain crops, which has been and remains the main method of increasing the production of grain.

The socialist mode of production has created conditions ensuring high and stable crop yields. This is confirmed by the practice of the leading collective farms, machine and tractor stations and state farms which, year after year, harvest high yields in different areas of the country. However, yields of grain are still low in many areas of the country due to gross violation of the agrotechnique required for the cultivation of these crops. A considerable proportion of the crops is sown on soil ploughed in spring, local and mineral fertilizers are utilised most inadequately and in many regions selected seed is introduced at a slow rate. In areas of the non-black earth zone the liming of acid soils is hardly practised and the treatment of soil with manure, peat and other local fertilizers is utterly inadequate. At the same time high yields of grain in these areas are impossible without the use of fertilizers even if a high level of mechanisation is ensured.

2. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU suggests that the Party organisations, Soviet and agricultural bodies, collective farms, machine and tractor stations and state farms focus their attention on the following questions pertaining to raising yields: wide introduction of advanced methods of agrotechnique; better utilisation of the tractor park; the speediest possible introduction and assimilation of correct crop rotation; raising of quality and reducing the time needed for field work; more attention to seeds; considerable increase in the accumulation of local fertilizers (manure, peat, etc.) and considerable extension in the use of these fertilizers as well as wider use of mineral fertilizers, liming of acid soils and use of gypsum in areas with saline soils; resolute efforts to reduce grain losses during harvesting, transportation and storage; introduction of systematic measures to combat agricultural pests and plant diseases.

To suggest that the Councils of Ministers of the Republics, the executive committees of the territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies elaborate and approve a minimum of obligatory agrotechnical requirements for each crop, taking into account the peculiarities of the different areas. The minimum must contain the optimum time needed for sowing, the seed norm per hectare, the time period for fallow ploughing, for preparing the soil for winter crops as well as the time needed for sowing these crops, the removal of winter crops from cattle combines, autumn ploughing, protection of winter crops from frost and other measures. These rules must also stipulate responsibility and measures for their implementation.

of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministries of Agriculture of the Union Republics as well as the territorial and regional agricultural departments to assess the work of the machine and tractor stations first of all from the standpoint of how they fulfil the state assignments for yield and gross output of grain and other crops. The yield must become the basic measurement of the efficiency of the work of the machine and tractor stations.

7. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU demands from the local Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies that they put an end to the underestimation of the use of organic and mineral fertilizers which is one of the most important means for ensuring a further rise in yields. Correct and wide use of local fertilizers will facilitate the production of additional hundreds of millions of poods of grain already in 1954-55.

To instruct the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR and their local bodies to ensure a substantial increase in the accumulation and use of local fertilizers (farmyard manure, peat, compost, etc.), widely to use bacteriological fertilizers, to make better use of mineral fertilizers, widely to introduce mechanisation in extraction of peat and lime transportation and spreading of manure, peat and other local fertilizers so that in the next 2-3 years all the main processes of preparing, transporting and spreading local fertilizers in collective farms and state farms are mechanised.

Special attention must be paid to the use of fertilizers in the non-black earth zone where the treatment of soil with manure, peat and phosphorites must be widely practised, the growing of lupin and other crops as green fertilizers extended and acid soils treated with lime. Adequate treatment of soil with manure, peat and other fertilizers during the ploughing of fallow land must be regarded as obligatory. To ensure wide use of organic and mineral fertilizers for the early spring feeding of grain crops.

To entrust the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR and the Ministry of Building Materials of the USSR to submit within a period of one month their proposals for the extraction of peat to be used as fertilizer, the extraction and milling of lime for liming acid soils, as well as for a considerable extension in producing for agriculture and supplying it with such equipment as machines for extraction of peat; manure, peat and lime loaders; automatic spades, tractor-drawn self-tipping aggregates, universal spreaders of manure, peat, mineral fertilizers and lime as well as heavy disc-harrows, excavators, scrapers, bulldozers and aggregates for milling lime.

8. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU regards it as intolerable that many collective and state farms lose a considerable amount of grain during harvesting.

To oblige the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, local Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies to put an end to the easy-going attitude in relation to grain losses during the harvesting. For this purpose the productivity of the harvester combines engaged in harvesting grain crops must be considerably raised in 1954, organisation of the harvesting work and technical service to the harvester combines improved, transport for taking the grain from the combines prepared in good time and field threshing mechanised.

9. To entrust the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR and the Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry with elaborating within two months and submitting to the Council of Ministers of the USSR their proposals for:

increasing the output of harvester combines so that in 1954-55 the machine and tractor stations and state farms are supplied with these machines in quantities that will ensure timely harvesting of grain crops;

organising mass production of highly productive grain-cleaning machines: automatic grain loaders, stationary and mobile grain dryers, mobile scales fixed on trucks, mobile power stations;

organising the construction of farm buildings, dwelling-houses and buildings for cultural and everyday needs, as well as the supply of necessary equipment to the machine and tractor stations and state farms engaged in assimilating large areas of virgin and unused soil;

supplying agriculture in 1954-1956 with trucks, mainly with self-tipping trucks with metal-covered bodies in numbers sufficient for taking the grain from the harvesting combines mainly by motor transport.

10. To regard as an important task of the Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry and of the Ministry of Transport and Heavy Machine-Building Industry the supplying of agriculture with spare parts for tractors and agricultural machines in conformity with the planned requirements of the machine and tractor stations and state farms, both in quantity and range.

To oblige the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry and the Ministry of Transport and Heavy Machine-Building Industry to take immediate steps to ensure a steep increase in the output of spare parts by means of better utilisation and extension of the existing production capacities as well as by organising production of spare parts at plants not yet producing them.

C. GRAIN PROCUREMENT AND PURCHASE

1. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU points out that the per hectare principle of obligatory grain deliveries

of State Farms of the USSR, the Ministry of the Food Industry of the USSR, the Party committees in regions and territories, the Central Committees of the Communist Parties in the Union Republics, the executive committees of the territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies and the Councils of Ministers in the Republics to ensure that in the next two or three years the yield of industrial crops shall be raised considerably and the acreage enlarged to the extent necessary.

For cotton. To deem it necessary in the next few years to effect a substantial extension of the cotton acreage and increase its yield and gross output in the collective farms and state farms in the irrigated areas of the Central Asian Republics, in Transcaucasia and Kazakhstan and in those areas in the southern part of the Ukrainian SSR, of the RSFSR and the Moldavian SSR most suitable for growing this crop. To ensure that irrigated land which has gone out of cultivation be used for cotton-growing.

To approve the efforts of the Party and Soviet organs in Uzbekistan to bring under cotton cultivation waste land which has an irrigation system.

The Plenum obliges the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the local Party and Soviet bodies in the cotton-growing regions of Central Asia, Transcaucasia and South-Kazakhstan region to ensure that in 1954-58 all cotton-growing collective farms introduce and assimilate cotton-lucerne rotation, to ensure strict control over the use of water by collective farms and widely to apply more efficient methods of watering crops. To ensure in the next 2-3 years a radical improvement in the condition of the irrigated soil. To undertake necessary work for bringing order into the existing collector-drainage network and to extend it and also to prevent saltness and falling of irrigated soil out of cultivation.

To oblige the Ministry of Manufactured Consumer Goods of the USSR and the Councils of Ministers of the cotton-growing Republics to take measures for improving the material-technical base of the cotton-cleaning mills and of the purchase-procurement network.

Fibre-flax and hemp. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU points to the intolerable lag and neglect in growing fibre-flax and hemp. In the majority of collective farms in the flax-growing regions and Republics the yield of flax is low. The plans for procurement of flax are not fulfilled and the collective farms do not provide their own seeds. During the past three years the area sown to flax was reduced by 35 per cent. The gross crop does not meet the requirements of industry for raw flax.

The Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and the Party and Soviet bodies have become used to this situation and do not take the necessary measures to raise yields, overcome the lag and extend the production of flax and hemp. The Ministry of Manufactured Consumer Goods of the USSR does not make the necessary effort to introduce industrial methods in preparing flax and hemp stalks. The Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry displays tardiness in turning out new machines for mechanising flax and hemp growing.

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU obliges the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the local Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies in the flax and hemp growing regions to take measures for ensuring a considerable extension of the area sown to fibre-flax and hemp, and for higher yields of these crops.

To instruct the State Planning Commission of the USSR and the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR to elaborate within one month and submit to the Council of Ministers of the USSR measures for advancing flax growing and providing greater incentives for the collective farms and collective farmers in extending the production of flax and hemp.

To oblige the Ministry of Manufactured Consumer Goods of the USSR to build shops for mechanising the preparation of flax stalks and for threshing flax.

Sugar-beet. In view of the need for a big improvement in supplying the population with sugar to extend in the next 2-3 years the area sown to sugar-beet, in the districts most favourable for this crop, by not less than 300,000 hectares and to take measures for a considerable increase in yields and gross output of sugar-beet.

Oil-bearing crops. In order to increase the output of vegetable oil to deem it necessary, along with ensuring a steep increase in yields of oil-bearing crops, to extend by 500-600,000 hectares the area sown to sunflower, flax seed and other oil-bearing crops, first of all in the Volga area, Kazakhstan, Western Siberia and the Urals.

With a view to raising yields of oil-bearing crops the Plenum obliges the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the local Party and Soviet bodies to ensure in the next 2-3 years the introduction of complex mechanisation in cultivating oil-bearing crops on the entire area sown to them. To ensure, beginning with 1954, the introduction of planting sunflower by the "square-cluster" method.

Horticulture and viticulture. In order to ensure an abundance of foodstuffs in our country it is likewise necessary to ensure a considerable increase in the production of fruit, berries and grapes as valuable foods.

However, fruit and vine growing are neglected in many collective farms and state farms and are backward branches of agriculture. Fruit growing is particularly neglected in the collective and state farms in the Saratov, Penza, Kuibyshev, Gorki, Tula and Tambov regions where the area under orchards has declined compared with pre-war. Fruit growing is also unsatisfactory in such long-established fruit-growing regions as the Kursk, Orel, Belgorod, Ryazan and the Crimea regions, in the Kazakh SSR, Uzbek SSR, Tadzhik SSR, Azerbaijan SSR, Georgian SSR and Armenian SSR. Fruit growing is inadequately developed in the environs of the main cities and industrial centres and also on the personal plots of collective farmers, industrial workers and office employees.

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU regards the situation in the matter of horticulture and vine growing as intolerable and advances as a highly important task—to raise in every way the yields of orchards and vineyards, extend the area planted with fruit and nut trees, increase the gross crop yield and the output for the market so that in the next few years production and consumption of fruit, berries and grapes are greatly increased.

To instruct the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Ministry of Manufactured Consumer Goods of the USSR and the Ministry of the Chemical Industry to elaborate within one month and to submit to the Council of Ministers of the USSR:

a) Measures ensuring the supply of state farms and collective farms with chemicals and equipment to combat pests and plant diseases in orchards and vineyards;

b) Proposals for the further extension of mechanisation in treating and laying out new vineyards and for propping vine plants.

With a view to further extending production of tea, citrus plants, volatile oil-bearing plants and other crops the Plenum of the Central Committee obliges the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Ministry of Manufactured Consumer Goods of the USSR, the local Party and Soviet bodies in Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Krasnodar Territory to undertake supplementary measures for raising yields and the quality of tea, citrus plants, volatile oil-bearing plants and to extend the area under these crops. To ensure in the next few years mechanised tea-picking.

VI.

Reinforcing Fodder Base of Animal Husbandry

1. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU points out that the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, and also some local Party and Soviet bodies have committed serious mistakes in the practical work of developing fodder resources: they underestimated the significance of production of feed-grain and succulent fodder. As a result the satisfaction of feed-grain requirements of the commonly-owned animal husbandry in the collective farms is extremely inadequate and despite the increased area sown to grass the harvest of hay has not increased. Yet intense development of animal husbandry is unthinkable without adequate quantities of feed-grain and succulent fodder.

The production of succulent fodder lags seriously behind requirements. Yields of silage crops, fodder roots and fodder melon crops are low and year by year the silage plans remain unfulfilled. Cultivation of maize, a fodder with a high food value, for silage is not enough. Instead of cultivating silage crops the collective farms in some districts cut the meadows for silage. This is uneconomical and foredooms to failure the fulfilment of

black earth districts, in Siberia, in the Central black earth regions and also in the forest-steppe and wooded districts of the Ukrainian SSR so that the potato takes a prominent place in the fodder resources of the collective and state farms in these areas.

4. To regard as incorrect that at many sugar refineries, alcohol distilleries, breweries and other enterprises of the food industry utilisation of valuable fodder waste for fattening cattle is badly organised.

To oblige the Ministry of the Food Industry of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR and the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR to take measures for full utilisation of waste at the enterprises of the food industry—grain shell and other by-products—by organising stations for feeding cattle.

5. With a view to increasing stocks of high-quality silage the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the local Party and Soviet bodies are obliged to organise on a wide scale the construction of silo towers and lined trenches, to re-equip for harvesting silage crops the harvester combines not suitable for harvesting grain.

ensured. In these areas it is impossible without mechanisation is

2. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU suggests that the Party organisations, Soviet and agricultural bodies, focus their attention on the following questions pertaining to raising yields: wide introduction of advanced methods of agro-technique; better utilisation of the tractor park; the speediest possible introduction and assimilation of correct crop rotation; raising of quality and reducing the time needed for field work; more attention to seeds; considerable increase in the accumulation of local fertilizers (manure, peat, etc.) and considerable extension in the use of these fertilizers as well as wider use of mineral fertilizers, liming of acid soils and use of gypsum in areas with saline soils; resolute efforts to reduce grain losses during harvesting, transportation and storage; introduction of systematic measures to combat agricultural pests and plant diseases.

To suggest that the Councils of Ministers of the Republics, the executive committees of the territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies elaborate and approve a minimum of obligatory agrotechnical requirements for each crop, taking into account the peculiarities of the different areas. The minimum must contain the optimum time needed for sowing, the seed norm per hectare, the time period for fallow ploughing, the preparing the soil for winter crops as well as the time needed for sowing these crops, the removal of stubble after harvester combines, autumn ploughing, protection of winter crops from cattle and other measures. These rules must also stipulate responsibility for violating the obligatory agrotechnical requirements.

To entrust the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the USSR and the V. I. Lenin Institute of Agricultural Sciences with rendering the necessary assistance and consultation to the Councils of Ministers of the Republics, to the executive committees of the territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies in elaborating the minimum of obligatory agrotechnical requirements.

3. Of paramount importance in the system of measures ensuring higher yields are timely autumn ploughing and the ploughing when extensive areas under spring crops are sown after fulfilled year after year. To oblige the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, with 1955 spring crops be sown only on autumn-ploughed and well-cultivated and fertilised black fallow land, bare fallow and green fallow land or on well prepared land that has not been lying fallow with simultaneous wide introduction of spring feeding of the winter crops sown on these lands.

4. To regard as the paramount duty of the Party organisations, of the Soviet and agricultural bodies, collective farms, machine and tractor stations and state farms, the task of ensuring more timely sowing of the winter and spring crops in accordance with the requirements of agrotechnique. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU demands from the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies that farms and state farms complete the sowing of winter and spring crops within the agrotechnical time-period best suited to the particular zone.

5. An important prerequisite for raising grain yields is the use of high-yield selected seeds, strictly observing the seed norm per hectare and improving the growing and selecting of seed. To place before the Party, Soviet and agricultural organs the task of ensuring that within the next 2-3 years all regions, territories and Republics go over to sowing with high-yield and high-quality selected seeds suited to their areas.

With the purpose of accelerating production of the best varieties of buckwheat, pulses and millet seed it must be recognised as a necessary measure that in 1954 the seeds for these crops be produced not only in the district seed-growing farms but also in the leading collective and state farms.

6. In view of the fact that the machine and tractor stations play a decisive role in ensuring higher yields in the collective farms the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU demands that the Party, Soviet and agricultural organs, all workers of the machine and tractor stations resolutely improve the quality of the work done by tractors. It is necessary to raise the responsibility of the specialists, especially of the chief agronomists of the machine and tractor stations as state controllers, for timely fulfillment and quality of work. To oblige the Ministry

to increase the output of harvester combines so that in 1954-55 the machine and tractor stations and state farms are supplied with these machines in quantities that will ensure timely harvesting of grain crops;

organising mass production of highly productive grain-cleaning machines: automatic grain loaders, stationary and mobile grain dryers, mobile scales fixed on trucks, mobile power stations;

organising the construction of farm buildings, dwelling-houses and buildings for cultural and everyday needs, as well as the supply of necessary equipment to the machine and tractor stations and state farms engaged in assimilating large areas of virgin and unimproved soil;

supplying agriculture in 1954-1956 with trucks, mainly with self-tipping trucks with metal-covered bodies in numbers sufficient for taking the grain from the harvesting combines mainly by motor transport.

10. To regard as an important task of the Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry and of the Ministry of Transport and Heavy Machine-Building Industry the supplying of agriculture with spare parts for tractors and agricultural machines in conformity with the planned requirements of the machine and tractor stations and state farms, both in quantity and range.

To oblige the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of the Machine-Building Industry and the Ministry of Transport and Heavy Machine-Building Industry to take immediate steps to ensure a steep increase in the output of spare parts by means of better utilisation and extension of the existing production capacities as well as by organising production of spare parts at plants not yet producing them.

C. GRAIN PROCUREMENT AND PURCHASE

1. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU points out that the per hectare principle of obligatory grain deliveries to the state, the main principle of the policy of the Party and the Government in the realm of grain procurement, has proved to be completely correct and has acted as an incentive for the collective farms to develop grain production. Grave violations of the per hectare principle of grain deliveries are, however, observed in the practice of grain procurement and there are serious errors in planning grain procurement as state deliveries and as payment in kind. The practice of transferring the deficit in the grain delivery plan in certain regions, districts and collective farms to others that harvested a good crop was wrong. As a result, the per hectare rate of obligatory grain deliveries actually loses its significance.

When elaborating and adopting the new district rates of obligatory deliveries of collective-farm grain and rice to the state, the Ministry of Procurements, the Councils of Ministers of the Republics and the executive committees of the territory and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies must see to it that there is no great difference in the north for districts with approximately similar conditions for growing grain; as a rule, there should be one rate of obligatory grain deliveries in force in one administrative district.

2. Taking into account that the ploughing and cultivating of new land in the collective farms in Siberia, Kazakhstan, the Urals, in the Volga area and in the North Caucasus is wholly carried out with machinery provided by the state, the newly cultivated land in these areas shall be regarded as plough-land which, from the first sowing, is affected by the rates of obligatory grain deliveries to the state and payment in kind established for the collective farms in the given district.

3. To establish that during harvesting the transport of grain from the newly formed state farms and from the grain-growing state and collective farms in remote areas recently brought under cultivation shall, as a rule, be handled by the trucks of the USSR Procurement Motor Transport Organisation and the USSR State Farm Motor Organisation direct from the harvesting combines to the state procurement stations which shall carry out the necessary additional processing, cleaning and drying operations.

4. To oblige the State Planning Commission of the USSR and the Ministry of Procurements to request from the Council of Ministers of the USSR the construction of additional elevators and granaries in the eastern regions of the country in order to ensure storage of all the grain delivered to the state by the collective farms and state farms in the new areas.

5. In order to replenish the state grain resources and to give a greater incentive to the collective farms and their members to increase grain production it is necessary to develop in every possible way the state purchase of surplus grain from the collective farms and the collective farmers in accordance with the purchase prices.

6. To instruct the Ministry of Procurements and the "Centrosouyz" to take measures to ensure timely payment in kind, in accordance with established rates, for agricultural products delivered and sold to the state by collective farms.

V.

Increasing Output of Industrial Crops and Developing Horticulture and Viticulture

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU states that in the post-war years the crop area was considerably enlarged and gross output of sugar-beet, cotton and oil-bearing crops raised with the result that output of cotton fabrics, sugar and vegetable oil increased.

At the same time, however, the level reached in the production of industrial crops is still considerably below the increased require-

ments of the national economy and does not properly satisfy popular consumption.

With a view to further increasing the output of industrial crops on a scale sufficient to ensure the necessary growth of the popular consumption and of having more raw materials for light industry and the food industry, the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU obliges the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry

to fibre-flax and hemp, and for higher yields of these crops. To instruct the State Planning Commission of the USSR and the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR to elaborate within one month and to submit to the Council of Ministers of the USSR measures for advancing flax growing and providing greater incentives for the collective farms and collective farmers in extending the production of flax and hemp.

to instruct the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Ministry of Manufactured Consumer Goods of the USSR, the local Party and Soviet bodies in Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Krasnodar Territory to undertake supplementary measures for raising yields and the quality of tea, citrus plants, volatile oil-bearing plants and to extend the area under these crops. To ensure in the next few years mechanised tea-picking.

VI.

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1. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU points out that the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, and also some local Party and Soviet bodies have committed serious mistakes in the practical work of developing fodder resources: they underestimated the significance of production of feed-grain and succulent fodder. As a result the satisfaction of feed-grain requirements of the commonly-owned animal husbandry in the collective farms is extremely inadequate and despite the increased area sown to grass the harvest of hay has not increased. Yet intense development of animal husbandry is unthinkable without adequate quantities of feed-grain and succulent fodder.

The production of succulent fodder lags seriously behind requirements. Yields of silage crops, fodder roots and fodder melon crops are low and year by year the silage plans remain unfulfilled. Cultivation of maize, a fodder with a high food value, for silage is not enough. Instead of cultivating silage crops the collective farms in some districts cut the meadows for silage. This is uneconomical and foredooms to failure the fulfilment of the plan for silage and hay.

Production and storing of coarse fodder also lags behind the requirements of animal husbandry. In the past few years the average supply of coarse fodder per head of cattle has been considerably reduced. Low yields of cultivated grasses and natural meadows result in insufficient quantities of hay.

2. To suggest that the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the local Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies put an end to the underestimation of the significance of growing feed-grain crops and succulent fodder for animal husbandry, ensure extension of the area under crops and raise the yields of feed-grain crops in order to provide the commonly-owned animal husbandry with feed-grain and other fodder concentrates.

To undertake measures for the unconditional fulfilment of the fixed assignments for building up stocks of succulent fodder by increasing the area under crops and raising the yields of silage crops, particularly maize, fodder roots, sugar-beet, potatoes for fodder and fodder melon crops, taking into account the economic and climatic conditions of the given areas. To organise work for improving meadows and pastures.

3. Bearing in mind that the potato is a most valuable fodder crop with the help of which it is possible in a brief space of time to raise milk yields considerably and organise wholesale fattening of hogs and poultry, to consider it necessary substantially to extend the growing of potatoes for fodder purposes in the non-

black earth districts, in Siberia, in the Central black earth regions and also in the forest-steppe and wooded districts of the Ukrainian SSR so that the potato takes a prominent place in the fodder resources of the collective and state farms in these areas.

4. To regard as incorrect that at many sugar refineries, alcohol distilleries, breweries and other enterprises of the food industry utilisation of valuable fodder waste for fattening cattle is badly organised.

To oblige the Ministry of the Food Industry of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR and the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR to take measures for full utilisation of waste at the enterprises of the food industry—grain shell and other by-products—by organising stations for feeding cattle.

5. With a view to increasing stocks of high-quality silage the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the local Party and Soviet bodies are obliged to organise on a wide scale the construction of silo towers and lined trenches, to re-equip for harvesting silage crops the harvester combines not suitable for harvesting grain.

6. To suggest to the State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Ministry of Geological Exploration and Protection of Mineral Deposits, the Ministry of the Building Industry and the Councils of Ministers of the RSFSR, of the Kazakh SSR, Uzbek SSR, Kirghiz SSR, Turkmen SSR and Tajik SSR that they work out and submit within two months for the consideration of the Council of Ministers of the USSR measures for preparing large tracts for seasonal pastures for livestock (sinking wells, installing drinking troughs, erecting sheds and dwelling accommodation and cultural and service establishments for the personnel).

7. The Plenum notes that in the practical work of planning animal husbandry the State Planning Commission of the USSR and the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR have made no discrimination in fixing targets for increasing the head of livestock and raising its productivity, which leads to the insufficient utilisation of natural and economic conditions for developing animal husbandry.

The State Planning Commission of the USSR, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR are obliged to rectify the errors made in planning the development of separate branches of animal husbandry, bearing in mind the need for proper distribution of livestock, taking into account the peculiarities of the various economic areas of the country and the need to increase the production of meat, milk, wool and other animal-husbandry products per 100 hectares of land.

VII.

Further Development of State Farms and Making Them More Profitable

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU considers that in carrying out the task advanced by the Party and the Government for ensuring a steep upsurge by all branches of agriculture and an abundance of agricultural products in the country a big role belongs to the state farms. The state farms, as large-scale state socialist enterprises equipped with modern agricultural technique, dispose of immense possibilities for ensuring in a brief space of time a sharp increase in the production and deliveries to the state of grain, potatoes and other vegetables, meat, milk, wool and other agricultural products, and of becoming model and highly-profitable enterprises.

However, there are big shortcomings in the work of the state farms. They make insufficient use of the vast tracts of land for crop raising and animal husbandry and the crop yields are still low. Year after year many state farms fall short of the state plans for the development of production, cost of production is high and they have heavy losses. They still give the country too small an amount of grain, meat, milk, wool and other products of animal husbandry.

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU notes that the backwardness of many state farms and neglect of state farm production, particularly grain growing, result from the poor guidance given by the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR and from the careless attitude on its part towards the introduction of the advanced experience in the work of the state farms. The Ministry of State Farms of the USSR displayed negligence in relation to the use of the land belonging to the state farms. While planning the development of state-farm production the Ministry failed to envisage utilisation of vast tracts of land belonging to the state

farms for increasing production of grain, industrial crops, potatoes and other vegetables as well as a more rapid development of animal husbandry. Particularly intolerable is the negligence displayed by the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR in relation to the use of land belonging to the state-farms where of the total of 5,400,000 hectares only 275,000 are used for growing grain. The gravest mistake committed by the Ministry is that it allowed the state farms to reduce considerably the proportion of land sown to grain crops which goes right against the interests of the state.

The Ministry of State Farms of the USSR did not take steps to reinforce the state farms with qualified managerial staff and agricultural specialists, which is one of the main reasons for the serious lag in state farm production.

Many state farms do not observe the requirements of agrotechnique and the land cultivated by them is neglected, work is done badly, the time needed for sowing, for ploughing fallow and autumn-crop land is dragged out and unsorted seeds are used for much of the sowing. The state farms make insufficient use of stable manure and mineral fertilisers and liming of acid soil is still inadequate. Long drawn out and unsatisfactory harvesting results in big losses. The state farms are slow in introducing the advanced methods of crop growing such as the square-cluster and square-planting of potatoes and other vegetables and crops and the narrow-row and criss-cross sowing of grain crops and other advanced agrotechnical methods ensuring higher yields.

(Continued on page 4)

FOR FURTHER INCREASE IN OUTPUT OF GRAIN IN THE USSR AND BRINGING VIRGIN AND UNUSED LAND UNDER CULTIVATION

Decision Adopted by the Plenum of the Central Committee, CPSU, March 2, 1954, on Comrade N. S. Khrushchev's Report

(Continued from page 3)

There are big shortcomings in developing animal husbandry. The targets assigned by the state for developing animal husbandry and for ensuring higher productivity of livestock are not fulfilled by a large number of state farms. Many of them sustain heavy losses owing to animals dying off and cows being barren. Productivity of animal husbandry and particularly the fleece yields and the increasing of the weight of hogs and fat cattle are still not satisfactory. A number of state farms still have low milk yields.

One of the main reasons for the unsatisfactory state of affairs in animal husbandry in the state farms is the serious lag in growing and stocking fodder. The state farms have very low yields of fodder crops. Potatoes and maize assigned for fodder are planted in insufficient quantities.

The state farms make inadequate use of tractors and machines; shift output per tractor and combine is low and machines are idle for considerable periods resulting in dragging out the fixed farms for doing the main agricultural jobs and in lower yields. Many state farms have no repair shops and facilities for safeguarding tractors and machines.

There are serious shortcomings in organising and carrying out construction work on state farms; year after year the considerable sums allocated for this purpose are not completely used. The state farms have not trained permanent cadres of building workers; here and there building work has acquired a seasonal character and is hardly mechanised at all. This explains why the plans for building farm premises, dwelling houses, cultural and other service establishments are not fulfilled, while the state farms badly need these establishments. The supply of water to livestock farms and to the pastures of the state farms is badly organised.

Serious shortcomings are also observed in the work of state farms under the Ministry of the Food Industry of the USSR and of the state farms attached to other Ministries and other departments.

1. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU considers that a vital task of the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR and the Ministries of State Farms of the Union Republics, the Ministries and departments having state farms, the Party and Soviet bodies in regions, territories and Republics is to improve radically the work of the state farms, ensure higher crop yields and better productivity of animal husbandry and, on this basis, increase the volume of state deliveries in the next two or three years to a minimum of 500,000,000 poods of grain and sharply increase the state deliveries of meat, milk, wool and other products. It is necessary to see to it that cost of production is substantially reduced and that the state farms are transformed into highly profitable model enterprises.

2. The state farms must play a big role in ensuring increased grain production by bringing the virgin soil and unused land under cultivation in the eastern and south-eastern regions of the country, by cultivating the unused reserves of land in all existing state farms, by obtaining better harvests of all grain crops. As large-scale and highly mechanised enterprises, the state farms have all the possibilities for growing grain with the minimum expenditure of labour and delivering it to the state at the lowest price.

To instruct the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR, the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Kirghiz SSR, the executive committees of territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia, the territorial and regional Party committees, the directors of the state farms in these Republics to extend the area sown to wheat and millet in the state farms: in 1954-55 by 4,300,000 hectares, including 2,300,000 hectares by bringing virgin soil and other unused land under cultivation on the functioning state farms and 2,000,000 hectares from the state land reserves.

To consider it necessary to form in 1954-55 new grain-growing state farms, as large-scale completely mechanised enterprises concentrating on growing wheat, millet, oats, maize and other grain crops and partly on sunflower and long fibre-flax. To establish that the main production unit in the newly organised state farms must be the tractor-field team with its tractors, combines and other machines, mobile wagons, tents, mobile motor repair shop, mobile kitchen and tank trucks for fuel and water.

3. To propose that the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR and the local Party and Soviet bodies ensure that suitable people

are selected from among the personnel of the functioning state farms to provide qualified and highly-experienced managers, engineers, agronomists, accountants, tractor-field team leaders, tractor drivers and combine operators for the newly organised grain-growing state farms.

4. The Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, together with Party and Soviet bodies, must take immediate measures to reinforce the state farms with skilled leading workers and specialists; as a rule they must appoint as managers of the state farms specialists having a higher agricultural education, as managers of sections people with a higher and secondary agricultural education and as chief state farm specialists people having a higher special education.

The Central Committees of the Communist Parties in the Union Republics and the territorial and regional committees of the Party must select and send engineers and technicians from industry and other branches of the national economy to work in the state farms as chief engineers, repair-shop superintendents and mechanics of sections.

5. To suggest that the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR eliminate the errors made in the planning of state-farm production, work out for the state farms in every natural-economic zone measures for a more rational utilisation of the land, define the proper combination of the branches of state-farm economy.

For every stud-farm to consider and approve within one month the assignment for increasing the acreage under grain crops and developing productive animal husbandry with a view to the fuller utilisation of the land at the disposal of the stud-farms.

6. To suggest that the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR and the Ministries of State Farms in the Union Republics ensure the further mechanisation of all branches of state-farm production, obtain a radical improvement in the use of technique, launch large-scale construction of repair-shops, sheds, and premises for the machinery and cattle and widely develop construction of dwelling-houses and cultural service establishments.

To establish that every state farm and stud-farm must, as a rule, have a standard repair-shop, a sufficient number of sheds, facilities and asphalted platforms for keeping tractors, combines and other machines, a central oil-dump, automobile garage and stores for spare parts and materials.

7. To oblige the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR and the Ministries of State Farms of the Union Republics to take additional measures for the successful carrying out of the tasks of developing animal husbandry in the state farms as laid down by the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

For this purpose it is necessary:

a) to ensure an improvement in the re-stocking of cattle and preserving the herd and calves, considerably to improve the work of raising pedigree cattle, to obtain a rapid increase in the number of dairy cows and their milk yield;

b) considerably to extend the fattening of hogs and to increase, in 1956 the volume of state deliveries of pork to 450,000 tons. In the fattening of hogs to make extensive use of potato and maize silage and by-products of the food industry.

c) along with increasing the number of sheep to take measures for a considerable rise in the production of wool, to increase within the next 2-3 years the number of fine fleece and semi-fine fleece sheep;

d) to ensure the development in every state farm of firm fodder resources, first of all by means of a considerable increase in the acreage under maize for grain and siloing, under potatoes for fodder purposes, sugar beet, sudan grass and other highly valuable and high-yield fodder crops, taking into account the natural conditions of each zone, and to organise on a large scale work for improving the natural meadows and pastures.

8. Attaching great importance to the matter of ensuring a radical improvement in the work of the state farms and a steep rise in state farm production, the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU obliges the Central Committees of the Communist Parties in the Union Republics and the territorial, regional and district committees of the Party to pay more attention to leading the state farms, to intensify the verification of their activity and to take measures for reinforcing the state farms with skilled cadres. The Party bodies must conduct everyday work for strengthening the Party branches on the state farms, for enhancing their role and their responsibility for ensuring a further advance of state farm production, for intensifying Party-political work and improving cultural services to the state farm personnel.

The harmful, bureaucratic method of leadership practised by the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, by the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR is taken up by the local agricultural bodies and machine and tractor stations which, in turn, burden the collective farms and state farms with the writing of unnecessary and utterly useless reports and documents.

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU demands that the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, regional and territorial committees of the Party and the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of the Union Republics put an end to the serious shortcomings in the work of the agricultural bodies, get rid of the harmful practice of bureaucratic leadership of agriculture, cut off the stream of documents and reports and maintain close contact with the collective farms, machine and tractor stations and state farms, raise the responsibility of the functionaries for the work entrusted to them and direct their energy towards rendering practical help to the collective farms, machine and tractor stations and state farms in assimilating the advanced production experience and for the successful solution of the tasks confronting them.

2. The carrying out of the decision of the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU concerning the reorganisation of the work of the district Party committees and executive committees of the district Soviets of Working Peoples' Deputies in a number of regions, proceeds at a slow rate and not infrequently assumes a formal character. In a number of regions the groups of district Party committee functionaries headed by the district Party committee secretaries attached to the machine and tractor stations have not yet really got down to work. In many regions and Republics insufficient attention was devoted when forming these groups to selecting people with good training, who know their jobs and who have knowledge of collective farm production and who like Party work.

Many district committees of the Party are still using old methods, district committee secretaries attached to the machine and tractor stations and instructors still live in the district centres where they spend most of their time, rarely visit the machine and tractor stations and collective farms, do not thoroughly acquaint themselves with their life or give them the necessary assistance.

In a number of regions, territories and Republics the work of reinforcing the rural district committees of the Party and the executive committees of the rural district Soviets of Working Peoples' Deputies with cadres having experience, a good knowledge of agriculture and capable of leading the collective farms, machine and tractor stations and state farms correctly and with efficiency, is insufficiently carried out.

The Plenum obliges the regional and territorial committees of the Party and the Central Committees of the Communist Parties in the Union Republics to complete the reorganisation of the rural district committees of the Party within the shortest possible period of time and to organise the work of the secretaries and the other district committee functionaries attached to the respective zones of machine and tractor stations so that lack of personal responsibility and irresponsibility in leading machine and tractor stations and collective farms be really and not just formally eliminated, to put an end to bureaucratic methods of work and interminable meetings so that these groups conduct everyday political, organisational and cultural-education work in the collective farms and machine and tractor stations and have personal contact with every collective farmer and worker in the respective machine and tractor station.

To take measures for reinforcing the district link of the Party and Soviet apparatus with skilled cadres by appointing to permanent work in the rural district committees of the Party and executive committees of the district Soviets of Working Peoples' Deputies the best functionaries from the apparatus of the regional, territorial and Republic organisations, as well as Party and Soviet functionaries from towns and cities and industrial centres.

3. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU considers that the further organisational and economic strengthening of the collective farms is an important prerequisite for carrying out the tasks set before agriculture.

The collective-farm system is an advanced social system. The collective farms have boundless opportunities for effecting an advance in agricultural production. But in order to utilise these opportunities to the full it is essential radically to improve the leadership of the collective farms, to ensure that all the collective farms reach the level of the advanced collective farms.

We still have not a few lagging collective farms in which labour discipline is inadequate, labour is insufficiently organised, productivity of labour is low and the land is utilised uneconomically, with the result that these collective farms give small quantities of products.

The Plenum obliges the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of the Union Republics, the territorial, regional and district committees of the Party, the Councils of Ministers of the Republics, executive committees of the territorial, regional and district Soviets of Working Peoples' Deputies, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and its local departments to effect the organisational and economic strengthening of the collective farms in a systematic and efficient manner.

duction norms which would facilitate a steady increase in the productivity of collective-farm labour, rationally to utilise the land attached to the collective farms in order to obtain a greater amount of agricultural produce per hectare of land. Only on this basis can we systematically increase gross output of agriculture, increase the amount of goods for the market, add to the commonwealth of the collective farms and year by year raise the material wellbeing of the collective farmers.

The extension of the experience accumulated by the advanced collective farms and agricultural innovators to all the collective farms must be a matter of particular concern of the Party, Soviet and agricultural bodies.

4. Many local Party and Soviet bodies do not take the necessary measures for reinforcing the composition of the collective-farm chairmen, though many collective farms are in need of stronger leadership. In present conditions the role of the collective-farm chairman has grown immensely and successful carrying out of the tasks placed before the collective farms by the Party depends first of all on the chairman of the collective farm.

The Plenum obliges the district, regional and territorial committees of the Party, the Central Committees of the Communist Parties in the Union Republics to ensure that every collective farm fully leading the large-scale collective-farm economy.

With a view to raising the responsibility of the local Party leading collective-farm cadres it is necessary to bring the collective-farm chairmen into the nomenclature of the regional and the Communist Parties of the Party and the Central Committees of the farm deputy chairmen, leaders of production teams and the collective-farm deputy chairmen, leaders of production teams and heads of district committees of the Party.

5. The Plenum points out that the present system of training the leading collective-farm cadres in the three-year agricultural schools for training collective-farm chairmen is not coping with its task. The schools recruit their students mainly from among the youth with incomplete secondary education and without experience of leading work in agriculture, while people with considerable practical experience but lacking the established level of education are, in their majority, not enrolled in these schools.

The Plenum obliges the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and the Ministry of Culture of the USSR to submit to the Council of Ministers of the USSR, within a period of one month, their proposals for training collective-farm chairmen from among practical workers lacking due education.

6. The Plenum of the Central Committee notes that certain regional committees of the Party and chairmen of executive committees of regional Soviets of Working Peoples' Deputies in a number of regions have a poor knowledge of agriculture and do not study the fundamental problems of agricultural production. This seriously tells on the quality of the leadership of the collective farms, machine and tractor stations and state farms. The Plenum sets before all Party and Soviet cadres connected with agricultural production the task of mastering the fundamentals of agricultural production, of acquainting themselves with the methods of leading workers in agriculture.

7. In view of the great state significance of the assimilation of virgin and unused lands for ensuring a considerable increase in the grain production, the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU obliges the Party, trade union and Young Communist League organisations to develop explanatory work among rural machine operators, specialists and leading agricultural cadres with a view to attracting volunteers for permanent work on the new land. In this explanatory work it is necessary to use the press, radio, cinema and other means of propaganda and agitation. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU calls upon collective farmers, operators of machine and tractor stations and state farms to take an active part in bringing the new land under cultivation.

8. The carrying out of the tasks advanced by the September Plenum and the present Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU for the further development of agriculture calls for a resolute improvement in the political work in the countryside. The Party organisations must see to it that all working people in the countryside—men and women collective farmers, state farm workers, machine and women collective farmers, state farm specialists—profoundly understand the tasks connected with further advancing agriculture and selflessly work on their respective sectors for the carrying out of these tasks. It is necessary widely to draw rural intelligentsia—teachers, mass work in the countryside out into the political and cultural work in the countryside. This is a tremendous force on which the Party organisations can and must rely.

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU obliges the Party organisations and members of the Party in the countryside all to take an active part in the work of the Party organisations and members of the Party in the countryside.

VIII.

Organisational and Economic Strengthening of Collective Farms and Political Work in Countryside

1. The complexity and vital importance of the tasks placed before agriculture by the Party and the Government call for immeasurably more qualified and efficient leadership of all branches of agricultural production on the part of the Party and Soviet bodies, for ability to rally the masses for the solution of the basic questions of advancing agriculture.

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU points out that the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Party and the Soviet organisations

A harmful and bureaucratic practice has set in in the leadership of agriculture to the effect that the main energy of the leading functionaries and specialists is directed not to concrete work of organising the collective farmers, the personnel of the machine and tractor stations and state farms for carrying out the decisions of the Party and the Government for the further development of agriculture but to writing numerous directives, resolutions, reference notes, circulars, reports and other documents which very often are of no use at all, a practice which leads to severing the

To instruct the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, Council of Ministers of the RSFSR, the Council of Ministers of the Kazakh SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Kirghiz SSR, the executive committees of territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirghizia, the territorial and regional Party committees, the directors of the state farms in these Republics to extend the area sown to wheat and millet in the state farms: in 1954-55 by 4,300,000 hectares, including 2,300,000 hectares by bringing virgin soil and other unused land under cultivation on the functioning state farms and 2,000,000 hectares from the state land reserves.

To consider it necessary to form in 1954-55 new grain-growing state farms, as large-scale completely mechanised enterprises concentrating on growing wheat, millet, oats, maize and other grain crops and partly on sunflower and long fibre-flax. To establish that the main production unit in the newly organised state farms must be the tractor-field team with its tractors, combines and other machines, mobile wagons, tents, mobile motor repair shop, mobile kitchen and tank trucks for fuel and water.

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The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU points out that the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR, the Ministry of State Farms of the USSR, the Party and the Soviet organisations display exceptional slowness in eliminating the shortcomings in the leadership of agriculture disclosed by the September Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

A harmful and bureaucratic practice has set in in the leadership of agriculture to the effect that the main energy of the leading functionaries and specialists is directed not to concrete work of organising the collective farmers, the personnel of the machine and tractor stations and state farms for carrying out the decisions of the Party and the Government for the further development of agriculture but to writing numerous directives, resolutions, reference notes, circulars, reports and other documents which very often are of no use at all, a practice which leads to severing the Party and Soviet functionaries, as well as the specialists, from the organisational work directly in the machine and tractor stations, collective farms and state farms.

responsibility and irresponsibility in leading machine and tractor stations and collective farms be really and not just formally eliminated, to put an end to bureaucratic methods of work and interminable meetings so that these groups conduct everyday political, organisational and cultural-education work in the collective farms and machine and tractor stations and have personal contact with every collective farmer and worker in the respective machine and tractor station.

To take measures for reinforcing the district link of the Party and Soviet apparatus with skilled cadres by appointing to permanent work in the rural district committees of the Party and executive committees of the district Soviets of Working Peoples' Deputies the best functionaries from the apparatus of the regional, territorial and Republic organisations, as well as Party and Soviet functionaries from towns and cities and industrial centres.

3. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU considers that the further organisational and economic strengthening of the collective farms is an important prerequisite for carrying out the tasks set before agriculture.

The collective-farm system is an advanced social system. The collective farms have boundless opportunities for effecting an advance in agricultural production. But in order to utilise these opportunities to the full it is essential radically to improve the leadership of the collective farms, to ensure that all the collective farms reach the level of the advanced collective farms.

We still have not a few lagging collective farms in which labour discipline is inadequate, labour is insufficiently organised, productivity of labour is low and the land is utilised uneconomically, with the result that these collective farms give small quantities of products.

The Plenum obliges the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of the Union Republics, the territorial, regional and district committees of the Party, the Councils of Ministers of the Republics, executive committees of the territorial, regional and district Soviets of Working Peoples' Deputies, the Ministry of Agriculture of the USSR and its local departments to effect the organisational and economic strengthening of the collective farms in a systematic and efficient manner. Measures must be taken radically to strengthen labour discipline in the collective farms, to improve organisation of labour, persistently to introduce progressive pro-

Plenum sets before all Party and Soviet bodies the task of mastering the methods of agricultural production, of acquainting themselves with new methods of leading workers in agriculture.

7. In view of the great state significance of the assimilation of the virgin and unused lands for ensuring a considerable increase in the grain production, the Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU obliges the Party, trade union and Young Communist League organisations to develop explanatory work among rural machine operators, specialists and leading agricultural cadres with a view to attracting volunteers for permanent work on the new land. In this explanatory work it is necessary to use the press, radio, cinema and other means of propaganda and agitation. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU calls upon collective farmers, and personnel of machine and tractor stations and state farms to take an active part in bringing the new land under cultivation.

8. The carrying out of the tasks advanced by the September Plenum and the present Plenum of agriculture calls for a resolute improvement in the political work in the countryside. The Party organisations must see to it that all working people in the countryside—men and women collective farmers, state farm workers, machine and tractor station personnel and agricultural specialists—profoundly understand the tasks connected with further advancing agriculture and selflessly work on their respective sectors for the carrying out of these tasks. It is necessary widely to draw into the political and cultural mass work in the countryside our rural intelligentsia—teachers, doctors, agronomists, zoo-technicalians and engineers. This is a tremendous force on which the Party organisations can and must rely.

The Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU calls upon all Communists and members of the Young Communist League in the countryside, all collective farmers and personnel of the machine and tractor stations and state farms to launch a wide socialist emulation for a powerful upsurge in grain production, for higher yields of all crops, for a further increase in the head of livestock and higher productivity of animal husbandry.

PEOPLE OF LUXEMBOURG OPPOSE SUBORDINATION TO AMERICAN DIKTAT

Though Luxembourg's population is only about 300,000 and its territory even less than that of a Department of France the US imperialists and their West-European henchmen have marked out for this country an important role in their expansionist and military schemes.

The US rulers, who maintain a full-blown "Embassy" with abundant staff in Luxembourg, and the gentlemen of the "Schuman plan" administration, who reside here with a crowd of highly-paid clerks, have their reasons for this.

First of all, the role of Luxembourg as a communications centre and an important strategic point cannot be underestimated. In 1914 and again in 1940 the German divisions invaded France through Luxembourg.

Secondly, six up-to-date iron and steel plants in the country, with more than 30 functioning blast-furnaces and well-equipped steel plants and rolling-mills employing 20,000 workers, turn out more than 3 million tons of steel and steel products a year. Big capital, primarily Belgian and French, extracts huge profits from the economy of the country. In 1952 alone these profits amounted to 4,644 million Belgian francs! The ruling bourgeois parties of Luxembourg long ago subordinated their home and foreign policy to the interests of the big industrial magnates.

Between 1947 and 1951 the coalition Government of the Christian-Social and Liberal Parties signed all the pacts connected with the war preparations of the Western powers, from the Brussels Treaty to NATO. The "eternal" and unarmed neutrality of Luxembourg was decreed by the Great Powers of the XIXth century in the London Treaty of 1867 as the basis of the independence of

the country. Way back in 1948 the servile majority in Parliament, from the Christian Social Party to the Socialists, deleted from the Constitution the article stipulating the country's neutrality.

The measures carried out by the parties and statesmen obedient to the Americans involved the country in the armament race and war preparations of the Western powers. As a kind of "compensation" US big capital granted Luxembourg a loan of 12 million dollars as well as a few other crumbs under the "Marshall plan."

In the Parliamentary election in 1951 the Socialists achieved a certain success: they indulged in demagoguery about reducing military expenditure and cutting down the term of military service, while in reality advocating military pacts. As a result of this a coalition government of the Christian-Social and Socialist Parties was formed. The signing of the "European Defence Community" agreement was one of the first important decisions of this government. Since that time the policy of complete militarisation of the country has been intensified.

As a result the military expenditure increased sharply. Here are some figures for this expenditure year by year. While in 1946 expenditure on the army and armaments totalled 110 million Belgian francs, in 1950 it rose to 216,760,000 francs and in 1951 to 363,457,000 francs; in 1952 it reached 425,764,000 francs; in 1953

528,027,000 francs and in the 1954 budget 668,000,000 Belgian francs.

Thus since 1946 Luxembourg's expenditure on the army and armaments increased more than six times. The increase in military expenditure between 1953 and 1954 exceeds the total military expenditure of the country for 1946 by approximately 30 million francs.

In the past three years, during which the Socialists have participated in the Government, 300 million francs have been spent on the construction of barracks and military stores.

The capital's small airfield was hastily extended, rebuilt and fitted out with up-to-date equipment. Now it is one of the numerous bases of the US air force in Europe. This cost Luxembourg over 330 million francs.

Total expenditure on the army and armaments this year averages 2,080 francs per head of the population.

This huge military expenditure is foisted on the common people who are forced to pay heavier taxes. In 1952, for example, the state extorted from factory and office workers, from the peasants and middle classes 1,894 million francs in the form of income tax and indirect taxation.

The military policy is pursued at the expense of state expenditure on social needs. Even the Minister of Labour (Socialist) had to admit that wages of almost 10,000 workers are lower than the officially fixed minimum, i.e. they are below the subsistence minimum. Other workers are also in a dire plight. In past years under "favourable circumstances" the workers in the big enterprises managed to get "normal" earnings only by means of exceptionally strenuous labour, working 56-60

hours per week. According to official figures, the monthly old age and disability pensions average about 1,900 francs, or less than half the subsistence minimum.

The policy of servile subordination to the American diktat pursued by the Christian-Social, Liberal and Socialist Parties leads to a lower standard of living for the working people and ruin of the national economy.

More and more people are becoming increasingly aware that this policy threatens the very existence of the country. And should the Bonn and Paris military treaties become a fact, very little will remain of the sovereignty of the people of Luxembourg. Even the State Council, an outright reactionary body, was compelled to admit in discussing ratification of the "European Army" treaty that this treaty runs counter to 17 articles of the Constitution, the most important articles designed to ensure the independence of the country.

The Communist Party of Luxembourg has for long waged a selfless and persistent struggle against the entire policy of subordination to the diktat of the monopolies and the warmakers, against the policy of national betrayal. The efforts of the Communist Party and of those fighting along the same lines—the peace committees, women's organisations, the trade unions of the Free Union of Luxembourg Workers—have already registered some results. Thousands of workers took an active part in signature collection drives. Resolutions protesting against the policy of militarisation of the country adopted by meetings and various organisations have been handed in to Parliament and the Government. The call issued by the Communist Party for struggle in defence of national sovereignty has been brought home to the people even in the small towns and villages and roused broad masses to action. Last November the Party held a series of successful rallies against the "European Army". This campaign revealed

that the Socialist and the Christian-Social working people in towns and villages are also speaking out against the "European" policy. The Christian-Social and Socialist deputies were bombarded with questions. The Government newspaper—the organ of the Christian-Social Party—tried to soothe the popular indignation by crude allegations to the effect that Luxembourg... "had to ratify" the treaty on the "European Army" since it had no alternative.

The increasing danger of reviving the Wehrmacht in Western Germany has aroused ever bigger sections of the population. Even the newspaper of the LPPD—a mass organisation of war victims of German fascism, uniting people of different views—has likewise launched a campaign against the "European Army".

Under pressure of public opinion and as a result of the resistance of the people, the Government, bound hand and foot to the "European" plans of American reaction, was forced over and over again to postpone ratification.

Seeking to rush ratification of the treaty, despite the growing resistance of the people, the Government parties are resorting to another manoeuvre. They hypocritically announced that ratification of the treaty would be a "temporary" matter and that the final decision would be offered to the people in the form of a general election... for the legislative assembly, scheduled for May 30.

The "European" parties hope that they will succeed in changing the Constitution with the help of a docile parliamentary majority and pave the way for ratification of the "European Army" treaty by means of false election slogans.

The struggle against the "European Defence Community" treaty and against re-creating the Wehrmacht in Western Germany is proceeding. The results of the factory committee elections held towards the end of January testify to the successful

development of this struggle in the ranks of the working class. The Free Union of Luxembourg Workers, which, jointly with the Communist Party, is waging the struggle against militarisation of the country and the military treaties, put forward its own candidates in the elections held in the iron and steel plants. The elections were a fiasco for the Free Union. The votes polled by the Free Union in all the industrial enterprises rose 30 per cent and more. Its nominees won a majority in the factory committee of the biggest enterprise in the country—the Belval-Arbed iron and steel plant.

After the Berlin Conference of the Four Foreign Ministers at which the Soviet delegation advanced a detailed and concrete programme for lessening the tension in international relations, for a peaceful settlement of the German problem on democratic lines and for a general European system of collective security, the struggle of the working people in Luxembourg against the danger of another war, against rearming Western Germany, gained in strength.

The Communist Party will contest the forthcoming election, putting forward slogans which are also the slogans of all patriots and democratic men and women in Luxembourg. These slogans are:

Defend national independence and freedom! Defend the Constitution!

Defend democratic rights of the people against the "European" encroachments of the warmakers!

Friendship with all peoples and above all with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies whose peace policy is the surest guarantee of our own freedom!

Ensure an active peace policy! Rejection of the military treaties and reduction of military expenditure!

Use the money now being spent on armaments for increased expenditure on social needs!

RESULTS OF BERLIN CONFERENCE

Statement by V. M. MOLOTOV, Minister For Foreign Affairs of the USSR

A Conference of Foreign Ministers of France, Britain, the United States of America and the Soviet Union was held in Berlin from January 25 to February 18. The Conference examined a number of important international issues.

The previous Four-Power Foreign Ministers' Conference was held in the spring of

1949. There have been no such conferences during the past five years. In its turn, the Berlin Conference unanimously arrived at the conclusion that it was necessary to convene another conference with the participation of the Foreign Ministers of France, Britain, the United States, the USSR and the People's Republic of China, which is of definite international significance.

I.

The post-war trends of development in the camp of the capitalist countries have been graphically revealed during the past five years. It is now clear to all that the ruling circles of the United States lay claim to the role of leader in this camp. They lay claim to even more. They say without ceremony that they have assumed the "burden of a leading role in the world", that the United States is "the leader of the world", although naturally these claims are groundless.

These aspirations were embodied in the formation of the North Atlantic bloc in 1949 on the initiative of the United States Government, with the active support of the ruling circles of Britain. The following countries signed the North Atlantic pact: the United States of America, Canada, Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Portugal, Italy, Greece and Turkey. Some of these countries signed the pact under direct pressure from without. Actually, however, this pact is an instrument of the Anglo-American bloc and it is the United States of America that endeavours to use this treaty for establishing its world domination. The North Atlantic pact resembles the notorious "Anti-Comintern Pact" which was concluded in 1937 by Hitler Germany, militarist Japan and fascist Italy and was at first spearheaded against the USSR. There are no grounds for doubting that the fate of the North Atlantic pact will be any better than the fate of the "Anti-Comintern Pact".

Together with frank claims to world domination the ruling circles of the United States, as well as those of Britain, have begun to stress more and more that they intend to pursue their foreign policy "from positions of strength". There is nothing unexpected in this. From a striving for world domination it is only a step to the policy "from positions of strength" or to the policy of "peace based on strength".

Today we all know very well what is the result of glorification of this policy not only in the United States and Britain but also in other countries of the North Atlantic bloc.

A direct expression of this policy is the arms drive developed in the recent period. The arms drive has reached an unprecedented scale in the United States, Britain, France, Belgium, Norway and other countries of this bloc. This arms drive has already brought immense profits to the capitalist monopolies both in America and Europe. But it lies as a heavy burden of unbearable taxes and inflated prices on the shoulders of the peoples, of the working people.

Special importance was attached to every form of atom-bomb intimidation. But this too did not last long. Today everyone can see that calculations based on empty hopes for maintenance by the United States of a monopoly position in this matter have proved utterly groundless.

Together with the arms drive the United States of America, as well as Britain, undertook the building of a network of military bases in Europe and adjacent territories. The fact that these military bases are openly built for purposes

Notwithstanding all the help the United States is rendering to France in Indo-China, there too the policy "from positions of strength" has not resulted in anything good. Defeat after defeat is being sustained there by the colonial policy of France and together with this by the policy of supporting "colonialism" pursued by the United States of America. The protracted war in Indo-China against the people who are fighting for their freedom, far from bringing glory to the policy "from positions of strength", only fully discredited it.

It is necessary to add to the aforesaid that it was in the last five-year period that the People's Republic of China, which liberated the Chinese people from the domination of foreign imperialists, arose, and moreover, has gained in strength. This fact radically changes the situation in the whole of Asia. This fact is of paramount importance for the entire further development of international relations.

It is with regard to China that the policy "from positions of strength" has been and is now being applied with particular stubbornness and with many absurd extremes. But it is just here that the failure of this policy is manifested with particular clarity.

During the past few years the entire camp of the countries of Socialism and people's democracy has greatly consolidated and gained in strength. During these years a second world market has been formed embracing both highly industrialised countries and agrarian-industrial countries belonging to the democratic camp. The political relations between these countries developed by way of ever-closer co-operation and growing friendship.

What is the essence of the policy "from positions of strength" pursued by the ruling circles of the United States and the countries of the Anglo-American bloc? In the final analysis, it resolves itself into a foreign and home policy pursued with the object of preparing another war. It cannot signify anything else. Such a policy cannot count on solid support by the peoples.

As distinct from this policy of the United States, the foreign policy of the Soviet Union is designed to strengthen peace and international co-operation. The policy of the Soviet Government proceeds from the fundamental premise that there is no controversial issue in international relations which could not be settled by peaceful means. This policy is one of strengthening peace. It conforms to the interests of friendly co-operation among the nations and serves to unite the peace-loving forces of the peoples the world over.

Until recently the aforesaid foreign policy line of the United States of America and Britain set a definite tone for most countries of the capitalist camp. The implementation of the policy "from positions of strength" inevitably heightened tension in international relations. This had its effect both in Europe and in Asia. It had and is having its effect in all parts of the world.

At the Berlin Conference our side proposed the following agenda:

1. Measures for reducing international tension and the convening of a conference of Foreign Ministers of France, Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

2. The German question and safeguarding European security.

3. The Austrian state treaty.

This agenda was accepted by the Conference, although with some reservations.

We must not forget how public opinion was conditioned in the Western countries before the Berlin Conference. This conditioning was another manifestation of the main Anglo-American line of foreign policy we have spoken of above.

Of late all kinds of measures were taken by the ruling circles of the United States and those of Britain to increase pressure on the USSR. Not only the press of these circles but also statesmen made all manner of declarations to the effect that it was useless to negotiate with

II.

The Conference devoted its greatest attention to the German problem. This, as is generally known, is the cardinal question among the problems that have remained unsettled since the war. Yet the four states whose representatives took part in the Berlin Conference bear special responsibility for the correct solution of this problem. This means that the German question must be settled with due regard to the interests of safeguarding peace and security in Europe and also in conformity with the national interests of a democratic Germany.

The discussion fully revealed the substance of the differences between the Soviet Union on the one hand and the United States, Britain and France on the other. This however does not mean that the attitude to the German problem in France fully coincides with the attitude to this problem on the part of ruling circles of the United States and Britain.

The Soviet Union has adhered and adheres to the view that the safeguarding of peace and security in Europe is bound up, in the first place, with the prevention of a resurgence of German militarism.

Hence it follows that the measures necessary for the re-establishment of Germany's unity on a democratic and peaceful footing should not be put off. Such a position fully conforms to the agreements concluded both during the war and immediately after it between the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition—the United States, Britain and the USSR—to which France subsequently adhered.

The Governments of the United States, Britain and France, however, have departed from this position; they are trampling upon the most important international agreements they signed in the past and have embarked on the revival of German militarism. Since today this cannot be done in relation to the whole of Germany, they are persistently preparing the remilitarisation of the Western part of Germany. In this matter they are relying on the Adenauer Government in Bonn.

Had the Governments of France, Britain and the United States agreed that the resurgence of German militarism is impermissible, as is the case with the Government of the Soviet Union, the settlement of other disputed issues would have been greatly facilitated. At the same time this would mean that the Governments of the Four Powers would have to rely in this matter not on the German militarists

of the Soviet Union and that the Berlin Conference was doomed to inevitable failure. While resorting to various means of pressure, up to threats of direct disruption of the Conference, the reactionary press could not, however, conceal the fact that the United States, Britain and France were interested in the Berlin Conference.

The Governments of these countries could not but reckon with the increased pressure of democratic public circles which demanded that the Conference of representatives of the Four Powers should take into consideration the desire of the peoples to ease the international tension. A similar influence is being exercised by the growth of the national-liberation movement of the peoples, especially in Asia. Events have confirmed that France, Britain and the United States were considerably interested in holding the Berlin Conference.

Before speaking about the agreements reached at the Berlin Conference it is necessary to dwell on the differences which were brought to light in the attitude of the USSR and that of the three Western Powers.

mainstay of the West-German revanchists who want to clear the road for the resurgence of German militarism. The West-German revenge-mongers have now agreed to sign the Bonn agreement which is humiliating to the German people. But there can be no doubt that when, under the Paris agreement, an army under the command of Hitlerite generals is formed in Western Germany, they will then ignore this signature. They will then disclose their real aims and reveal their aggressive revanchist calculations; and the first to feel this will be the neighbouring countries.

Simultaneously with the Paris and Bonn agreements a Three-Power Declaration by the United States, Britain and France was published which is designed to give every support to and speed up the creation of the "European Defence Community"; and, consequently, the "European Army".

All this reveals the far-reaching plans of the ruling circles of the United States, Britain and France, in pursuance of which the Paris and Bonn agreements have been signed. Though the United States and Britain do not include their troops in the "European Army", they nevertheless want to be the real masters in this matter. The designs for the creation of the "European Army" with the inclusion of the army of the West-German militarists can only be explained by the plans for preparing a new war in Europe. And it becomes clear that the ruling circles of the United States want this new war to be waged with the hands of the "Europeans".

After the creation of the "European Army", France, alone of the five Great Powers, will be deprived of the possibility of having her own national army since her armed forces will be incorporated in the "European Army". Nor can there be any doubt that in this "European Army" the West German armed forces will occupy a dominant position. Simultaneously with this the very essence of the Franco-Soviet Treaty of 1944, which is designed to prevent fresh aggression on the part of German militarism, is crudely trodden under foot by France. There are French ministers who fall in line with all this, though one cannot understand how such a position can be reconciled with the national dignity and interests of France.

The Paris agreement, as is known, has not yet been ratified by the parliaments of France, Belgium and Italy, and therefore

of the German Democratic Republic, which resists the plans for restoring German militarism. Yet in the present circumstances it is precisely the German Democratic Republic which expresses the true will of all peace-loving Germans, the real desire of the German people for peace and friendly relations with other nations. The refusal to hear German representatives shows how far the representatives of the United States, Britain and France were from seriously considering the German question.

The Ministers of the United States, Britain and France did not want to discuss the Soviet draft peace treaty with Germany. Nor did they submit their own draft peace treaty. They even refused to consider the question of how to speed up the preparation of a peace treaty with Germany, though several years ago a conference of the Ministers of the Four Powers had already begun a detailed examination of this question.

The Ministers of the three Western powers refused to consider the question of establishing a provisional all-German government composed of representatives of the parliaments of Eastern and Western Germany, though this would be a real step forward towards the restoration of the unity of Germany on a democratic and peaceful footing. They also refused to accept the Soviet proposal for the creation of two all-German committees: one for improving economic and administrative ties between Eastern and Western Germany, and the other on questions of easing the conditions for the development of Germany's national culture. They evaded any practical steps for bringing Eastern and Western Germany closer to each other, though this is the surest way to the restoration of Germany's unity.

The Ministers of the United States, Britain and France refused to examine the Soviet Union's proposals regarding the easing of the financial and economic obligations of Eastern and Western Germany arising from the consequences of the war. They know of course that in Eastern Germany these measures have already been carried out and that there, for example, the occupation expenses have already been reduced to 4.5 per cent of the national budget revenue of Eastern Germany. At the same time in Western Germany taxes are rising and the occupation expenses are mounting more and more. This year the occupation expenses comprise almost 35 per cent of the entire national budget revenue in Western Germany.

The proposal made by the Ministers of the United States, Britain and France on the German question boiled down to only one thing—to the holding of so-called "free elections" in Eastern and Western Germany. But this proposal too had nothing in common with solving the German problem in conformity with the requirements of safeguarding peace and security in Europe and with holding really free elections. Moreover this proposal was thoroughly permeated with mistrust of the German people and their democratic forces.

It was proposed to take even this purely internal German matter out of the hands of the Germans and to turn it over to the occupation authorities. The proposal of the Soviet Union that the Four Powers assist the Germans in establishing a provisional all-German government, composed of representatives of the parliaments and the democratic organisations of Eastern

anything to do with the democratic and peace-loving forces of the German people. They figure that the "freedom" they would like to give Germany would best of all be secured by the occupation authorities, by relying on the occupation forces. Such mistrust of the democratic and peace-loving forces of Germany, far from promoting the further development of Germany along democratic and peaceful lines, constitutes direct support for the German militarists and revanchists who are already enjoying this support in Western Germany for the achievement of their ends.

In the present policy of the Governments of the United States, Britain and France in relation to Germany everything is subordinated to the plans for establishing a "European Defence Community", that is a "European Army", leading to the revival of militarism in Western Germany. This line cannot serve the interests of strengthening peace in Europe. At the same time it blocks the way to the re-establishment of Germany's unity, since Western Germany ceases to be a peace-loving state, and renders impossible the restoration of Germany on democratic and peace-loving lines.

The Soviet Union stands for a different policy, for a different line on the question of Germany.

This has been expressed in its proposals for speeding up the conclusion of a peace treaty, for unifying Germany, establishing a provisional all-German government and holding free all-German elections. These proposals aim at accelerating in every possible way the national unification of Germany and at the same time ensuring the future development of Germany on democratic and peaceful lines. It is perfectly obvious that the USSR proposals preclude the possibility of a situation in which Germany could again become a dangerous breeding ground of aggression in Europe. These proposals proceed from a desire not to permit the revival of German militarism.

Thus the settlement of the German question hinges now on one fundamental problem: to revive or not to revive German militarism.

It must be said that the policy of establishing a "European Army" along with reviving militarism in Western Germany is actively resisted outside governmental circles in such countries as France, Britain and even Western Germany.

Thus in France resistance to this policy is mounting not only among workers and other sections of the working people but also in bourgeois circles. This resistance is gaining in intensity in the French Parliament. Dissatisfaction with this policy is wide-spread among the British people. It is not accidental that almost half the Labour M. P.'s opposed this line which is upheld by the Right-wing Labour leaders. In Western Germany too the Social Democrats, reckoning with the sentiments of the masses, continue to oppose Adenauer's policy designed to step up the revival of German militarism even at the price of giving up the unification of Germany.

And this is understandable. A policy leading to the revival of German militarism arouses legitimate alarm in all European countries.

This policy raises in full magnitude the question: whether are we heading—to the strengthening of peace or to another war?

Whether does the present line of the United States, Britain and France on the German question lead?

result of glorification of this policy not only in the United States and Britain but also in other countries of the North Atlantic bloc.

A direct expression of this policy is the arms drive developed in the recent period. The arms drive has reached an unprecedented scale in the United States, Britain, France, Belgium, Norway and other countries of this bloc. This arms drive has already brought immense profits to the capitalist monopolies both in America and Europe. But it lies as a heavy burden of unbearable taxes and inflated prices on the shoulders of the peoples, of the working people.

Special importance was attached to every form of atom-bomb intimidation. But this too did not last long. Today everyone can see that calculations based on empty hopes for maintenance by the United States of a monopoly position in this matter have proved utterly groundless.

Together with the arms drive the United States of America, as well as Britain, undertook the building of a network of military bases in Europe and adjacent territories. The fact that these military bases are openly built for purposes directed against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies merely emphasises that the establishment of American military bases has nothing in common with the interests of defence.

Adherence to the policy "from positions of strength" brought about, two years ago, the signing of the Paris treaty on the establishment of the so-called "European Defence Community" which envisages the rebirth of the armed forces of Western Germany. Now plans are being harboured for the revival of German militarism, which but recently was opposed not only by France and other European countries but also by the United States and Britain. This created new, exceedingly serious obstacles in the way of settling the German question.

The policy "from positions of strength" is also manifested in many other actions of the United States in the sphere of international relations.

It is impossible, for example, to ignore all the discriminatory measures in international trade applied in recent years by the United States together with Britain and other countries of that camp against the USSR, the People's Republic of China and the People's Democracies. Notwithstanding the fact that this policy has already caused great damage to the United States and Britain themselves, pressure is still being exerted in various forms and on different pretexts in order to continue hampering normal international trade, to restrict and make difficult economic relations with the countries of the democratic camp. The opposite result of this policy consists however in the fact that during these years the economic ties between the USSR, China and the People's Democracies have grown considerably stronger, with the economic progress in these countries growing year by year.

All can see now that the policy "from positions of strength" pursued by the ruling circles of the United States and Britain has produced no constructive results either politically or economically. It is suffering fiasco in the military sphere as well.

This policy failed to withstand the test, in Korea above all. It has not brought military victory to the United States. Having become involved in military intervention in Korea, the United States started to squander its military prestige and its moral standing. This policy could not but end in failure in a country whose people were waging a persistent struggle for their national rights, for their independence and freedom.

and home policy pursued with the object of preparing another war. It cannot signify anything else. Such a policy cannot count on solid support by the peoples.

As distinct from this policy of the United States, the foreign policy of the Soviet Union is designed to strengthen peace and international co-operation. The policy of the Soviet Government proceeds from the fundamental premise that there is no controversial issue in international relations which could not be settled by peaceful means. This policy is one of strengthening peace. It conforms to the interests of friendly co-operation among the nations and serves to unite the peace-loving forces of the peoples the world over.

Until recently the aforesaid foreign policy line of the United States of America and Britain set a definite tone for most countries of the capitalist camp. The implementation of the policy "from positions of strength" inevitably heightened tension in international relations. This had its effect both in Europe and in Asia. It had and is having its effect in all parts of the world.

An important change has been brought about in the international situation by the initiative of the People's Republic of China and the Korean People's Democratic Republic, which resulted in ending the war in Korea last year.

The armistice in Korea has helped to lessen tension in international relations. This has enabled the Soviet Union to raise the question of further reducing international tension. The very fact of the convocation of the Berlin Conference shows that there are such possibilities in the present conditions.

The convocation of the Berlin Conference was preceded by prolonged diplomatic correspondence between the Soviet Government and the Governments of the United States, Britain and France. The exchange of Notes had its significance. It improved conditions for convening the Berlin Conference.

The proposal of the Governments of the three Western Powers boiled down to limiting the forthcoming conference to a discussion of certain questions pertaining to the German problem and the Austrian treaty. They sought to avoid a discussion of other issues and the general question of reducing international tension.

In its turn, the Soviet Government considered that with the end of the war in Korea and the conclusion of an armistice, favourable conditions were created for discussing measures promoting a general lessening of international tension, including a reduction of armaments and the impermissibility of foreign military bases on the territories of other states.

The Soviet Government proposed that a conference be held of Foreign Ministers of the five Great Powers—France, Britain, the United States, the USSR and the People's Republic of China—on measures for lessening tension in international relations and also a conference of Ministers of the Four Powers on the German question, including the re-establishment of Germany's unity and the conclusion of a peace treaty.

Full agreement was not reached in the diplomatic correspondence which continued till the end of last year, since the United States, Britain and France objected to the aforesaid conference of the five Great Powers with the participation of the People's Republic of China. The Soviet Government then stated that it would raise this question at the conference of representatives of France, Britain, the United States and the USSR in Berlin, on which agreement had already been reached.

footings should be put off. Such a position fully conforms to the agreements concluded both during the war and immediately after it between the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition—the United States, Britain and the USSR—to which France subsequently adhered.

The Governments of the United States, Britain and France, however, have departed from this position; they are trampling upon the most important international agreements they signed in the past and have embarked on the revival of German militarism. Since today this cannot be done in relation to the whole of Germany, they are persistently preparing the remilitarisation of the Western part of Germany. In this matter they are relying on the Adenauer Government in Bonn.

Had the Governments of France, Britain and the United States agreed that the resurgence of German militarism is impermissible, as is the case with the Government of the Soviet Union, the settlement of other disputed issues would have been greatly facilitated. At the same time this would mean that the Governments of the Four Powers would have to rely in this matter not on the German militarists and revanchists but on the German democratic and peace-loving forces which express the genuine will of the German people.

The Berlin Conference has confirmed that the German problem too is being affected by the foreign policy line of the Anglo-American bloc expressed in the policy "from positions of strength" or "peace based on strength".

This is borne out by such facts as the Paris and Bonn agreements signed in May 1952. These agreements have made the danger of reviving German militarism particularly acute.

In accordance with the Paris agreement the so-called "European Defence Community" is being created for a period of 50 years; under its flag the "European Army" is being organised consisting of the armed forces of France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and also Western Germany. From this it is evident that out of a total of approximately thirty European states, six European states, including Western Germany, have set themselves the task of creating a narrow and closed military group which has unlawfully appropriated the name of "European" though four-fifths of the European states do not belong to it. This agreement legalises the restoration of the West-German army (the Wehrmacht) and its inclusion in the above-mentioned military group. For a beginning it is planned to form 12 West-German divisions, but already now there are plans for further increasing the strength of these troops. It is not accidental that there is already talk of forming 25 or even 60 West-German divisions. In this connection one cannot ignore the fact that the West-German Parliament (Bundestag) has, contrary to the existing Constitution, recently adopted decisions which permit the introduction in Western Germany of compulsory military service for men upon reaching the age of eighteen years. This is designed to give a free hand to the Adenauer Government in the matter of building an army.

Besides the Paris agreement, signed by the six states, the Bonn agreement was concluded at the same time and signed by the United States, Britain, France and also by Western Germany. The Bonn and Paris agreements supplement each other.

Under the Bonn agreement, United States, British and French troops will be stationed on the territory of Western Germany for decades, which converts Western Germany into a semi-occupied country. This agreement also bears the signature of the Adenauer Government which is now the

designs for the creation of the "European Army" with the inclusion of the army of the West-German militarists can only be explained by the plans for preparing a new war in Europe. And it becomes clear that the ruling circles of the United States want this new war to be waged with the hands of the "Europeans".

After the creation of the "European Army", France, alone of the five Great Powers, will be deprived of the possibility of having her own national army since her armed forces will be incorporated in the "European Army". Nor can there be any doubt that in this "European Army" the West German armed forces will occupy a dominant position. Simultaneously with this the very essence of the Franco-Soviet Treaty of 1944, which is designed to prevent fresh aggression on the part of German militarism, is crudely trodden under foot by France. There are French ministers who fall in line with all this, though one cannot understand how such a position can be reconciled with the national dignity and interests of France.

The Paris agreement, as is known, has not yet been ratified by the parliaments of France, Belgium and Italy, and therefore has not yet come into force. However, of late increasing pressure is being exerted by the United States and Britain, on France particularly, to have this agreement ratified and put into operation.

At the Berlin Conference, not only Dulles and Eden but also Bidault, French Minister for Foreign Affairs, adduced all kinds of arguments in defence of the Paris treaty and the creation of the "European Defence Community". They went so far as to say that formally the agreements concluded with Western Germany would not be binding upon the future unified Germany. These statements by the French, British and United States Ministers will in due time be recalled by the German militarists and revanchists if they succeed in utilising the opportunities afforded by the Paris agreement for the restoration of militarism in Western Germany.

However, it is already clear today that in practice the Governments of the United States, Britain and France, as well as the Adenauer Government, preclude the very possibility of uniting Western and Eastern Germany into an integrated German state. In accordance with the Paris treaty they plainly declare that unless this treaty is extended to the entire unified Germany they will not agree to the unification of both parts of Germany and, consequently, will not agree to the creation of a united and independent German state. All this clearly shows how little value they attach to all their other proposals on the German question.

One can assume that at the Berlin Conference the Ministers of the United States, Britain and France were not interested in really solving the German problem or even in the settling of some practical questions of vital importance to the German people. One thing absorbed all their attention: to pave the way for the creation of the "European Army" in accordance with the Paris agreement which opens the gates to the resurgence of militarism in Western Germany.

At the Berlin Conference even the proposal of the Soviet Government to hear the Germans and learn what the German people themselves think about the pressing tasks of Germany's unification and about the participation of the German people in safeguarding peace and security in Europe was not accepted. This was also opposed by the Government of Western Germany which, mind you, does not wish to meet at one table with the Government of Eastern Germany, with the Government

Germany. At the same time in Western Germany taxes are rising and the occupation expenses are mounting more and more. This year the occupation expenses comprise almost 35 per cent of the entire national budget revenue in Western Germany.

The proposal made by the Ministers of the United States, Britain and France on the German question boiled down to only one thing—to the holding of so-called "free elections" in Eastern and Western Germany. But this proposal too had nothing in common with solving the German problem in conformity with the requirements of safeguarding peace and security in Europe and with holding really free elections. Moreover this proposal was thoroughly permeated with mistrust of the German people and their democratic forces.

It was proposed to take even this purely internal German matter out of the hands of the Germans and to turn it over to the occupation authorities. The proposal of the Soviet Union that the Four Powers assist the Germans in establishing a provisional all-German government, composed of representatives of the parliaments and the democratic organisations of Eastern and Western Germany and that this government itself carry out free all-German elections, was not accepted.

Nor did the Conference accept another proposal of ours to the effect that all occupation forces except some strictly limited contingents should be withdrawn from the territory of both Eastern and Western Germany before the all-German elections. This Soviet proposal was aimed at precluding pressure on the elections by the occupation authorities. But the proponents of so-called "free elections" also refused to accept this proposal which to the greatest degree conforms to the requirements of genuine freedom of elections.

Dulles continues to make speeches about the Berlin Conference, representing himself as a zealous champion of "freedom" of the peoples, as a champion of "free elections". But we know that not all words about "freedom" signify a defence of real freedom for the people, for the working folk. Certain "defenders" of freedom like the type of "freedom" which gives the exploiters and the militarists a free hand and a life of plenty while the labouring people live under the constant shadow of war and fresh annihilation. We, of course, do not favour such "freedom". We stand for the type of freedom, genuine freedom, which deprives the militarists of the possibility to embroil the peoples in new sanguinary wars.

It is known that in the past, in 1932-1933, Hitler and his clique also came to power on the basis of so-called "free elections". Hitler did not become Reich Chancellor all at once. At first his way was cleared by the Adenauers of those days, such as the notorious von Papen who belonged to the very same party as the present Bonn Prime Minister Adenauer. It is well-known that behind Hitler and his henchmen like von Papen stood the German monopoly magnates who in particular were raking in fortunes from the expansion of the war industry. Today too behind the Adenauer clique which dreams of accelerating the remilitarisation of Western Germany there stand similar German monopoly magnates who are basing their calculations on fresh inflated profits and super-profits from the new armaments drive and who are tying up their interests above all with the plans for reviving German militarism.

In words the Governments of the United States, Britain and France stand for free elections, but in deeds they refuse to have

mental circles in such countries as France, Britain and even Western Germany.

Thus in France resistance to this policy is mounting not only among workers and other sections of the working people but also in bourgeois circles. This resistance is gaining in intensity in the French Parliament. Dissatisfaction with this policy is wide-spread among the British people. It is not accidental that almost half the Labour M. P.'s opposed this line which is upheld by the Right-wing Labour leaders. In Western Germany too the Social Democrats, reckoning with the sentiments of the masses, continue to oppose Adenauer's policy designed to step up the revival of German militarism even at the price of giving up the unification of Germany.

And this is understandable. A policy leading to the revival of German militarism arouses legitimate alarm in all European countries.

This policy raises in full magnitude the question: whether are we heading—to the strengthening of peace or to another war?

Whither does the present line of the United States, Britain and France on the German question lead?

This line leads to the establishment of a military grouping of some European states against other European states. To follow this path means to relinquish the tasks of strengthening peace and security in Europe. To follow this path means to embark on the preparation of another war in Europe, that is, a third world war.

Is it true that France, Italy, Belgium and the European countries associated with them are forced to follow this path by the requirements of security? Is it really necessary to set up a "European Defence Community" and together with this to remilitarise Western Germany in order to safeguard their security and peace in Europe?

Lately, and in France particularly, it has been asked repeatedly is there an alternative to the "European Defence Community", that is, what can take the place of this notorious "community", and is it possible to ensure peace and security in Europe without resorting to the creation of a "European Army" based on the revival of militarism in Western Germany. Though these questions were asked more than once this was usually done in order indirectly to justify the plans provided for by the Paris and Bonn agreements.

At the Berlin Conference the Soviet Union counterposed to the plans of creating military groups of European states a concrete plan whereby the safeguarding of peace and the security of all the European countries would be placed on a firm foundation. This plan found expression in the Soviet draft of the "General European Treaty on Collective Security in Europe".

The "General European Treaty" provides corresponding guarantees against aggression and violation of peace in Europe. All European countries irrespective of their social system can be parties to this treaty. Pending the restoration of Germany's unity both the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic could be parties to this treaty, and after the restoration of the unity of the German state, the united Germany could join this treaty. In the event of an armed attack upon any one of the parties to the treaty, the latter provides for the assistance of all the other parties with all the means at their disposal, including the use of armed forces, for the purpose of re-establishing and maintaining international peace and security in Europe.

(Continued on page 6)

RESULTS OF BERLIN CONFERENCE

Statement by V. M. MOLOTOV,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR

(Continued from page 5)

The Soviet proposals at the same time provide for a substantial easing, already now, of Germany's position, including the withdrawal of the occupation troops of the Four Powers, save some strictly limited contingents, from the entire territory of Germany.

The Soviet proposals aim at having, instead of diametrically opposed military groupings of European states, an effective system of collective security in Europe.

Since 1947 there has existed a regional inter-American treaty of reciprocal assistance, the parties to which are the United States and all the Latin American Republics. Such regional agreements, provided they pursue strictly defensive aims, can be of positive value, though, of course, one cannot recognise as lawful the attempts of the ruling circles of the United States to utilise the above-mentioned treaty in their own narrow interests on the pretext of fighting Communism. Rebuffing the objections to the "General European Treaty on Collective Security in Europe" the Soviet delegation pointed out how groundless these objections are when directed against a regional treaty for Europe. Such a treaty, of a really defensive nature, is fully compatible with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

At the Berlin Conference it was said more than once that the world is divided, that there are now countries with different social systems. It goes without saying that this fact cannot be ignored. It cannot be ignored that not only the Soviet Union but quite a number of other states have taken the road of Socialism and people's democracy and are successfully advancing along this road.

We regard this as the greatest achievement of the XXth century. We have no intention of denying the fact that the camp of peace, democracy and Socialism now unites countries with a population of 800 million people. The growth of the forces of this democratic camp is evident and is really instructive in many respects.

However we consistently adhere to the Leninist principle of the co-existence of states with different social systems.

We believe that despite the difference in the social systems of the European countries, for example, all the European peoples are interested in preserving and strengthening peace. In the matter of safeguarding peace our desire is that there should not be two camps in Europe, nor in the world. We call upon all European states to abandon the creation of military groups opposed to each other, since the creation of such groups cannot but lead to war. Instead, we propose to establish a single camp of all European states striving to safeguard their security and to strengthen peace in Europe. In this system of European security no state, even a strong one, should hold a dominant position. The sovereignty of each and everyone of the participants in this collective security system should be ensured and safeguarded against any encroachment from without. The draft "General European Treaty on Collective Security in Europe" is based on these principles.

This draft did not meet with the support of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of France, Britain and the United States. But no ministers can repudiate the idea of collective security of the peoples of Europe. This idea is understandable to the peoples. It has the sympathy of all peace-loving men and women.

The idea of a General European Treaty

of a new aggression, should the revival of German militarism be permitted.

The growing menace of the remilitarisation of Western Germany could not but affect the Austrian question as well.

At the Berlin Conference it was revealed that the United States, Britain and France were ready to withdraw their objections to those articles of the draft treaty with Austria to which they had objected in the course of the preceding five years. This showed strikingly enough how groundless their previous objections were.

At the Berlin Conference the Soviet side declared its readiness immediately to sign the Austrian treaty provided the two proposals, the necessity of which was occasioned by the fact of the signing of the Paris agreement on the creation of the "European Defence Community", were accepted.

Here are these two proposals.

Firstly, we proposed that Austria should undertake not to enter into any military groupings directed against other states which took part in the war against Hitlerism and in the liberation of Austria, and that Austrian territory should not be given for the building of foreign military bases.

Secondly, we insisted that a reservation be made in the Austrian treaty to the effect that in view of the delay in the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany there should be the possibility of retaining on the territory of Austria the foreign troops of the Four Powers now stationed there and that the question about the time for the withdrawal of the troops of the Four Powers from the territory of Austria should again be examined not later than in 1955. Had there been no plans for the creation of the "European Army" there would have been

Besides the German and Austrian problems the Berlin Conference discussed measures for lessening the international tension, as envisaged by the first item of the agenda. The discussion of this question had, undoubtedly, its significance.

Altogether there were 27 meetings at the Berlin Conference. This number included six closed sessions with a limited number of participants at which chiefly questions pertaining to the first item of the agenda were considered.

These discussions resulted in the Ministers reaching agreement on two decisions.

As is known agreement was reached that the Governments of the USSR, the United States, France and Britain would promote a successful solution of the problem of disarmament or, at least, a substantial reduction of armaments. This agreement did not fully satisfy the Soviet delegation. It did not reflect our proposal to call this year a World Conference on a general reduction of armaments. Nevertheless this agreement imposes certain obligations on the Governments of the Four Powers. It is directed against the arms drive. It obliges those concerned to promote at least a substantial reduction of armaments, upon which the Soviet Union has invariably insisted.

Agreement was also reached on convening a conference in Geneva on April 26, 1954. This will be a conference of representatives of the USSR, the United States, France, Britain and the People's Republic of China on the subject of a peaceful

no need for this last reservation. This reservation has become necessary because the United States and Britain are now exerting all kind of pressure upon France and other countries to get them to agree to the revival of militarism in Western Germany which, naturally, aggravates the danger of another Anschluss.

The Governments of the United States, Britain and France did not agree to the proposal of the Soviet Union to introduce these two points to the Austrian treaty. Thereby they also prevented the Austrian Government from treating these proposals with due understanding. As a result, the Austrian treaty was not signed.

The above-mentioned facts show that responsibility for frustrating the signing of the Austrian treaty rests with the Governments of the United States, Britain and France who do not wish to relinquish the plans for reviving German militarism, which increases the danger of another Anschluss.

The attempts now being made by official spokesmen in the United States, Britain and France as well as in Austria to shift the blame for not signing the Austrian treaty on the Soviet Union are utterly groundless. In the present conditions the Soviet Government cannot but reckon with the danger of the resurgence of German militarism and with the fresh threat of an Anschluss, the prevention of which is especially stipulated in the Austrian treaty. The Soviet Union expresses its readiness to sign the treaty with Austria the moment there is acceptance of the aforesaid proposals, which correspond to the interests of the Austrian people themselves, as well as to the interests of peace and security of all European peoples.

III.

Today it is still not possible fully to assess the significance of this agreement reached at the Berlin Conference. But this agreement can promote the solution of two important problems in Asia, which will make for the further relaxation of the international tension.

The General Assembly of the United Nations proved powerless in settling the Korean question; in this case, too, it acted under pressure of the United States. This pressure by the United States led the General Assembly to wrong decisions which frustrated the convocation of the Political Conference on the Korean question. The same object was also pursued by the representatives of the United States at the Panmunjom negotiations.

The Berlin Conference helped to untie this knot. Now representatives of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, the United States of America, Britain and France, together with representatives of both parts of Korea, will be able to discuss a final settlement of the Korean question. The task is to facilitate the national unification of Korea along democratic lines and the transition of Korea from an armistice to lasting peace.

The representative of France at the Berlin Conference displayed particular concern in relation to the question of Indo-China. There the colonial policy of France has reached an impasse, having encountered the heroic struggle of the people of Viet Nam who are defending their rights to peace and national freedom. At the same time this policy has saddled the French people with an unbearable burden demand-

Meeting of Advanced Agricultural Workers in Rumania

A meeting of advanced agricultural workers who have obtained bumper yields of maize, potato and sugar beet was sponsored in Bucharest by the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party and the Council of Ministers.

The meeting was attended by members of the collective farms and agricultural associations, individual peasants, workers from the state agricultural farms, mechanics from the machine and tractor stations, first secretaries of the regional committees of the Party, chairmen of executive committees of the regional people's councils, leading workers in agriculture and forestry and workers from the scientific-research institutes.

The workers from the villages shared their experiences in obtaining rich yields and told how they used advanced agrotechnical methods in the cultivation of important crops.

The meeting appealed to all the working peasantry, personnel of the machine and tractor stations and of the state farms and to all the agricultural specialists of the country to carry out with honour their patriotic duty and to respond by deeds to the solicitude of the Party and the Government in order to obtain a bumper harvest of all crops this year.

Movement in France Against Rearming German Revanchists

A session of the National Peace Council of France held on March 6-7 in Paris reviewed the results of the struggle of the French people against the Bonn and Paris agreements and called on all French men and women to further intensify this struggle.

The number of public figures of diverse political views calling for unity and struggle against the Bonn and Paris agreements is growing. 22 prominent political figures, scientific workers and war veterans called on all French men and women to hold on March 13 and 14 nation-wide protest demonstrations against the remilitarisation of Germany envisaged by the Bonn and Paris agreements. The appeal was signed by Edouard Herriot, honorary chairman of the National Assembly; Edouard Daladier, Radical, former chairman of the Council of Ministers; Andre Denis, Catholic Deputy; Georges Cogniot, Communist Deputy; Edmond Michelet and Rene Capitant, former RPF ministers; Professors Bernard Lavergne, Jean Wahl, Edmond Vermeil; Emile Kahn, chairman of the "League of Human Rights", and others.

Concerning the banning of the demonstration scheduled to be held in Paris in the Champs Elysees on March 13, the organising committee protested against this unlawful action of the Laniel Government and called on all French men and women to lay wreaths on March 13 and 14 at the monuments to the war victims with an epitaph: "To the victims of the two wars. In token of disapproval of the rearming of Germany."

The appeal issued by these people aroused wide response throughout the country. Workers in various enterprises are holding meetings in preparation for demonstrations; leaflets containing the text of the appeal are being circulated on a wide scale. Numerous organisations of ex-service men, Resistance fighters, war victims, and public figures of diverse political views have expressed agreement with the appeal.

The Bonn Bundestag, as ordered by the US ruling circles, has adopted the so-called "amendments" to the West German Constitution which enable the Adenauer Government to introduce conscription and openly build the Wehrmacht.

(Press item)



SOME AMENDMENTS TO THE BONN CONSTITUTION

Drawing by E. Taru

POLITICAL NOTES

A Policy Doomed to Failure

Faced with the choice—either a free, independent existence of the countries of Western Europe outside any military groupings or resurgence of West German militarism and humiliating subordination to its interests—the majority of the leaders of the so-called Socialist International, as is known, chose the latter. And, as has been the case always and in everything, they acted in the spirit of the American policy. But the hard facts convincingly show that the programme of building the "European Defence Community" and the "European Army" based on a revived Hitler Wehrmacht proved unsuitable as a basis for the unity of the Socialist Parties of Western Europe and has simply given rise to profound contradictions among them.

However, the point is not only the growing rift between the rank-and-file Social Democrats and their Right-wing leaders, it is rather the contradictions within the leadership of the Socialist Parties and the differences between the Right-wing Socialist leaders in the different West European countries. The crux of the matter is that as things are now some of these leaders are forced to pay heed to the sentiments of the broad popular masses, and these sentiments testify to the sharply intensified opposition in all European countries to the American policy of reviving German militarism and encouraging the German revanchists.

Finland and Switzerland abstained from voting.

The fact that Morgan Phillips, Guy Mollet, Schaerf and Spaak voted for the resolution "European Army" revealed only how far these gentlemen have gone in their servility to American reaction. The value of their voices is strikingly demonstrated by the single fact that the policy of untying the hands of the West German revenge-seekers is resolutely opposed not only by the rank-and-file but also by many leaders of the British Labour Party and of the Socialist Parties of France, Belgium and Austria. A few days ago almost half the members of the Executive Committee and the Parliamentary group of the Labour Party voted against the policy of rearming Western Germany.

Nor is Guy Mollet's viewpoint in relation to building the "European Defence Community" shared by many leading officials of the French Socialist Party. Mollet himself could not conceal this when he said that "there are serious differences in the French Socialist Party on this question". Every honest French man and woman is conscious that the policy of rearming Western Germany is a deadly menace to France, a

In Austria the stand taken by...

Communist principle of the co-existence of states with different social systems.

We believe that despite the difference in the social systems of the European countries, for example, all the European peoples are interested in preserving and strengthening peace. In the matter of safeguarding peace our desire is that there should not be two camps in Europe, nor in the world. We call upon all European states to abandon the creation of military groups opposed to each other, since the creation of such groups cannot but lead to war. Instead, we propose to establish a single camp of all European states striving to safeguard their security and to strengthen peace in Europe. In this system of European security no state, even a strong one, should hold a dominant position. The sovereignty of each and everyone of the participants in this collective security system should be ensured and safeguarded against any encroachment from without. The draft "General European Treaty on Collective Security in Europe" is based on these principles.

This draft did not meet with the support of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of France, Britain and the United States. But no ministers can repudiate the idea of collective security of the peoples of Europe. This idea is understandable to the peoples. It has the sympathy of all peace-loving men and women.

The idea of a General European Treaty on Collective Security in Europe will find ever new ways to the hearts of millions of people, and this will most surely serve the cause of peace and security in Europe, and, consequently, throughout the world. The Soviet Union holds that pending the conclusion of a peace treaty the creation of German armed forces should not be permitted, which would mean the neutralisation of Germany over this period.

Some ministers may, of course, continue to make all kinds of plans for the creation of the "European Defence Community" and for the remilitarisation of Western Germany. However, nothing will come of this but another unreliable military grouping lacking the peoples' support. Another thing is the idea of collective security for the peoples of Europe, which is expressed in the general European treaty or may be shaped in some other form. This idea finds increasing sympathy with the peoples of Europe because it expresses their cherished strivings for strengthening peace and establishing universal security.

The Soviet Government has never made any secret of its opposition to the North Atlantic pact which expresses the aspirations of the Anglo-American bloc for world domination. The endeavours to create the "European Defence Community", including direct backing for the resurgence of German militarism, greatly multiply the existing differences. The Soviet Government is against these differences being multiplied. We strive for the settlement of disputed issues in the interests of strengthening peace. In this instance it is particularly clear that the Soviet Union expresses the sentiments and thoughts of all peace-loving peoples of Europe, and not of Europe alone.

The discussion of the German question at the Berlin Conference has shown that here the differences between the Soviet Union and the three Western states boil down primarily to the question of German militarism in so far as there are plans for its revival. The Soviet Union which bore the brunt of the struggle against Hitlerite aggression cannot underestimate the danger

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Agreement was also reached on convening a conference in Geneva on April 26, 1954. This will be a conference of representatives of the USSR, the United States, France, Britain and the People's Republic of China on the subject of a peaceful settlement of the Korean question—with the participation of the Korean Republic, the Korean People's Democratic Republic and the other countries the armed forces of which took part in the hostilities in Korea and which desire to attend—and also on the question of restoring peace in Indo-China, also with the participation of the interested states.

Thus, a conference will be held in Geneva on April 26 with the participation of the five Great Powers on the two most burning problems in Asia: on the Korean question and the situation in Indo-China. Thereby the People's Republic of China will take its lawful place at the conference alongside the other Great Powers.

* * *

The results of the Berlin Conference are being extensively discussed now. In many countries statements on this issue are being made by official spokesmen and the press of different trends.

The French Foreign Minister spoke the other day about the significance of the Berlin Conference, and especially about the importance of the agreement to hold another conference in Geneva at which the question of restoring peace in Indo-China would be discussed. Events show how urgent the settlement of this issue has become.

The British Foreign Secretary in his speech in the House of Commons last week made a number of critical remarks about the Berlin Conference but at the same time admitted that the Conference was fully expedient. He added that the Conference undoubtedly had not intensified the international tension. His statements reflect dissatisfaction that certain calculations, as regards attempts to bring pressure to bear on the USSR, had miscarried.

It is likewise known that in the United States Dulles has been criticised by some Senators, particularly for his alleged excessive tractability with regard to China at the Conference. These Senators are inexorably drawn to the past and they would like the great Chinese people to remain in the old status of a semi-colonial nation unscrupulously exploited by foreign capital.

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The General Assembly of the United Nations proved powerless in settling the Korean question; in this case, too, it acted under pressure of the United States. This pressure by the United States led the General Assembly to wrong decisions which frustrated the convocation of the Political Conference on the Korean question. The same object was also pursued by the representatives of the United States at the Panmunjom negotiations.

The Berlin Conference helped to untie this knot. Now representatives of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, the United States of America, Britain and France, together with representatives of both parts of Korea, will be able to discuss a final settlement of the Korean question. The task is to facilitate the national unification of Korea along democratic lines and the transition of Korea from an armistice to lasting peace.

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The Conference in Geneva will be faced with a complicated task—to ensure the restoration of peace and the national rights of the peoples in Indo-China. Here much depends on the position of the French Government and also on the position of the United States which, increasingly, is intervening in the affairs of Indo-China. The main thing, however, depends on recognition by all the conference participants of the need to settle the question of restoring peace in Indo-China not by continuing the hopeless war but through agreement conforming to the principles of freedom and national independence of the peoples.

But those times have gone forever. Let us hope that this point will also be realised by these Senators.

On the basis of what I have said definite conclusions can be drawn.

One, of course, should not overestimate the results of the Berlin Conference. All the more so since this can properly be judged only by the results of the Geneva Conference, regarding which agreement was reached in Berlin.

We cannot but reckon however with the fact that the long break in conferences of the Great Powers which lasted for five years has come to an end. The Berlin Conference has been held. It helped to clarify a number of international questions and paved the way for a conference of representatives of the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China together with representatives of other states.

The measures the Soviet Government is taking are designed to lessen the international tension and, consequently, to strengthen peace. The facts testify that these measures are not fruitless.

Everything shows that the policy pursued by the Soviet Government helps to strengthen the international position of the Soviet Union and the entire democratic camp.

demonstrations against the remilitarisation of Germany envisaged by the Bonn and Paris agreements. The appeal was signed by Edouard Herriot, honorary chairman of the National Assembly; Edouard Daladier, Radical, former chairman of the Council of Ministers; Andre Denis, Catholic Deputy; Georges Cogniot, Communist Deputy; Edmond Michelet and Rene Capitant, former RPF ministers; Professors Bernard Lavergne, Jean Wahl, Edmond Vermeil; Emile Kahn, chairman of the "League of Human Rights", and others.

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New Victory of Democratic Forces in India

Elections to the Legislature of the State were recently held in Travancore-Cochin (India). The United Front of Leftists, composed of the Communist Party of India, the Revolutionary-Socialist Party and Kerala Socialist Party and supported by the Praja-Socialist Party won, together with the latter, 59 seats, that is the majority necessary to form the government of the State. The Indian National Congress which contested 115 seats won only 45.

Arising from the election results the Congress Government of the State has resigned. The United Front of Leftists is making efforts to form a new government.

The Election Manifesto of the United Front of Leftists reflecting the vital demands of the people, the activity of the election committees composed of the representatives of various parties and organisations which are new phenomena in the state, and the active explanatory work carried out by the Communist Party among the working people played a big role in the victory of the democratic forces in Travancore-Cochin.

ELECTION RESULTS IN FINLAND

The results of the election to the Diet of Finland held on March 7-8 show that the designs of reaction which sought to strike a blow at the democratic forces in the country have failed. According to incomplete data the People's Democratic Alliance polled 423,000 votes compared with 391,000 in 1951 and retained its 43 seats. The Agrarian Party, which stands for maintaining and consolidating normal and good-neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union, polled 473,000 votes as against 422,000 in 1951 (53 and 51 seats respectively). The Coalition Party, the most reactionary and extreme Right-wing party, lost 4 seats compared with the previous election.

Faced with the choice—either a free, independent existence of the countries of Western Europe outside any military groupings or resurgence of West German militarism and humiliating subordination to its interests—the majority of the leaders of the so-called Socialist International, as is known, chose the latter. And, as has been the case always and in everything, they acted in the spirit of the American policy. But the hard facts convincingly show that the programme of building the "European Defence Community" and the "European Army" based on a revived Hitler Wehrmacht proved unsuitable as a basis for the unity of the Socialist Parties of Western Europe and has simply given rise to profound contradictions among them.

However, the point is not only the growing rift between the rank-and-file Social Democrats and their Right-wing leaders, it is rather the contradictions within the leadership of the Socialist Parties and the differences between the Right-wing Socialist leaders in the different West European countries. The crux of the matter is that as things are now some of these leaders are forced to pay heed to the sentiments of the broad popular masses, and these sentiments testify to the sharply intensified opposition in all European countries to the American policy of reviving German militarism and encouraging the German revanchists.

The unreal and illusory character of the "unity" of the Socialist Parties, so widely publicised in the bourgeois press, was demonstrated recently at the Brussels "Conference of Socialist Parties of the European Countries".

The purpose of this conference was to secure "unification of the forces" of all the Socialist Parties in Western Europe for the carrying out of the imperative demands of the US leading circles. The character of these demands was clearly revealed in the report submitted by Victor Larock, the Belgian Right-wing Socialist, who in defiance of the will of the peoples and contrary to logic and common sense urged the speediest possible carrying through of the plan for building the "European Defence Community" and the "European Army".

It is not hard to guess who stood behind Larock. He played the record with which Dulles supplied Eden and Bidault after the Berlin Conference.

Larock's call for unconditional adherence to the American policy of building the "European Defence Community" and forming a military grouping of some European countries against others gave rise to serious differences among the delegates. The representatives of the West German Social Democrats, for example, voted against a resolution which demanded that the Socialist Parties "should carefully consider the conditions of participation in or the affiliation of their countries to the 'European Defence Community'". The representatives of the Social Democratic Parties of Sweden,

Finland and Switzerland, voted against.

The fact that Morgan Phillips, Guy Mollet, Schaefer and Spaak voted for the so-called "European Army" revealed only how far these gentlemen have gone in their servility to American reaction. The value of their voices is strikingly demonstrated by the single fact that the policy of untying the hands of the West German revenge-seekers is resolutely opposed not only by the rank-and-file but also by many leaders of the Socialist British Labour Party and of the Socialist Parties of France, Belgium and Austria. A few days ago almost half the members of the Executive Committee and the Parliamentary group of the Labour Party voted against the policy of rearming Western Germany.

Nor is Guy Mollet's viewpoint in relation to building the "European Defence Community" shared by many leading officials of the French Socialist Party. Mollet himself could not conceal this when he said that "there are serious differences in the French Socialist Party on this question". Every honest French man and woman is conscious that the policy of rearming Western Germany is a deadly menace to France, a menace to peace.

In Austria the stand taken by Schaefer, leader of the Austrian Socialist Party, encountered sharp criticism. At the Brussels conference Schaefer went out of his way to defend the "European Defence Community". Even the leaders of the "People's" Party, partners of the Right-wing Socialists in the government coalition, hastened to reject Schaefer's stand, saying that the representatives of the Socialist Party of Austria had used the conference for a trick that "will not bring any benefit to Austria". "Das Kleine Volksblatt", organ of the People's Party, commenting on the provocations to which the Austrian Right-wing Socialist leaders resort in order to please US reaction, declared that this is "beyond the bounds of reason".

The stand taken by the leaders of the Austrian Right-wing Socialists at the Brussels conference revealed the true worth of the statements of the Austrian politicians who at the Berlin Conference pledged Austria's readiness strictly to observe neutrality and not to enter into any military bloc.

Thus, the conference of the Right-wing Socialist leaders in Brussels revealed once again whom the gentlemen of the Phillips, Mollet and Schaefer brand and their ilk serve and whose policy they are carrying out. The path of dividing Europe, of building the "European Defence Community" and the "European Army", of rearming Western Germany and reviving German militarism—this is their choice, this is their policy directed against the peoples. But these leaders of the "Socialist International" are finding it more and more difficult to carry out their American-inspired policy.

Jan MAREK

FACTS EXPOSE...

Lost Illusions Setting out for a tour of France and other West European countries American Senator Coon entertained the hope that he would be welcomed with flowers and rounds of applause. His illusions, however, were shattered the moment he saw for himself the powerful anti-American movement in Western Europe. The Senator left Europe in a bad temper. Back home he declared that an American is horrified when he makes the acquaintance of a foreigner and discovers that foreigners don't like

Americans. He was given to understand, he said, that it would be better if the USA were to take its "aid programme" and clear out. He added that he was "terribly disappointed".

Senator Coon, naturally, was silent about the fact that the peoples of Western Europe to whom the dollar "aid" has brought slavery, poverty and hunger have hardly any grounds for entertaining tender feelings towards the American "benefactors".

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